

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

BUSINESS FOR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY COURT to be held in Seminar Room 2, Medical Education Centre, Out Patient Dept, Western General Hospital on Monday 8 November 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

A buffet lunch will be available in Seminar Room 1 Medical Education
Centre, Out Patient Dept from 1 p.m.

This meeting of Court will be preceded by a presentation by Professor David Porteous entitled
'Research Activities at the Western General Hospital'.

A FORMAL BUSINESS

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B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

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MINUTE OF A MEETING of the University Court of the University of Edinburgh held in Room G0.7, Informatics Forum on Monday, 27 September 2010.

Present:

- The Rector (in chair)
- The Principal
- The Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Lochbroom
- Professor A M Smyth
- Mrs M Tait
- Dr M Aliotta
- Professor J Ansell
- Professor D Finnegan
- Professor L Yellowlees
- Dr J Markland, Vice-Convener
- Mr P Budd
- Mr M Murray
- Professor S Monro
- Ms A Richards
- Ms G Stewart
- Ms L Rawlings, President Students' Representative Council
- Ms S Wise, Vice-President Students' Representative Council

In attendance:

- Ms S Beattie-Smith, Rector's Assessor
- Vice-Principal Professor Fergusson
- Vice-Principal Professor J Haywood
- Vice-Principal Professor A McMahon
- Mr M D Cornish, University Secretary
- Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
- Dr I Conn, Director of Communications and Marketing
- Dr A Cornish, Deputy University Secretary and Director of Planning
- Mr A Currie, Director of Estates and Buildings
- Mr J Gorringe, Director of Finance
- Ms S Gupta, Director of HR
- Dr K Waldron, University Secretary Designate
- Mr T Ward, Head of Academic Services, CHSS
- Ms F Boyd, Principal's Policy and Executive Officer
- Dr K J Novosel, Head of Court Services

Apologies:

- The Rt Hon G Grubb, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
- Professor J Barbour
- Mr D A Connell
- Mr D Workman
- Mr D Brook

A FORMAL BUSINESS

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2010

Paper A1

The Minute of the meeting held on the 21 June 2010 was approved as a correct record.

Court welcomed Ms Liz Rawlings EUSA President to this her first meeting of Court as a member; she had been in attendance at the Court meeting held on 24 May 2010. Court further welcomed Dr Kim Waldron, University Secretary Designate to her first Court meeting.

Court noted that this would be the last Court meeting to be attended by Mr Melvyn Cornish. Court wished to thank Mr Cornish for his long and distinguished service to the University, particularly in his role as University Secretary and the immense contribution he had made to the governance of the University and the effectiveness and operation of Court. Court wished Mr Cornish a long and happy retirement.

2 VACATION COURT

Paper A2

Court noted and homologated the decisions taken by the Vacation Court by correspondence on 13 August 2010 in respect of the Iona Cathedral Trust, University Ordinance 208 and Grouping of University Bank Accounts.

B PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

1 PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNICATIONS

Paper B1

Court noted the items within the Principal's Report and the additional information on: the UK Prime Minister's comments on the University's research on climate change; the significant donation of £10m by the author J K Rowling to found a centre for research into Multiple Sclerosis; the formation of 40 companies in 2009/2010; Vice-Principal Professor Sir John Savill's appointment as Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council and the governance arrangement put in place within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine to cover Professor Sir John Savill's part-time absence from the College, and assurance regarding any potential conflict of interest issues; and the 2010 National Student Survey Results and the work being taken forward by Vice-Principal Professor Hounsell to assist those areas where there could be improvement. A letter from the Principal to Lord Krebs and a letter from Lord Krebs to the Rt Hon David Willetts MP both commenting on the mobility of world-class researchers and graduate students were tabled at the meeting and noted by Court.

It was intimated that further consideration would be given to ensuring that Court members were briefed on important matters between Court meetings.

2 HONORARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Paper B2

Court approved the appointment of Professor Johnstone, CBE to the position of Honorary Assistant Principal, Mental Health Research Development with effect from 1 September 2010 for a period of 2 years in the first instance.

C SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

1 REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Dr Markland presented the papers previously circulated.

Report from Central Management meetings of 16 June, 10 August and 1 September 2010 **Paper C1.1**

The update on the academic and financial planning issues for the School of Education was noted and Court welcomed that the changes had been achieved through voluntary means. Court further noted the position on the UK Border Agency and the actions being taken by the University and the excellent work being taken forward by the Standing Consultative Committee on Redundancy Avoidance. Assurances were provided on the discussions being undertaken to address the matter of nursery provision at the King's Buildings and it was confirmed that the level of undergraduate home/EU student over-recruitment was very small and that there had been no escalation of anti-social behaviour associated with final exams.

Court noted the satisfactory progress report in respect of the EUCLID project and that the Finance and General Purposes Committee was now content to monitor the project through exception reporting; Court congratulated all those involved in this project. It was further noted that it was the intention of the Committee to undertake a review of the current finance strategy, in respect of both capital and revenue, early next calendar year following the announcement of the comprehensive spending review to ensure that the strategy reflected the new financial environment. The activities of ERI as set out in its 2009/2010 annual report were commended and the information contained in the annual report on voluntary retirement was welcomed including the pay back period. Assurances were provided on the University's actions in respect of the proposed legislative changes to the retirement age and the on-going work to develop revised staff policies and procedures. Court further noted the impact of tax changes on higher earners in respect of pension provision.

Court approved the revised terms of reference of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the proposal to liquidate the Distillers endowment.

2 VICE-CONVENER OF COURT

Paper C2

The process to nominate the next Vice-Convenor of Court was approved. All nominations were to be submitted by 31 October 2010 to the University Secretary and each nomination required a proposer and a seconder from amongst current Court members.

3 EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART

Paper C3

Court noted that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had met twice since the last meeting of Court: on the 2 and 15 September 2010, and that at both meetings there had been detailed consideration of the proposed merger with the Edinburgh College of Art based on the documentation available. Based on discussion at these two meetings, the Finance and General Purposes Committee was content to advise Court to seek to achieve a merger based on the merger proposal document. Court noted that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had also established a small Sub-Committee comprising: Dr Markland, Mr Connell, Mr Murray, Professor Monro and Ms Rawlings to provide advice to the Principal on behalf of the Committee and approved the utilisation of this Sub-Committee on behalf of Court should the need arise between Court meetings. It was confirmed that the Board of Governor's of the Edinburgh College of Art at its meeting on 21 September 2010 had agreed to proceed and seek Scottish Government approval for a merger with effect from 1 August 2011 subject to specific funding being available.

There was detailed discussion on the paper and concern was expressed on the tight timescale and the minimal time to consider all the information: consideration would be given to providing additional information to Court. The funding requirements as set out in Annex B were particularly noted by Court and it was also noted that there may be further revision of these financial figures. In particular, flexibility was required around estates costs to allow for immediate action to be taken if specific health and safety issues were identified. It was noted that the Vice-Principal Planning, Resources and Research Policy, Director of Finance and Director of Estates and Buildings continued to have regular meetings with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and that the Principal also continued to have separate meetings with the SFC.

There were some issues still to be fully resolved including the exact detail of required legal documentation. It was proposed that the College would merge with the

University's current School of Arts, Culture and Environment to form an academic entity known as the Edinburgh College of Art sitting within the College of Humanities and Social Science akin to and functioning as a School. There were also specific issues affecting the Edinburgh College of Art and these difficulties would be addressed by the Edinburgh College of Art prior to a merger.

The academic benefits of a merger to both the University and the Edinburgh College of Art were recognised leading to further collaborative working, introduction of new programmes and research opportunities as well as the financial benefits around economies of scale and the generation of new income streams from research and postgraduate learning. Court noted that current staff and students in both organisations were very supportive of the proposal but that there had been some opposition from Edinburgh College of Art alumni reported in the media.

Having considered all the information, Court unanimously approved the proposal to merge with the Edinburgh College of Art with effect from 1 August 2011 subject to adequate funding from the SFC in respect of merger enabling and estates costs. Court further granted authority to Vice-Principal Professor Fergusson to make minor, non-material adjustments to the merger document, if required, prior to the document being submitted to the Scottish Government.

4 REPORT FROM NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Paper C4

On the recommendations of the Nominations Committee, Court approved the following appointments:

Professor S Monro and Professor A Smyth to be appointed members of the Knowledge Strategy Committee with immediate effect: Professor Monro until the end of the 2012/2013 academic session and Professor Smyth until the end of this academic session.

The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind's and Ms Christine Montgomery's current appointments as Trustees of the Development Trust to be extended for a further four years until the end of the 2013/2014 academic session and their current positions as Chairman and Treasurer respectively also be extended concurrent with the extended period of appointment.

5 REPORT FROM ESTATES COMMITTEE

Paper C5

Court approved the recommendations as set out in the coversheet to the paper, welcomed the progression of the King's Buildings Library and Learning Resource Centre to the tender stage and approved the reduction in the small works programme allocation pending any additional funding becoming available.

6 UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW STATEMENT TO THE SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL

Paper C6

The Annual Statement was endorsed by Court and the intention to provide Court with further information on enhancement quality activity was welcomed. The process to take forward the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review was also noted.

7 SUPPORT FOR COURT MEMBERS AND THE OPERATION OF COURT

Paper C7

Court noted the outcome and the recurring themes emerging as a result of discussions over the summer with Court Members which would be progressed during 2010/2011 particularly the two specific items from the Court effectiveness review.

D ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OR NOTE

- 1 INDIA OFFICE – BANK ACCOUNT Paper D1**
- Court approved the opening of an account in the name of the University of Edinburgh – India Liaison Office with the HDFC Bank Limited, Mumbai to be operated by the India Office Manager.
- 2 COMMISSIONERS’ ORDINANCE Paper D2**
- The approval of Ordinance 207 by the Privy Council was welcomed by Court and the process to take forward the approval of Ordinance 208 noted.
- 3 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES Paper D3**
- Court was pleased to note the donations and legacies to be notified received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust between 1 May and 31 August 2010.
- 4 SBS TRUSTEES Paper D4**
- The resignation of Lord Cameron as Trustee and Chairman of the Staff Benefit Scheme with effect from 31 December 2010 was accepted. It was noted that the next meeting of the Nominations Committee would give consideration to his successor and also discuss the position of the Principal as a Trustee of SBS.
- 5 USE OF THE SEAL**
- A record was made available of all the documents executed on behalf of the Court since its last meeting and sealed with its common seal.

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

Court Seminar – 27 September 2010

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

Attached are the informal notes of the Court Seminar held on 27 September 2010.

Action requested

Court is invited to note the content of the paper.

Resource implications

None directly.

Risk Assessment

Where applicable, noted in the paper.

Equality and Diversity

None.

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? No

Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation

Dr Katherine Novosel
Head of Court Services
October 2010

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

City of Edinburgh Assessor

The Lord Provost, the Rt Hon George Grubb was nominated by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2007 as the City of Edinburgh Assessor on Court. The appointment was made with immediate effect and for the life of the current Council i.e. until the next local government elections which were then scheduled for 2011. However due to the Scottish Parliament Election now taking place in 2011, the local Council elections have been rescheduled and will be held in May 2012.

Court is invited to note the extension of the Lord Provost's appointment as City of Edinburgh Council Assessor on Court until May 2012.

Dr Katherine Novosel
28 October 2010

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

Principal's Report

These communications are grouped into international, UK and Scottish developments, followed by details of University news and events:-

International

India

A number of events were organised around the Commonwealth Games in Delhi including:

- An Educational Partnership Agreement was signed between the University of Delhi and the University of Edinburgh on 13 October 2010.
- A reception for University of Edinburgh students, staff and alumni competing in the Commonwealth Games was hosted in Delhi on 14 October 2010.
- The Principal and Vice Principal Hillier visited the Indian Science Minister at the Department of Science & Technology, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to discuss strategic partnering in India.

China

- Vice Principal Hillier and CMVM staff attended the Guangzhou-Edinburgh Medical Education Alliance (GEMEA) Summit in Guangzhou 25 & 26 September 2010 - an important Edinburgh Global initiative, which supports the future development of pan China medical training.
- Vice Principal Hillier visited Tianjin University and China Agricultural University on 15 and 16 October, to take forward institution-level partnerships in informatics and life sciences.
- The Chinese translation of The University of Edinburgh Internationalisation Strategy (Edinburgh Global) was published in September.

Russia

The Princess Dashkova Russian Centre officially opened on 19 October and is the first centre supported by the Russkiy Mir Foundation to open at a British University. The Foundation, which is similar to the British Council, promotes Russian culture around the world.

The launch of the centre was marked with the annual Erickson Lecture, delivered by Dr Vyacheslav Nikonov entitled "How Crisis has Changed the World". Dr Nikonov is Dean of History and Political Science at the International University in Moscow and Executive Director of the Management Board of the Russkiy Mir Foundation.

High Level Visits

- Fudan University - Prof. Chouwen Zhu, Deputy Director of International Office & VP Liu Jianzhong visited the Confucius Institute on 10 September.
- Professor Contractor of IIT, Bombay, visited Chemistry and Engineering on 16 September 2010.
- A delegation from Moscow State University attended the Erickson Conversations on 5 October 2010.

- Representatives from the University of KwaZulu Natal visited CSE during October.
- Jianhua Lin, Provost, Executive Vice President of Peking University visited on 14 October to sign an historic student-exchange agreement and further discussions with the Centre for Regenerative Medicine and the School of History.
- The University is hosting a visit of 12 Brazilian Environmental Sciences undergraduate students and two staff under the Santander TOP Brazil UK Initiative from 16-29 October.
- Yunnan Education Delegation, 18 October, to discuss collaboration in Education.
- Beihang University, 25 October, to initiate general discussions and develop ongoing links with the School of Engineering.
- SAFEA Delegation, 26 October: senior officials from 26 Chinese universities, to discuss organisational structure and operation of universities; higher education quality assurance and evaluation; strategy and funding of university research.

Recent International Travel

As noted above the activities organised around the Commonwealth Games in Delhi were a huge success. A number of important academic agreements were signed in addition to meetings I attended with Scottish Government officials including the First Minister and of course success for University athletes.

UK

Higher Education in England

The Browne Review was published on 12 October and there continues to be much debate over the future shape of Higher Education in England. The report itself has the status of independent advice to government and although the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills welcomed the report the precise form of the UK government proposals are not yet known. The Report has been broadly welcomed by UUK, the Russell Group and the 1994 Group of research intensive universities. The Russell Group continue to lobby for a removal of a cap on fees which current thinking suggest will be set at around £6/£7k or possibly higher at £9/£10k.

Comprehensive Spending Review

The Browne Review was closely followed by the CSR on 20 October which gave a clear signal that the government plans to proceed with reform of HE in line with Lord Browne's proposals. The overall resource cut for the Department of Business Innovation and Skills was 25% however Higher Education was the worst hit with a 40% reduction compared to a 16% average for other areas. There was however some welcome news with regard to science and research budgets which have been protected in cash terms.

Economic Migration Issues

Court will remember that the Government's proposed changes to the regulations on immigration have been subject to two consultation exercises: one from UKBA and one from the Migration Advisory Committee which has now closed. The Government is also facing a judicial review on the interim cap which was introduced in July 2010 for Tier 1 and Tier 2. The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants claims that the Government did not follow the correct parliamentary process when it introduced the interim cap. There is acknowledged disagreement among the coalition on the temporary and indeed the permanent cap which will come into effect from April 2011. We continue to lobby on this issue.

National Pay Negotiations

National negotiations for the 2010-11 pay award are ongoing through the Joint National Committee for Higher Education Staff (JNCHES). As previously reported the employers made a final pay offer of an increase of 0.4% from 1 August 2010. Following consultation Unison has accepted the offer but GMB and Unite have rejected it. Parallel discussions having been taking place with EIS and UCU the focus of which has been on job security provision. UCEA plan another round of Acas facilitated talks in the near future.

Scotland

Scottish Solution

As you will be aware Cabinet Secretary Mike Russell has initiated a debate involving the government, universities and students about how higher education in Scotland will be paid for in the future. Universities Scotland has now published their recommendations in *Towards a Scottish Solution* a paper which is broadly supported by Scottish Institutions including the University.

The Scottish Government remain committed to a solution that does not involve up front fees and will publish a Green Paper in December which will set out options for funding with a view to finding a solution by the end of 2011. A cross party summit will be held to debate the issues on 15 November.

Merger with Edinburgh College of Art

Since Court met on 27 September there has been a change of management at ECA with Dr Peter West now in place as Chief Operating Officer. The most significant events in relation to the consideration of the merger proposals have been:

- 1 October 2010 – Scottish Government launched public consultation on the merger proposals;
- 18 October 2010 – Subgroup of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC)'s Investment Committee visited the institutions to discuss the proposals with staff and students;
- 22 October 2010 - SFC Investment Committee met to discuss proposals for merger and request for funding to support merger.

The key milestones and actions over the coming months are:

- 2 November 2010 – Institutions to host event for Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of Parliament and others to discuss the merger proposals;
- 2 November 2010 – Institutions and legal representatives to meet Scottish Government officers and legal representatives to discuss draft Scottish Statutory Instruments for merger;
- 29 November 2010 - University's Finance and General Purposes Committee to discuss SFC's position on funding for merger and for estates sustainability;
- 10 December 2010 – SFC;
- 13 December 2010 – ECA Board of Governors;
- 20 December 2010 – University Court;
- 24 December 2010 - Scottish Government public consultation on merger ends;
- January 2011 - Cabinet Secretary anticipated to give decision on merger proposals on basis of information from public consultation, advice from Government officers and SFC, and (if approving the proposal) lays orders in Scottish Parliament (order to come into force 40 calendar days after laying).

In addition to the above, the institutions have continued to prepare for the possible merger by building on due diligence and workforce planning activities, and initiating the development of more detailed implementation plans.

Edinburgh University Settlement

Court may have seen the recent publicity regarding the demise of the charity Edinburgh University Settlement. I would like to confirm that the organisation is independent and separately managed from the University. In past years the University has supported them to enable students to participate in voluntary activities but more latterly had ceased to do this. We continue to monitor the situation.

Related meetings

I enjoyed an informal dinner at Bute House on the 4 October at the invitation of Sir Peter Housden. The focus of the proceedings was to inform Sir Gus O'Donnell of the key economic and policy issues facing Scotland.

Also in early October I met the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Mike Russell MSP, Stephen Kerr and Andrew Scott over dinner with a number of Vice Chancellors of Scottish Universities at the University of Glasgow.

University News

The Minister of State for Europe, Mr David Lidington MP, chose the University to launch a drive to improve awareness of the European Union as a career option for UK graduates. He gave a very positive speech at a well attended session. He subsequently met four final year European language students and invited them to an equally successful event at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

The Ecosystems Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) - The University has received a grant of £8m to host the ESPA Directorate with responsibility for bringing together the work of all ESPA programme members. ESPA is funded by the Department for International Development, Natural Environment Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council. It aims to benefit communities by offering practical help in adapting to climate change. Among those it seeks to benefit are South Asian farmers facing changing monsoon patterns and Chinese villagers whose lands are at risk of being turned to desert. Edinburgh researchers will monitor the impact of the programme and provide training to ESPA researchers.

An **Online archive** coordinated by the University's Centre for the Study of The Two World Wars was launched on 7 October 2010 which chronicles Edinburgh's contribution to the First World War effort. The online archive can be accessed at www.edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk

The £20 million Clinical Research Imaging Centre (CRIC) at Little France, the first fully integrated imaging facility of its kind in the UK, was officially opened by the Chancellor, HRH, The Duke of Edinburgh on 29 October 2010. The centre, a collaboration between the University and NHS Lothian, enables research into illnesses including multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia, cancer and heart disease. It houses a high strength magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, the world's most advanced computerised tomography (CT) scanner and a CT-positron tomography scanner.

A new canine cancer ward was officially opened at the University's Hospital for Small Animals by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal on 21 October 2010. The canine oncology support ward at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies has been created as dogs are living longer due to improvements in treatments and now have more chance of being diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. The ward has been supported with funds from the Kennel Club Charitable Trust.

The Launch48 Edinburgh event, hosted at the Business School took place on 29 – 31 October 2010 and offered an opportunity for software developers, designers, marketers, business people, serial entrepreneurs, young professionals and students 48 hours to build and launch a web or mobile

application. Attendees were placed into teams of 15 to 20 people, with the aim of creating a real business idea in a single weekend.

The Global Development Academy which brings together experts from across the University to tackle issues facing the world was launched on 8 October. The global development challenges that will be addressed by the Academy include combating enduring poverty and inequality, promoting the better use of resources, and aiding more effective government in the developing world. The Global Development Academy is the second global academy to be launched by the University. The Global Health Academy began operations in November 2009.

Edinburgh Sustainability Week 25-31 October 2010. A joint initiative between the University, EUSA and Transition Edinburgh University hosted a programme of activities and events to encourage members of the University community to make a difference to health, development, environment and social justice including public lectures and opportunities for debate and discussion. The Edinburgh Sustainability Awards were also launched during the week. These awards offer recognition to staff and students who contribute to the University's social responsibility and sustainability agenda.

Research in the news:

- Researchers in the Centre for Reproductive Biology have found that female smokers who have had an ectopic pregnancy have raised levels of a protein – called PROKR1 – in their Fallopian tubes, which increases the risk of an egg implanting outside the womb and believe that a chemical in cigarette smoke – called cotinine – triggers a chain reaction that increases PROKR1 in the Fallopian tubes.
- Working on rodent malaria parasites, researchers from the University of Edinburgh and the New University of Lisbon have identified a gene that enables the parasite to resist treatment with the plant-based remedy artemisinin. This research opens up new directions that will allow this gene to be investigated in human malaria and may eventually enable the design of alternative, effective drugs.
- Tests on climbers ascending Kilimanjaro has demonstrated the need for more awareness of the risks associated with high altitude. Researchers found that many of the climbers were taking unnecessary risks by failing to acclimatise and thus increasing the risk of developing altitude sickness, which is potentially fatal. Almost half of the climbers studied were suffering from altitude sickness, which can occur above 2,500 metres and is caused by climbing too fast. Symptoms can include headaches, fatigue, and sleep disturbance.
- A study, carried out on mice has demonstrated that when parasites enter the body, they are able to quickly adjust their survival strategy relative to the strength of the body's immune system. When the immune reaction is strong, the parasites can accelerate their growth rate to produce offspring earlier and in greater numbers, ensuring the continued spread of the disease. The Edinburgh team has submitted their findings into an international project to create a vaccine that, when complimented by drug treatments, could help control tropical diseases such as elephantiasis and river blindness.
- Researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde have begun assessing how shared energy schemes could cut energy consumption and reduce heating bills. Householders and businesses could tap into networks of insulated underground pipes that distribute heating and hot water to city neighbourhoods. Shared energy schemes operate in a variety of ways such as using the energy generated by large-scale commercial boilers which would otherwise go to waste to heat water that is then pumped underground to homes and businesses or capturing hot water generated during industrial processes such as distillation and redistribute it to homes through shared pipes that connect with domestic central heating systems.

Householders tapping into district heating programmes in Aberdeen have reported combined electricity and heating bills of less than £400 per year.

- A research study by the University and the Unhwa Biotech Company in Korea has suggested that a popular cancer drug could be produced cheaply and sustainably using stem cells derived from yew trees whose bark is a natural source of the anticancer compound paclitaxel. The development could enable the compound to be produced on a commercial scale at low cost, with no harmful by-products.

External Recognition:

- Two athletes with University links have won silver medals in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi: Michael Jamieson, a 22-year-old member of the University Swim Team, came second in the men's 200m breaststroke event and Eilidh Child, a University graduate who now works as a PE teacher in Perth won silver in the women's 400m hurdles. In all, 35 athletes, coaches and sports staff with links to the University participated at the Games.
- IVF pioneer and University graduate Professor Robert Edwards has won the 2010 Nobel Prize for Medicine. Professor Edwards began research into IVF during the 1950s, when he was a student at the University's Institute of Animal Genetics, now integrated into the School of Biological Sciences, and completed his PhD at Edinburgh in 1955. In 1963, he moved to the University of Cambridge, where he worked with fellow researcher Patrick Steptoe on the development of IVF in people.

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

Vice-Principal Professor David Fergusson

Court, at its meeting on 15 February 2010 approved the designation of Professor David Fergusson as a Vice-Principal to assist in taking forward the preparatory work and discussions with the Edinburgh College of Art on the potential merger. Vice-Principal Professor Fergusson has undertaken this task with great commitment and success leading to the completion of the merger proposal document in accordance with the agreed tight timeframe.

In order to continue to take forward this work, I propose that Professor Fergusson's designation as Vice-Principal is extended beyond the end of this calendar year, on a part-time basis, until the 31 July 2011.

I should be grateful for Court's approval to this proposal.

TMMO'S
November 2010

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

**Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
(Comments on the Report of the Central Management Group's meeting of 13 October 2010)**

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

This paper comprises the Report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 25 October 2010 from the Central Management Group of its meeting of 13 October 2010. Comments made by the F&GP Committee are incorporated in boxes within the report at relevant points.

Action requested

The Court is invited to note the report with comments as it considers appropriate and approve the two Policies set out in item 2.

Resource implications

As outlined in the paper.

Risk Assessment

As outlined in the paper.

Equality and Diversity

As outlined where appropriate in the paper.

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes except for those items marked closed.

Originators of the paper

Dr Alexis Cornish
Dr Katherine Novosel
October 2010

Central Management Group

13 October 2010

1 EUCLID Update

CMG welcomed the achievements of the EUCLID project in delivering the live systems for the start of this academic year although not with all the functionality originally envisaged. The project would finish at the end of this calendar year and it was suggested it would be helpful to initiate a 12 month period of stability before tackling remaining issues although plans to improve usability were being taken forward and any outstanding satellite projects would be completed. New governance arrangements had been agreed and transitional arrangements put in place with the University Secretary now taking on the lead role at the start of 2011.

It was noted that a number of legacy systems were still in operation across the University and assurances were given that appropriate actions would be taken to ensure sustainability. It was further noted that there would be a reflective report prepared at the end of the project outlining the lessons learned in addition to the report already produced which had mainly dealt with providing guidance on the management of large strategic projects.

CMG wished to record its thanks to the EUCLID team and all those across the University involved in delivering this project. In future CMG would only receive exception reports on EUCLID.

The Committee noted the update on EUCLID and that some satellite projects remained to be completed; a final report would be available at the end of the project.
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2 REPORT FROM SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP (Appendix 1)

The commitment of all those involved in driving forward the sustainability agenda across the University was commended including in particular the enthusiasm of the student body.

CMG noted the following initiatives: launch of the new sustainability website aimed at students developed with the assistance of Santander; and the Edinburgh Impact Awards, CMG further endorsed subject to suggested revisions: the Transport and Travel Planning Policy 2010; the commencement of the consultation process on the business travel guidance and the Fair Trade Policy. CMG further commended the Waste Management Annual Report noting that the University was being nominated for a national award. CMG recommend adoption of the Fair Trade Policy and the Transport and Travel Planning Policy to Court.

The Committee endorsed and recommend approval to Court of the Fair Trade Policy and the Transport and Travel Planning Policy noting the potential opportunities for collaboration with the NHS in respect of the Transport and Travel Planning Policy.
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The University of Edinburgh

Transport and Travel Planning Policy 2010

The University of Edinburgh estimates 30% of its Carbon Footprint is from the travel undertaken by its staff, students and visitors, primarily in carrying out University business, and also through the commute to work and study. We have, and will continue to implement actions to bring about behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions from transport, and other damaging environmental effects caused by commuting and business travel.

We aspire to make world-leading contributions to understanding and addressing global challenges, and recognise that this requires collaboration with local and global partners. We aim to strike a balance between the recognised benefits of personal meetings with colleagues in other places and the impact that our international travel has on global warming.

At a local level, we are committed to the development and implementation of innovative travel plans to encourage and support sustainable travel behaviour amongst staff, students and visitors. We recognise the important role that active travel can play in supporting healthy working lives and will continue to promote walking and cycling both as a means of commuting and travelling for business.

We also recognise that we must address legislation implications, seek to reduce the carbon footprint of the University's fleet of vehicles, and that we are ideally placed to work with industry to trial new vehicle technologies. We shall, through our sustainable procurement guidelines, ensure that environmental performance is a high priority when new vehicles are being procured, and through training ensure that fuel efficient driving practices are used in our vehicles.

Targets (carbon footprint targets are based on 2007 baseline)

1. Exceed travel to work mode share targets, set out in the City of Edinburgh Council's Local Transport Strategy, that are relevant to specific University sites.
2. To increase active travel mode share – walking and cycling – from 60% in 2010 to 65% by 2015
3. To reduce the carbon footprint of commuter travel by 15% by 2020
4. To reduce the carbon footprint of business travel by 29% by 2020
5. To reduce the carbon footprint of the University vehicle fleet by 29% by 2020.

These targets are set in response to legislation introduced by the Scottish Government and the City Council

Objectives

To meet the targets set out above the University will:

1. Ensure that the site specific Travel Plans remain up to date and implement innovative travel planning initiatives targeting staff, students and visitors
2. Promote and implement measures for improving access by walking, cycling, shared vehicles and public transport to and between sites and reduce the need for single occupancy car journeys
3. Ensure that all new developments undertaken by the University implement the very highest levels of provision for travel by non-car modes
4. Provide staff and students with an online tool to calculate commuting & business travel carbon footprint
5. Promote the health and wellbeing benefits of walking and cycling to work or study
6. Implement a Business Travel Policy to address legislation requirements, and reduce the need to travel – or where unavoidable – to support the use of lower carbon modes
7. Improve the provision of videoconferencing and teleconferencing facilities and promote their use
8. Work with local organisations, charities and companies to implement innovative travel plan initiatives, such as a cycle hire scheme
9. Continue to improve the management of all vehicles operated by the University departments to reduce operational risk, cut costs and minimise environmental impacts for the whole community.

Transport & Parking Office, Estates & Buildings, 13 Infirmity St, EH1 1LT www.ed.ac.uk/transport

Fair Trade Policy 2010

Edinburgh was accredited in 2004 as Scotland's first "Fairtrade University" by the Fairtrade Foundation. The University aims to contribute to meeting the global poverty challenge by:

1. Expanding the range of Fairtrade foods and beverages available at all campus shops, canteens, cafés, restaurants, bars
2. Promoting all other Fairtrade MARK goods, as these become available
3. Ensuring Fairtrade tea, coffee is used at all meetings and at least 50% in offices
4. Hosting Fairtrade events and maintaining publicity and awareness-raising on campus and in the wider community
5. Developing and sharing and implementing our research, teaching and knowledge on related themes such as ethics, behaviours, trade and market systems and exploring social justice issues and other global challenges (eg Health, Development, Environment and Society).

The Fairtrade Steering Group membership is drawn from staff, students and alumni and reports through the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Group (SEAG) to the Central Management Group.

The University of Edinburgh will maintain Fairtrade University status and promote Edinburgh Fairtrade City Initiative as a member of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum aiming to make Scotland a Fair Trade Nation.

Our status is assessed by the UK Fairtrade Foundation <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>.

Fairtrade Steering Gp Convener: Karen Bowman, Director of Procurement Karen.Bowman@ed.ac.uk

Secretary: Rachel Clough, Administrative Secretary, Support Services, 650 9776 rachel.clough@ed.ac.uk

Notes:

- Fairtrade Steering Group Remit and Membership, and papers are at www.seagfsg.estates.ed.ac.uk/
- Fairtrade news or events at www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/procurement/corporate-social/fairtrade
- The University Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy 2010 supports the University's Strategic Plan in reference to the global challenge of alleviating poverty and in maintaining our Fairtrade University status including raising awareness on related issues of trade justice.
www.docs.csg.ed.ac.uk/EstatesBuildings/Policies/Social_Responsibility_and_Sustainability_Strategy_2010.pdf
- The University is implementing the Scottish Government Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/sspap "a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis and generates benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society, the economy and the environment."
- The Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) also adopted a Fairtrade motion in 2004 www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/minutes/unionexec/14042004.pdf and certain students societies – such as Edinburgh University People & Planet society – campaign on trade justice, <http://peopleandplanet.org/tradejustice/>

C1.2

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

**Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
(Report on Other Items)**

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

This paper reports on the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 25 October 2010 covering items other than the CMG report. Detailed papers not included in the appendices are available from Dr Novosel.

Action requested

The Court is invited to approve the leasing arrangements at item 7 and note the remaining items with comments as it considers appropriate.

Resource implications

If applicable, as noted in the report.

Risk Assessment

Where applicable, risk is covered in the report.

Equality and Diversity

No implications.

Freedom of Information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Except for items 2-7

Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation

Originator of the paper

Dr Katherine Novosel
October 2010

University Court, Meeting on 8 November 2010

**Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
25 October 2010**

(Report on Other Items)

1 MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES UNIT POST CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS: UPDATE OCTOBER 2010 **Appendix 1**

The Committee noted and was supportive of the proposed arrangements in respect of the closure of the Medical Research Council's Human Reproductive Sciences Unit and the transfer of staff, PhD students and Career Development Fellows with appropriate funding into the University's School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health. Assurances were provided on various staff liability and funding issues and on the on-going discussions to finalise legal and other matters.

**Medical Research Council, Human Reproductive Sciences Unit
Post Closure Arrangements: Update October 2010**

Introduction

The MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit located at the QMRI Little France, studies fundamental and strategically applied aspects of mammalian reproduction in an attempt to develop effective methods for regulating fertility and treatments for problems related to reproductive health and hormone-dependent disease.

The Unit has 70 members of staff engaged with delivering 12 research programmes.

A quinquennial review was undertaken by the MRC in 2009/2010. The recommendation of the review was to close the Unit. The MRC Management Board (MB) held in August 2010 supported the recommendation which will be formally considered at MRC Council on 13 October 2010.

The MB has agreed to fund 5 programmes currently within the Unit and the MRC will continue funding these in future (4 of the programmes are for 5 years and 1 of the programmes for 1 year only)

MRC wish to TUPE transfer those staff affiliated with these 5 programmes by 1 April 2011. In addition to the above the MRC would also like to transfer to the University some of the Unit's current PhD students and Career Development Fellows. All other staff will be made redundant or redeployed within the MRC.

The Proposal

The MRC will offer the 5 programme grant awards to the University (£~10.6m in total). MRC MB has also approved the transition budget for ongoing training obligations of £1.2m from 1 April 2011.

Those staff who TUPE transfer from MRC to the University (the number expected to TUPE transfer is currently 15) will fully integrate into the School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health (SCSCH). These staff will be located within space currently available to the MRC HRSU.

All posts that transfer will be 100% funded by the grants.

No land or buildings are expected to transfer from the MRC to the University.

All equipment associated with the funded programme grants (see paragraph 5) will be offered to the University for nil consideration.

The MRC has agreed to fully indemnify the University for all the MRC HRSU staff that TUPE transfer for the period of the Programme Grants.

The Intellectual Property will either transfer or be licensed to the University for nil consideration, details to be finalised.

The Process

The University and the MRC signed a Heads of Terms (not legally binding) on the 29 September 2010 which captures the details within the proposal.

Colleagues in Central Finance and ERI have costed the programme grant proposals that will transfer to the University.

The Heads of Terms have been passed to the lawyers. There will be a legal Transfer Agreement between the MRC and University formalising the arrangements. A 5 Year Financial Plan will be appended to the Transfer Agreement.

The HRSU as part of the College of MVM will take services from the University using the standard model.

Implementation

The transfer is expected to happen on the 1 April 2011. The MRC MB will meet in December 2010 to sign the Transfer Agreements. Implementation plans are in development to ensure the transfer date is achieved.

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

Vice-Convenor of Court

Court at its last meeting approved the arrangements to elect a Vice-Convenor of Court in succession to Dr Markland whose term of office as Vice-Convenor finishes at the end of this academic year. The University Secretary received one nomination by 31 October 2010 with the required proposer and seconder and the nominee, Professor Stuart Monro has confirmed that he would be willing to be appointed to this position.

Court is therefore invited to appoint Professor Stuart Monro as Vice-Convenor of Court for a period of three years commencing at the start of the 2011/2012 academic year. Court will note that Professor Monro's current term of office as a Co-opted member of Court ceases at the end of the 2012/2013 academic session and that his co-option should therefore be extended until the end of the 2013/2014 academic session in order for Professor Monro to complete his three year period of office as Vice-Convenor of Court.

Dr Kim Waldron
November 2010

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

Court Effectiveness Review - update

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

This paper sets out the actions undertaken to date in respect of the recommendations contained within the Report from the Group tasked by Court to review its effectiveness and seeks further guidance from Court on taking forward some of the recommendations.

Action requested

Court is invited to consider and comment on the report as appropriate.

Resource implications

None directly.

Risk Assessment

Where applicable, noted in the paper.

Equality and Diversity

None.

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? No

Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation

Dr Katherine Novosel
Head of Court Services
October 2010

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

Audit Committee Report

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

Attached is the draft Minute of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 September 2010.

Action requested

The Court is invited to approve the recommendation that the option to extend the current contract with KPMG for a further two audits be exercised and the proposed amendment (highlighted) to the Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 and note the remaining items of the draft Minute, particularly the satisfactory outcome of the internal audit appraisal 2009/2010.

Resource implications

The resource implications are detailed in the paper.

Risk assessment

Internal Audit reports are prepared using a risk-based approach.

Equality and diversity issues

There are none.

Freedom of Information

Can the paper be included in open business? Yes.

Originator of the paper

Dr Katherine Novosel

28 October 2010

**Minute of the Meeting of the Audit Committee
held at 5.30 pm on 29 September 2010
in the Lord Provost Elder Room, Old College**

Present: Ms G Stewart (Convener)
Mr D Bentley
Ms A Richards
Mr M Sinclair
Professor A Smyth

Apologies: Mr P Budd
Mr M Cornish
Mr M Rowley, KPMG, External Auditor Director

In attendance: Mr J Gorringe, Director of Finance
Mr N Paul, Director of Corporate Services
Dr K Waldron, University Secretary Designate
Mr H McKay, Chief Internal Auditor
Mr S Reid, KPMG, Director
Ms K Crichton, Internal Audit
Mr S Marsden, Director, Applications Division, ISG (for item 2.2 only)
Dr K Novosel, Head of Court Services

1 MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2010

Paper A

The Minute of the meeting held on 3 June 2010 having previously been circulated, was approved as a correct record.

The Committee welcomed Dr Kim Waldron, University Secretary Designate to this her first meeting of the Audit Committee.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 External Audit Fees – SSTRIC

The Committee noted that discussions were on-going to finalise the process to allow the transfer of external audit provision for SSTRIC: a limited company by guarantee of the University to deliver the activities of the Scottish Microelectronics Centre, from the current External Auditor to KPMG. It was noted that the anticipated KPMG fee for its services for 2009/2010 was £2,500: similar to the level for other subsidiary companies.

2.2 Software updates – position report

Paper B

There had been previous discussion regarding the process by which software updates were implemented and concern expressed by the Committee on the perceived potential risks of not maintaining software sufficiently. The Committee thanked Mr Marsden for attending the meeting to discuss these concerns and welcomed the detailed paper which provided assurances on the consideration given to updating software. It was noted that those updates associated with security were applied as quickly as possible and those associated with functionality were discussed and appropriate action agreed in accordance with the business needs of the University. The drafting of an application technology strategy which would provide detailed information on the updating approach of centrally managed software components to ensure sustainability was welcomed and the work to capture and better record software updates across the University was noted. It was further noted that

the annual review undertaken by the Risk Management Committee includes consideration of these types of issues and this provided further assurances to the Audit Committee.

FOR DISCUSSION

3 AUDIT COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Paper C

The Committee noted and approved its schedule of activities for 2010/2011 and that other items would be added as required.

4 INTERNAL AUDIT PERFORMANCE REVIEW

4.1 Internal Audit Quality Assurance Benchmarking Exercise

Paper D

The process undertaken this year to benchmark the performance of the in-house Internal Audit Service, utilising an assessment tool-kit developed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, involving a four-way reciprocal peer review group was noted and welcomed: the Internal Audit Service continued to be assessed as providing 'best practice'. The Committee was satisfied with the performance attained as measured by this exercise and with the proposed actions to address the weaknesses identified.

It was further noted that this was the fourth annual benchmarking exercise undertaken using this approach. The Institute of Internal Auditors' international framework of standards and practice however advocated that this form of assessment need only be undertaken once every five years and on reflection the Committee was content to approve that this benchmarking exercise should now be undertaken every four years; the next benchmarking exercise would be in relation to the academic year 2013/2014 and considered at the first meeting of the Audit Committee in the academic year 2014/2015.

4.2 Internal Audit Performance Evaluation Questionnaires

Paper E

The Committee noted and welcomed the satisfactory outcome of the evaluation questionnaires exercise.

4.3 Appraisal of Internal Audit Service

Paper F

In accordance with the agreed process, the Committee confirmed it was content and concurred with the comments as set out in the paper prepared by the University Secretary, the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Finance on the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service during 2009/2010 including Internal Audit's role in assessing value for money activity. It was further noted that although consideration had previously been given to possible opportunities of collaborating with other institutes to provide internal audit through a shared service, given the current financial environment, it may be appropriate to investigate this further and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

In summary, the Audit Committee remained very satisfied with the overall performance of the Internal Audit Service as demonstrated by the three papers considered at this meeting.

5 DRAFT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Paper G

The Committee endorsed the draft Corporate Governance Statement noting that it had little changed from that prepared for the 2008/2009 Accounts other than the inclusion, as appropriate, of the outcome of the Court effectiveness review undertaken during 2009/2010 and reference to the 2008 Combined Code.

6 VALUE FOR MONEY REPORT Paper H

The report outlined the significant value for money activities undertaken during 2009/2010 and had been reviewed and endorsed by the Central Management Group. The Audit Committee noted the report, commended the activities and was assured that the University had in place satisfactory arrangements to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness. It was further noted that given the current financial environment there was robust scrutiny of activities at all levels within the University to ensure that value for money opportunities were identified and taken forward.

7 REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF AUDIT COMMITTEE Paper I

Court had undertaken a review of its own effectiveness during 2009/2010 and was now inviting Court Committees to undertake a light touch review of their effectiveness and report back to the February 2011 meeting of Court. The review was to include consideration of the Committee's approved terms of reference, in particular to take cognisance of the recently approved Delegated Authorisation Schedule.

The Committee agreed that the most appropriate way forward would be for each member of the Committee to complete a short questionnaire based around the suggested headings in the paper. At its next meeting, a summary paper of the main themes emerging would be discussed. It was further agreed that the University Secretary would seek the views of Internal Audit, External Audit and senior officers on the performance of the Committee and prepare a report for discussion at the next meeting. These two papers and discussion at the next meeting would form the basis of the Committee's report to Court.

The proposed amendment to the Committee's terms of reference as set in the paper was endorsed and recommend for approval to Court. It was noted that no further amendments were required as a result of the revised Delegated Authorisation Schedule.

External Audit left the meeting for item 8 detailed below and did not take part in discussions.

8 EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT Paper J

It was noted that a very robust tendering and appointment process had been undertaken in 2007 to re-appoint KPMG as the External Auditor for the University. The recent performance reviews undertaken by the Committee had not identified any concerns with the work of KPMG and the Committee was therefore minded to recommend to Court that the option to extend the current contract with KPMG by a further two years to cover the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 audits be taken forward with the following provisos: the University to seek to re-negotiate the extension of the contract so that fees were uplifted in line with the CPI rather than the RPI; and that a full tendering exercise be taken forward in respect of the 2013/2014 audit.

INTERNAL AUDIT

9 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT Paper K

The Committee formally noted the Internal Audit Annual Report and endorsed its onward transmission to Court within the Committee's Annual Report. The Committee further welcomed and endorsed Internal Audit's positive opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the University's risk management, control, and governance arrangements as set out in the Report.

10 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

Paper L

The Audit Committee considered the reports on 7 Internal Audit assignments completed since its last meeting.

Project Boards

All the recommendations were being actively progressed including reviewing the role of Court members on Strategic Boards to ensure appropriate input.

HESA Data

The assignment confirmed that the validation mechanisms were mature and sound with the recommendations being actioned.

Managed Desktop Support

Mr Marsden had already provided the Committee with information regarding software updates. All other recommendations within the report were being actioned.

The Audit Committee noted the findings of the other audit reports which had recorded no significant areas of concern.

11 INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW UP REVIEWS

Paper M

The Committee noted those recommendations of the twelve follow up reviews which had been fully actioned and was content with the explanations provided for those recommendations which were still on-going.

12 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Paper N

Progress towards completing the 2009/2010 plan was noted and that the 2010/2011 plan was 17% advanced after 6 weeks. In respect of the 2009/2010 plan there had been some difficulties in taking forward an IT assignment which required external expertise and one assignment had been halted to allow further enquiries into a situation which had been identified: a fuller report would be available to a future meeting of the Committee on this matter. The Committee was satisfied with progress to date, noted the achievement of the Internal Audit Service in attaining Investor in People accreditation, and congratulated staff who had recently completed Institute of Internal Auditors exams and had passed a Masters Degree. The Audit Committee further approved the revised Internal Audit Operating Framework: this had been identified as requiring to be addressed following the benchmarking exercise.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

13 EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee noted progress in taking forward the 2009/2010 external audit: the audit of the main accounts had commenced on 27 September 2010 and no issues had been identified to date as a result of consideration of subsidiary companies which were at different stages in the audit process.

FOR INFORMATION/FORMAL APPROVAL

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 November 2010 at 5.30 pm in the **in the Cuillin Room**, Charles Stewart House, Chambers Street.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1 Purpose

To review the effectiveness of the University's corporate governance arrangements, financial systems, internal control environment and risk management arrangements.

2 Composition

2.1 The Committee shall consist of at least four and at most six members.

2.2 Three of the members must be lay members of Court at least one of whom shall have a background in finance, accounting or auditing. The remaining members may either be lay members of Court or external to the Court and the University with appropriate expertise. The majority of members must be lay members of Court.

2.3 The Court shall appoint members of the Audit Committee on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee.

2.4 The Nominations Committee in making recommendations to Court shall take cognisance of any recommendation from the Audit Committee in regard to external members and the experience required of members of the Audit Committee.

2.5 The term of office of lay members will be no longer than their membership of Court unless otherwise determined by Court and will be for a maximum of three years.

2.6 The term of office of external members will be for a maximum of three years.

2.7 Previous members are eligible for re-appointment up to a normal maximum of two consecutive terms of office.

2.8 Court on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee shall appoint the Convener of the Committee who shall be a lay member of Court.

2.9 Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee are not eligible for membership of this Committee other than in exceptional circumstances and in any case the Convener of the Audit Committee can not also be a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

2.10 All members of the Audit Committee are expected to comply with the University's Code of Conduct as set out in the University's Handbook and declare any interests which may conflict with their responsibilities as members of the Audit Committee.

2.11 The Principal in the capacity of Accountable Officer will be invited to attend at least one meeting of the Audit Committee each year and in particular will be invited to attend that meeting at which the Annual Accounts are to be considered by the Audit Committee.

2.12 The Chief Internal Auditor and External Auditors will be invited to attend all meetings of the Audit Committee.

2.13 Other senior Officers of the University may be in attendance at the Committee, in particular the University Secretary, the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the Assistant Director of Finance with responsibility for financial accounting shall be invited to attend all meetings.

2.14 Other individuals from within or outwith the University may also be invited to attend meetings from time to time to provide the Committee with information on specific items on the agenda.

3 Meetings

3.1 The Committee will meet as required to fulfil its remit and will meet at least four times each academic session.

3.2 Meetings will be timetabled on an annual basis and will take account of the schedule for Court meetings to ensure appropriate reporting and to coincide with the Annual Accounting process.

3.3 Minutes, agendas and papers will normally be circulated to members of the Committee at least five days in advance of the meeting. Late papers may be circulated up to two days before the meeting. Only in the case of extreme urgency and with the agreement of the Convener will papers be tabled at meetings of the Committee.

3.4 Non-contentious or urgent matters not on the agenda may be considered at a meeting subject to the agreement of the Convener of the meeting and the majority of members present.

3.5 Minutes, agendas and papers will also be circulated to those in attendance at meetings at least four days in advance of the meeting unless the originator of the paper otherwise determines. Any other person in attendance at the meeting will be issued with papers appropriate to their reason for attendance.

3.6 Papers will indicate the originator/s and purpose of the paper, the matter/s which the Committee is being asked to consider and any action/s required and confirm the status of the paper in respect of freedom of information legislation.

3.7 Three members of the Committee shall be a quorum. This number must include two lay members one of whom shall be appointed Convener by the majority of members present for the duration of the meeting should the Convener not be present.

3.8 A formal minute will be kept of proceedings and submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Committee. The draft minute will be agreed with the Convener of the Committee prior to circulation and in the case of the absence of the Convener at a meeting the Committee member appointed to act as Convener for the duration of that specific meeting.

4 Remit

4.1 To keep under review the effectiveness of the University's corporate governance arrangements, and its financial and other internal control systems, including in particular the system of risk management, and to offer Court an opinion on these matters annually.

4.2 To review the effectiveness of the arrangements for the investigation of questions of financial irregularity or impropriety and oversee the University's Fraud and Misappropriation Policy, including being notified of any action taken under that policy.

4.3 To ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements in relation to the University's audit arrangements as set out in ~~the latest Code of Audit Practice issued by SFC~~ paragraph 16(x) of the mandatory requirements associated with the Financial Memorandum between the University and the SFC.

4.4 To be responsible for reviewing the University's Annual Accounts and Financial Statements including the external auditor's formal opinion, the statement of members' responsibilities and the statement of internal control and reviewing any changes in accounting policy and advising Court accordingly.

4.5 To communicate directly with the internal and external auditors on audit approach, reporting timetable, findings and management's response.

4.6 To review the scope, effectiveness and performance of the internal audit service on an annual basis including its planning and operation with a view to obtaining an assurance on the quality of the work and reviewing the results of internal audit's annual report.

4.7 To report to the Court and be advisory to it: to receive and make recommendations to the Court in respect of plans prepared by internal audit, the internal audit's annual report and the report of the external auditors.

4.8 To advise the Court on the criteria for the selection, appointment and remuneration of the external auditors and review the scope, effectiveness and performance of the external audit service on an annual basis and the quality of their work.

4.9 To advise the Court on the criteria for the selection and appointment of the Head of the Internal Audit Service.

4.10 To consider any other audit related matters, including issues arising from reports of external bodies such as the National Audit Office and the Scottish Higher and Further Funding Council.

4.11 To investigate such financial matters as is deemed necessary, whether or not these relate to issues of, or possible failures in, corporate governance.

4.12 To monitor the performance and activities of the Risk Management Committee and report there on to Court and in particular:

4.12.1 To advise Court on the effectiveness of policies and procedures for risk assessment and risk management;

4.12.2 To annually review the University's approach to risk management and, if appropriate, recommend changes or improvements to key elements of its processes and procedures;

4.12.3 To provide a statement to the Court annually in relation to effective risk management.

4.13 To monitor and be satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness and to receive an annual report from management on such activities to enable it to offer Court an opinion on these matters annually.

5 Other

5.1 The Convener of the Audit Committee shall on an annual basis arrange a private meeting with the Chief Internal Auditor and with the lead External Auditor which may include other members of the Committee to discuss any matter regarding the remit of the Committee. The Convener will report back to the Audit Committee on the outcome of these meetings.

5.2 The Committee will from time to time undertake a review of its own performance and effectiveness as part of the overall review of the effectiveness of Court and its Committees and report thereon to Court.

5.3 In order to fulfil its remit the Committee may obtain external professional advice as necessary.

5.4 The draft minute and report on specific points discussed at each meeting will be provided to the subsequent meeting of Court.

5.5 An annual Audit Committee Report will also be prepared and presented to Court in conjunction with the Annual Accounts to provide assurances to Court covering the following areas:

- Membership of the Committee
- Annual Internal Auditor's Report
- Internal Audit Plan for subsequent year
- External Auditor's appointment and remuneration
- Comment on consideration of the Reports and Financial Statement, External Auditor's opinion and Management Letter
- Statement on internal control environment
- Statement on fraud and irregularity
- Statement on economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- Statement on risk management
- Statement on corporate governance arrangements

5.6 Membership of the Committee will be published on the University's internet.

Approved 20 October 2008

Revised re Audit Committee meeting 29 September 2010

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

Draft Corporate Governance Statement for 2009/10

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

There is a Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council (SFC) requirement for the University to make a statement of corporate governance in its Annual Reports and Financial Statements – this is included in its 'Accounts Direction', a standing document supplemented annually by guidance notes. Relevant extracts from the SFC document are at Appendix 2, and the British Universities Finance Directors Group's guidance, to which it refers, is at Appendix 3. In respect of the Corporate Governance Statement, the guidance is unchanged from last year other than that SFC refers to the application of the principles in the updated (2008) Combined Code: previously we had been referred to the 2003 Code. There is no significant practical difference between the principles in the two Codes as they relate to the University¹.

The attached paper, Appendix 1, proposes a draft corporate governance statement. It is very closely based on the version approved by the Court for 2008/9. The only significant changes made are updates to the text to reflect the outcome of the review of Court's effectiveness conducted in 2009/10 *and these are shown in italics.*

It should be noted that the Statement has been drafted as if it were being adopted at the December meeting of the Court, at which time the Court will be asked to agree the University's Financial Reports and Statements for 2009/10, which will include the corporate governance statement.

Action requested

Court is invited to consider and comment on the draft corporate governance statement of internal control and risk management with regard to compliance for 2009-10.

Resource implications:

Does the paper have resource implications? No.

Risk Assessment:

Does the paper include a risk analysis? No

Equality and Diversity:

Does the paper have equality and diversity implications? No.

Freedom of Information:

Can the paper be included in open business? Yes.

Originator of the paper:

M D Cornish, University Secretary
September 2010

To be presented by

Dr Waldron, University Secretary

¹ A new 'UK Corporate Governance Code' published in May 2010 will apply to the 2010/2011 financial year.

DRAFT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2009/10

Introduction and Statement of Compliance

The University of Edinburgh is committed to achieving the highest possible standards of corporate governance relevant to the higher education sector. This summary describes the manner in which the University has applied the principles set out in the Combined Code on Corporate Governance issued in 2008, in so far as it applies to the higher education sector, and has taken due regard to the Turnbull Committee guidance on internal control as amended by the British Universities Finance Directors Group in its 2006 guidance. Its purpose is to help the reader of the financial statements understand how the principles have been applied, and to set out the basis for the Court's opinion that **the University has fully complied with that Code throughout the year ended 31 July 2010.**

University Governance

The University of Edinburgh is constituted by the Universities (Scotland) Acts 1858 to 1966.

The Universities (Scotland) Acts make specific provision for three major bodies in the Governance of the University – The Court, The Senate and The General Council.

The University Court

The University Court, the University's governing body, is a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal. The present powers of the Court are defined in the Universities (Scotland) Act (1966) and include, inter alia, the amendment of the composition, powers and functions of bodies in the University and the creation of new bodies, the administration and management of the whole revenue and property of the University, internal arrangements of the University, staff appointments and, on the recommendation of Senate, the regulation of degrees, admission and discipline of students: it is responsible for ensuring that the Senate has in place effective arrangements for academic quality assurance and enhancement. The Court is responsible for the strategic development of the University, advised by the Principal in consultation with the Central Management Group.

The University Court has 22 members and is chaired by the Rector. It has a majority of lay members, including assessors appointed by the Chancellor, the General Council and the City of Edinburgh Council: there are also staff and student members, with the Principal being an ex-officio member. The Principal acts as the Chief Executive Officer of the University. He is directly accountable to Court for the proper conduct of the institution's affairs. The Principal is also directly accountable to the Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Funding Council for the University's proper use of funds deriving from Scottish Ministers and compliance with the Financial Memorandum between the Scottish Funding Council and the University.

Up until and including 2009/10 the Court has normally met five times per year, but it has decided to meet six times per year in the future. It consults with the Senate and the General Council as required by statute. The Court is committed to the Nolan Committee Principles regarding standards to be adopted in public life. It maintains a register of interest of its members and senior University officers which is publicly available for inspection.

The Court has taken full account of the Guide for Members of Governing Bodies issued by the Committee of University Chairmen in November 2004 and revised in March 2009. It notes that compliance with this Guidance is not a formal requirement of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council. The Court believes that in all significant respects its operations are compliant with this Guidance. *During 2009/10 the Court conducted a further*

review of its own effectiveness in keeping with the relevant part of the Guidance. As a consequence the Court has adopted a revised statement of its responsibilities and of its view of its effectiveness in fulfilling those responsibilities, which it believes to be of a high standard, and of the actions it wishes to take further to enhance its effectiveness. This statement and the outcome of the review is available as part of the University's Freedom of Information publication scheme at <http://www.aaps.ed.ac.uk/Governance/Governance.htm>. Actions arising from this review either have already been implemented or will be implemented in the 2010/2011 academic year.

The Court has overall responsibility for the University's strategic development. It is actively engaged in the University's strategic planning processes and in monitoring progress against the strategic plan. The strategic plan operative during 2009-10 was adopted by the University Court at its June 2008 meeting: it covers the period 2008-2012. The strategic planning process is led by the Principal with support from the Vice Principal (Planning and Resources) and the Director of Planning.

The Court's Committee Structure

The Court has established several committees, including a Finance and General Purposes Committee, an Investment Committee, a Nominations Committee, a Remuneration Committee, a Staff Committee, a Risk Management Committee, a Health and Safety Committee, an Estates Advisory Group and an Audit Committee. Each of these Committees is formally constituted with terms of reference and includes lay members of the Court. There is also a Central Management Group that consists of senior academic and administrative managers who advise the Principal on senior management decisions and the allocation of budgets to Colleges and Support Services, and Trustees who administer the University's endowment funds.

The **Finance and General Purposes Committee** oversees the University's financial affairs on behalf of the Court. This includes the design of the planning and budgeting process, approval of the resulting plan and budget in the context of the University's overall strategy, and ensuring adequate monitoring thereafter. It is chaired by the Vice Convener of the Court and includes a majority of lay members. It normally meets six times a year.

The **Investment Committee** of the Court has responsibility for overseeing of the University's Endowment Funds and deposit balances. It reports to Court via Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The **Nominations Committee** considers nominations for co-opted vacancies in Court membership and for Court's nominations on the Curators of Patronage. It is chaired by the Vice Convener of the Court, has a majority of lay members and meets as necessary, normally not less than twice a year.

The **Remuneration Committee** advises the Principal with regard to his responsibilities for setting professorial and equivalent academic and academic-related salaries. The lay members also consider the salary of the Principal and advise the Court as appropriate. It is chaired by the Vice Convener of the Court, has a majority of lay members and includes an external advisor. It meets as necessary, at least once a year, and conducts business by correspondence when appropriate,

The **Staff Committee** provides advice and guidance on the University's strategic human resources policies and objectives, and provides assurance that the University is monitoring its performance and managing its HR issues effectively. The Committee is chaired by a Vice Principal and its membership includes two members of the Court. The Committee normally meets five times a year.

The **Audit Committee**, which is chaired by a lay member of the Court and consists of lay members of the Court and some external individuals, meets four times a year, with the University's Internal and External Auditors in attendance. It is responsible for reviewing the University's annual reports and financial statements and any changes to accounting policies and advising the Court accordingly. In addition, the Committee considers detailed reports from the Internal Audit service together with recommendations for the improvement of the University's systems of internal control and management's responses and implementation plans. It has explicit responsibility for advising on the effectiveness of the University's risk management arrangements. The Committee also receives and considers reports from the Funding Council as they affect the University's business and monitors adherence to regulatory requirements. It has authority to investigate any matters within its terms of reference. Some senior University officers routinely attend meetings of the Audit Committee, but they are not members of the committee and once a year the Committee meets the Internal and External Auditors on their own for independent discussions.

The Audit Committee also receives regular reports from the Internal and External Auditors which include recommendations for improvements in internal control. The Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high level review of the arrangements for internal control. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reports of exceptions. The Court receives the minutes of each Audit Committee meeting and an annual report of its proceedings.

The **Risk Management Committee** supports and advises the Central Management Group, and through it the University Court, on the implementation and monitoring of the University's risk management policy and strategy. It ensures that the identification and evaluation of key risks that threaten achievement of the University's objectives is carried out; that a register of these risks is maintained; that risks are being actively managed, with the appropriate strategies in place and working effectively; and contributes to raising awareness of risk generally across the University and to maintaining the profile of risk management. It is chaired by the Director of Corporate Services and normally meets at least four times a year.

The **Health and Safety Committee** provides oversight and guidance to the University's Health and Safety Services department (which also includes Occupational Health, Occupational Hygiene Unit, Fire Safety and Radiation Protection functions) and advises the Court in regard to compliance with its statutory responsibilities in this area. It is chaired by the Director of Corporate Services, meets at least twice a year and conducts business through electronic communications between meetings.

The **Estates Committee** oversees the preparation, periodic review and implementation of the University's Estates Strategy and its links to corporate and other business plans. It advises on property portfolio transactions (acquisitions and disposals), matters relating to strategic and major capital developments, significant items related to the amount and deployment of Estates and Buildings recurrent budget, and operational matters for which the Director of Estates wishes advice or support including allocation of a previously agreed budgets (e.g. Maintenance Programmes, Small Capital Projects) across Colleges and Support Groups. The Group has introduced the 'gateway' methodology for the approval and management of major projects. It is chaired by the Vice Principal (Planning and Resources) and reports to Central Management Group and onwards to Finance and General Purposes Committee and to the Court as necessary.

The **Central Management Group**, whilst formally advisory to the Principal, is the senior body for consideration of management issues. Its members are, between them, responsible and accountable for all components of the University's budget, both income and expenditure. As such it plays an important part in the internal governance and academic operations of the University, and brings together the academic, financial, human resources and accommodation

aspects of planning. It is advised by the Risk Management Committee in regard to formulation and implementation of risk management policy. It reports through the Finance and General Purposes Committee to Court. The Central Management Group is chaired by the Principal; it normally meets ten times each year.

The Senate

The Senate is the academic authority of the University and draws its membership from the academic staff and students of the University. Its role is to superintend and regulate the teaching and discipline of the University and to promote research.

The General Council

The General Council consists of graduates and academic staff. It has a statutory right to comment on matters which affect the well-being and prosperity of the University.

The University's System of Internal Control

The University Court is responsible for the University's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material mis-statement or loss.

The internal control environment includes delegated authorities, policies, procedural and system controls, planning and budgetary processes, professional capability in specialist areas, governance structures and management reporting. The senior management team receives regular reports on the University's performance, including appropriate performance indicators, and considers any control issues brought to its attention by early warning mechanisms which are embedded within the operational units and reinforced by risk awareness training. The senior management team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit which include recommendations for improvement.

The University operates processes for the identification, evaluation and management of significant risks. The risk management framework established in the University includes a Risk Management Committee as a formal Court sub-committee which oversees implementation of the Risk Management Policy adopted in 2002 and reviewed and renewed in 2007-08. The University Risk Register focuses primarily on risks related to the attainment of the University's strategic objectives and identifies responsibility for the overall management of each risk. The most recent update was revised during 2009-10 and was adopted by Court on 21 June 2010: it aligns to the University Strategic Plan 2008-12.

College, Support Group and subsidiary company risk registers ensure key operational risks are identified and managed by the relevant sub-organisation within the University. All major projects have risk registers and risk assessment is incorporated into planning and decision making processes: risk assessment training and awareness are promoted through the management structure. The University's major risks are regularly reviewed and there are year end processes to obtain further assurances on the adequacy of the management of key risks and to document the sources of assurances for each major risk.

Internal Audit undertake an independent review of the operation of the overall risk management process, having regard to best practice as recommended by professional institutes and other relevant organisations. The Audit Committee considered the Internal Audit report on this matter at its meeting on 29 September 2010 and expressed itself satisfied with the outcome.

By its 20 December 2010 meeting, the Court had received the Audit Committee and Risk

Management Committee reports for the year ended 31 July 2010; it also had taken account of relevant events since 31 July 2010. The Audit Committee in particular is responsible for advising Court on the effectiveness of policies and procedures for risk assessment and risk management. The Court considers, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, that a risk management process wholly compliant with the guidance provided by the Combined Code, as amended by the British Universities Finance Directors Group, in so far as its provisions apply to the higher education sector, has been in place throughout the year ended 31 July 2010.

In reaching this view, the Court's confirmation of the effectiveness of the system of internal control has also been informed by the following:

- a) the Internal Audit Service's annual report to the Audit Committee on the adequacy and effectiveness of systems of internal control including governance and risk management, together with recommendations for improvement, along with the Principal's expression of satisfaction with the performance of the Internal Audit service in his capacity as Accountable Officer;
- b) the Risk Management Committee's Annual Report to the Audit Committee regarding its operation;
- c) comments made by the External Auditors in their Highlights Memorandum and other reports; and
- d) the work of managers within the institution, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and by any relevant comments made by other external agencies (e.g. the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, SFC).

Charitable Status

The University had charitable status (No. SC005336) under the legislative framework operative throughout the 2009-10 financial year. The University Court considers that the University meets the 'Charity Test' set out in Section 7 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. It will take such actions as are necessary to ensure continued full compliance with the legislation and retention of charitable status.

The University's endowments are administered as the University of Edinburgh Endowment Fund, overseen by the Investment Committee. Professional fund managers are employed by that Committee on behalf of the University Court. Investment income is applied for the specific purposes of the relevant endowments. All of those purposes are charitable for the purposes of the legislation.

Income derived from philanthropic donations and benefactions arising from the University's Development activities is disbursed by a Trust with separate charitable status, The University of Edinburgh Development Trust. The Board of Trustees includes individuals external to the University. The Convener is a former member of the Court. The Trustees meet twice a year. All disbursements are applied for the specific purposes of the relevant donations and benefactions, or in the case of general donations and benefactions, for the University's general purposes. All of those purposes are charitable for the purposes of the legislation.

Going concern

The University Court considers that the University has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Responsibilities of the Court

On 21 June 2010 the Court adopted a revised Statement of Primary Responsibilities, as set out below.

The Court's primary responsibilities are:

I. Strategic Direction

- 1. To determine the mission and vision of the University and its major priorities as expressed in strategic plans, long term academic and business plans.*
- 2. To ensure that the mission and strategic vision of the University takes proper account of the interests of stakeholders, including students, staff, alumni, the wider community and funding bodies.*
- 3. To approve financial, estates, and human resources strategies in support of institutional objectives and priorities.*
- 4. To ensure strategies are in place to enhance the student experience.*
- 5. To ensure processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should where possible be benchmarked against other comparable Universities.*
- 6. To promote and safeguard the reputation and values of the University.*

II. Governance: responsibilities in relation to Management and Senate

- 1. To appoint the Principal as chief executive, including the terms and conditions of such an appointment, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance.*
- 2. To delegate authority to the Principal {as chief executive} for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and HR Management of the University subject to reserving such matters to itself as the Court thinks appropriate.*
- 3. To establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within which such management functions shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the Principal.*
- 4. To appoint a Secretary to the Court and to ensure that if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the University, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.*
- 5. To review decisions made by the Senate as prescribed in statute.*
- 6. To ensure that the Senate has processes in place for monitoring and reporting the quality of education provision and to monitor quality enhancement arrangements.*

III. Governance: Exercise of Controls

1. *To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, arrangements for internal and external audit and regularly reviewed schedules of delegated authority.*
2. *To be the principal financial and business authority of the University, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements and to have overall responsibility for the University's assets, property and estates.*
3. *To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of health, safety and security in respect of students, staff and other persons affected by the University's operations.*
4. *To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for promoting equality of opportunity in respect of students, staff and other persons making use of University services or facilities.*

IV. Governance: Corporate responsibilities

1. *To be the University's legal authority and as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the University's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name.*
2. *To be the employing authority for all staff in the University and to ensure that obligations thereto are met including with regard to the welfare, development and reward of employees.*
3. *To put in place appropriate arrangements for determining and regular review of the performance, remuneration and conditions of service of senior staff.*
4. *To make provision for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the Senate and EUSA.*
5. *To act as trustee for, or make appropriate alternative arrangements for the trusteeship of, any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University.*
6. *To make appropriate arrangements compliant with relevant legislation for the trusteeship of any pensions scheme established by the Court for University employees and to employ the employer-nominated trustees.*
7. *To ensure that at all times it operates within the terms of the Universities (Scotland) Acts 1858-1966, Ordinances and Resolutions made under those Acts and any other relevant legislation; and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.*
8. *To ensure that the University acts ethically, responsibly and with respect for society at large and the sustainability of the environment.*

V. *Effectiveness and transparency*

1. *To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.*
2. *To ensure that procedures are in place in the University for handling internal grievances, conflicts of interest and public interest disclosure.*
3. *To put in place arrangements for the appointment of co-opted members of the Court so as to maintain a broad balance of expertise taking account of the principles of equal opportunity.*
4. *To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Court itself and that of its committees.*

These primary responsibilities include those pertaining to financial matters as stated above. The detailed requirements relating to financial matters are governed by law, agreements and regulations as decreed by various bodies, and are stated as follows:

The Court is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the University at any time and enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Universities (Scotland) Acts 1858-1966, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education and other relevant accounting standards. In addition, within the terms and conditions of a Financial Memorandum agreed between the Scottish Funding Council and the Court of the University of Edinburgh, the University Court, through its designated office holder, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the University and of the surplus or deficit and cash flows for that year.

In causing the financial statements to be prepared, the Court has to ensure that:

- suitable accounting policies are selected and applied consistently;
- judgements and estimates are made that are reasonable and prudent;
- applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis.

The Court has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the Scottish Funding Council are used only for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with the Financial Memorandum with the Funding Council and any other conditions which the Funding Council may from time to time prescribe;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the University and hence to take reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud; and
- secure the economical, efficient and effective management of the University's resources and expenditure.

Extract from Current SFC Accounts Direction

Corporate Governance Disclosures

1 Colleges and universities are required to include in their financial statements a statement covering the responsibilities of their governing body in relation to corporate governance. This statement is required to indicate how the college or university has complied with good practice in this area and, in particular, whether it complies with the internal control guidance published by the Turnbull Committee (Turnbull guidance).

2 In line with earlier guidance, we expect that all colleges and universities will be able to make a full compliance statement with the requirements of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance, in so far as they apply to the college and university sectors, in their financial statements.

3 Colleges and universities should set out in their corporate governance statement the manner in which they have applied the principles of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance. There is no prescribed form for the statement but colleges and universities are encouraged to explain their own governance policies in the light of the Combined Code principles.

4 The statement should also indicate the extent to which the college or university complies with the provisions of the Combined Code, insofar as they apply to the further or higher education sector. Where colleges and universities cannot or do not comply with one or more provisions of the Combined Code, they are encouraged to provide an explanation.

5 In its narrative statement on how the college or university has applied Code principle C2, the governing body should, as a minimum, disclose that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the college or university, that it has been in place for the year under review and, that up to the date of approval of the financial statements, it is regularly reviewed by the governing body and accords with the guidance in this document.

6 In relation to Code provision C.2.1, the governing body should summarise the process it has applied in reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. It should also disclose the process it has applied to deal with material internal control aspects of any significant problems disclosed in the annual financial statements.

7 We recognise that each college and university will have its own system of corporate governance, reflecting its particular objectives and management processes, and the corporate governance disclosures in the annual report will differ accordingly. It is expected that each college and university will tailor its corporate governance statement to reflect its own individual circumstances. However, good practice suggests that a corporate governance statement should include the following sections:

- **Introduction**, which shows the context and purpose of the corporate governance statement, and the statement of full, partial or non-compliance with the provisions of the Combined Code;
- **Governing body**, outlining the governance structure and the role of college or university committees;
- **Corporate strategy**, outlining the arrangements for strategic development;

- **Risk management and internal control**, setting out the arrangements for identifying, evaluating and managing risks and the arrangements for monitoring internal controls. This should also include a statement to the effect that there is an ongoing risk management process which accords with the Turnbull guidance;
- **Going concern**, confirming that the college or university is a going concern, with supporting assumptions and qualifications as necessary as described in the Code section C.1.2. This disclosure provides support for the use of the going concern accounting policy and should not be inconsistent with the disclosures regarding going concern either in the financial statements or the auditors' report thereon; and
- **Conclusion**, providing any concluding observations or messages.

8 In assessing their own corporate governance practices, universities may also wish to make reference to the BUFDG guidance on corporate governance as well as their compliance with the provisions of the *Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK* issued by the Committee of University Chairmen.

9 Colleges may also wish to refer to the *Guide for College Board Members* issued by the Association of Scotland's Colleges.

BUFDG Guidance on Corporate Governance and Statement of Responsibilities of the Governing Body, including internal controls for Higher Education

August 2006

Introduction

All institutions are required to include a corporate governance statement and statement of responsibilities, including reference to the institution's systems of internal control and risk management, within their financial statements. This guidance is intended to provide institutions with a framework for their corporate governance and responsibilities statement and replaces the previous BUFDG guidance '*Corporate Governance in Higher Education*'. This guidance is effective from August 2006.

Funding Councils

In preparing their corporate governance statement institutions should consider the best practice guidance and mandatory requirements issued by their funding council.

The Funding Councils issue an annual Accounts Direction specifying minimum requirements; (HEFCE, HEFCW, Scottish Funding Council, Funding Council for Northern Ireland follows HEFCE)

Internal Control and Risk Management

Institutions are required to publish details of their systems of internal control and how such a system is linked to institutional objectives and implemented across the organisation. Specifically it is the responsibility of the governing body to maintain a sound system of internal control and to review its effectiveness every year.

Further, institutions must provide a statement that their risk management arrangements have been operating effectively for the financial year and up to the approval date of the financial statements. Institutions should provide information consistent with Turnbull guidance issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Voluntary Codes for Governing Bodies

Institutions should also consider the detailed code of practice from the Committee of University Chairmen issued in November 2004 'Guide for members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK'. Institutions are required to state they have had regard to the code and whether their practices are consistent with the code. This detailed guidance provides detailed principles on the operation of the governing body.

Furthermore institutions should have regard to the Combined Code on corporate governance issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which although intended for the private sector, forms the basis of good practice guidance for institutions.

Framework for Responsibilities and Corporate Governance Statement

Responsibilities of the Governing Body	<p>Explain where the responsibility rests for the administration and management of the institution's financial affairs, including preparation of financial statements.</p> <p>Explain the governing body's responsibilities in this regard. Consider responsibilities in respect of; maintaining proper accounting</p>
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	<p>records, compliance with institution's charter or statutes, compliance with the SORP and funding council financial memorandum, safeguarding assets and prevention and detection of fraud</p> <p>Explain institution's responsibilities in terms of corporate governance, refer to codes of practice (funding councils, CUC, Turnbull and Combined Code)</p>
Principles and ethos of institution	Relevance of Nolan Committee Standards in Public Life to the institution and general principles adopted for decision making and accountability. Consider reference to any register of interests
Institution constitution and structural organisation	<p>Explain legal constitution of governing body, key committees and their terms of reference. Explain who the trustees of the institution are. Consider the position of the de facto chief executive and reporting framework for decision making</p> <p>Consider the membership and attendance, and the effectiveness of the governing body and its key committees</p>
Statement on Internal Control	Explain responsibilities of the governing body in this regard. Consider the principles of the internal control and risk management process. Explain what system is in place, how it is linked to organisational objectives and embedded across the institution. Consider how such a system is reviewed.

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

Annual Review 2009-10

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

This paper comprises the final draft of the articles to be compiled in the University's Annual Review 2009-10. The Annual Review will be published and available on the University website from January 2011.

Action requested

Court is invited to provide final approval of the Annual Review articles.

Resource implications

Resources have already been allocated.

Risk assessment

No

Equality and diversity

No

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Originator of the paper

Ian Conn
Director of Communications and Marketing
November 2010

Edinburgh masters carbon: finding solutions to environmental challenges

The first cohort of the University of Edinburgh's groundbreaking Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) MSc celebrated their graduation in 2009. The brainchild of Professor Stuart Haszeldine of the School of GeoSciences, the programme examines ways of capturing and storing carbon dioxide produced from the burning of fossil fuels.

Edinburgh is the first institution in the world to offer training in this type of endeavour and Professor Haszeldine believes that developing a CCS industry in the UK will capitalise on our offshore and engineering expertise and make a significant contribution to the economy of the UK.

Research has shown that, due to its extensive capabilities to store carbon dioxide below ground, Scotland can act as the host and technology centre for the disposal of CO₂, bringing with it the potential for large-scale employment opportunities.

The success of the inaugural CCS MSc quickly attracted worldwide attention. Addressing a conference in Bangalore, India, in July 2010, Prime Minister David Cameron recognised the University's work in the field, stating; "in Britain we do have one big advantage that we hope to take and then share with others... which is the technology of carbon capture and storage... developed through some of our best universities, like Edinburgh."

The programme recruited 12 students in its first year and 16 in its second, and Professor Haszeldine anticipates that by 2012 it will be attracting 30 students a year. "Now we're up and running we're developing a track record and here in this Scottish CCS group we've deliberately created lots of contacts with industry – the power industry, the engineering industry and the oil industry – which not only acts as a badge of respectability but also enables us to offer the course to a wider range of students through bursaries," he says.

These industry contacts also provide formidable networking opportunities, maintains Philip Cherukara, 24, who came to Edinburgh from India to undertake the programme. "I want to return to India eventually but I do not envisage employment being hard to find anywhere," he says. "Networking opportunities abound within this course, with contacts in Europe, the US, Australia, China and Canada."

Fellow student, 23-year-old Ben Robbins, was drawn to the MSc for other reasons: "I knew that this department was full of world-renowned researchers, all leaders in their fields, but more importantly, this is the first ever masters in CCS, in one of the most prestigious earth sciences departments in the world."

Complementing Edinburgh's CCS MSc is the Carbon Management MSc, run by Dr Dave Reay of the School of GeoSciences, in conjunction with University of Edinburgh Business School.

The programme, now in its third year, trains participants to become 'Carbon Masters', equipping them for careers in carbon and climate change management and crosses paths with the CCS MSc. Modules on both programmes overlap, further enhancing students' networking opportunities. Professor Haszeldine says: "It's an economy of sharing and that's the Edinburgh philosophy: students in the room at any one time can be drawn from several different programmes."

Like the CCS programme, the Carbon Management MSc breaks new ground, bringing together the economics, business and science of climate change and, as such, attracts students from all over the world. In its first two years the student body represented more than 20 nationalities.

Dr Reay is working with the University's online distance learning team, videoing lectures and devising an online course. "We have three or four applications for every place we award," says Dr Reay. "We are limited to only 50 students a year but to meet the demands of industry and government we need thousands of people with this expertise. The demand for the course far outweighs what we can currently offer but we're looking to address that."

Dr Reay's initial concerns regarding potential employment opportunities for graduates in this new field have proved unfounded. "We've had huge success in terms of the employability of our graduates because there is a big demand for the expertise we can provide," he explains. "We strive to talk to government and businesses about what they really need in terms of skills so we're producing 'Carbon Masters' who can be really useful in the employment market."

Alumni maintain close links with the University and many have gone on to form their own companies. Hannah Findlay, a graduate of the Carbon Management MSc, now operates her own London-based business, which converts waste into energy through anaerobic digestion. Of her success, Dr Reay says: "Hannah regularly returns to Edinburgh to teach and is able to talk to the students about the reality of creating a £5 million business, how to get investment, the politics involved and how to work with the system."

Fellow alumnus Kevin Houston broke from a 30-year management career to complete the Carbon Management MSc. He now runs his own consultancy company, advising businesses on reducing their carbon emissions to meet ongoing legislation. "I became interested in climate change in 2006 after I watched Al Gore's *'An Inconvenient Truth'*, which had a profound effect on me," he reflects. "But it wasn't until 2008, after reading a *Sunday Times* article about the carbon management course at Edinburgh, and emailing Dr Reay, that I quit my job and came here."

Mr Houston's decision to form his consultancy company was made after attending a fellow student's 21st birthday party. "I was looking around the room and I thought, 'Wow, you've got these kids from all corners of the globe with a real passion to do something about this issue, and they've all come to Edinburgh to get the skills they need and then they're going to dissipate all over the world: it's an instant network to set up a global organisation.' The idea for my company came out of a conversation at that party."

It is the enthusiasm, commitment and drive, demonstrated by students past and present that reaffirms for Dr Reay and his colleagues that Edinburgh will continue to lead the way in this field. Indeed, passion plays a big part in Dr Reay's selection policy. "The common thread all the students have," he states, "apart from excelling academically, is a passion for the subject."

The gene breakthrough: University cancer research has life-saving potential

A team of scientists at the University of Edinburgh's Breakthrough Breast Cancer Unit has identified a gene that may cause breast cancer to spread around the body.

The research findings, published in the July 2010 edition of the *British Journal of Cancer*, could lead to the development of new treatments for one of the most common forms of breast cancer that affects 9,000 women in the UK each year.

The expert team is the first to identify the role of the gene C35 in aiding the spread of HER2-positive breast cancer to other parts of the body. It is thought this gene contributes to cancer cells breaking off from the main tumour and dispersing.

The research was led by David Harrison, University of Edinburgh Professor of Pathology and Director of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit based at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh.

"This is an important early development because we think this is one of the key triggers to the spread of this type of cancer," he says. "It's exciting to know there's a drug out there that could potentially stop this process happening and save the lives of women with breast cancer. We now need to do more work in the lab to prove this concept before patient trials can begin."

Central to the research was applying existing knowledge about how HER2-positive breast cancer – one of the more aggressive forms of the disease – is treated by the drug Herceptin. As Professor Harrison explains: "We investigated a gene that had similarities to genes that are involved with the immune system. Their functions in the immune system are such that we thought it likely that they would have some kind of effect on cancer cells. When we looked at that gene we realised it was actually very close on the genome to HER-2, which is a gene that we know is implicated with a number of women with breast cancer, and the target for the drug Herceptin. So it was a process of putting together a lot of the existing literature and data and drawing a conclusion."

Although encouraged by the findings, Professor Harrison believes it is important to view them in the wider context of research undertaken at the unit. The work of the team is defined by a holistic approach.

"Instead of coming to it simplistically, what we're trying to do is ask: what makes the biology of the cancer work?" he says. "You're not necessarily looking at a single way of interrupting the cancer, you're actually looking at providing a network of multiple responses to it. It's about trying to deconstruct the complexity of the biology so you can then rationally begin to identify different elements that might be worth targeting, and realising that focusing on them together might be more effective than targeting one element on its own. That's the challenge."

It was this thinking that informed the research paper about the role of the C35 gene – and it's an approach Professor Harrison hopes will influence future research to bring benefits to patients.

"I think the concept is gathering support because it makes sense," he comments. "We know that cancer drugs work in a proportion of patients, but they tend to have toxic effects as well. How much better if you could say this is what's likely to work,

based on a rational understanding of what makes that patient's cancer grow?"

Though optimistic about the process of translating research findings into treatment for patients, Professor Harrison is also realistic about the particular challenges cancer can present to scientists: "A lot of things work but some cancers are a real problem. People are still dying young and people are still dying when they've got young children, and every one of those cases is a tragedy."

He continues: "My main focus is concentrating on work to understand better what makes those cancers tick so that we can then plan a better way of stopping it in its tracks. What we want to do is understand this disease better, not just in terms of specific drugs but understanding the pathway that leads to it. We need to figure out how we can approach particular cancers by bringing with us the things that we already know about, coupled with new drugs as they come along, and always give the patient the best chance."

At the root of that ambition is a resourceful and talented academic community committed to exchanging ideas. "We're part of a strong network and we have intrinsic links with other groups who share data," Professor Harrison explains. "As well as working with colleagues in Edinburgh we're also collaborating with colleagues in Tokyo, Houston, Moscow and Sydney - they do things that we can't do and without a dialogue with them we wouldn't be able to do our own work."

"The paradox is that you're always in competition in research, but when you collaborate it adds value and is complementary. If we are properly joined up with people who are brilliant scientists and we do make a significant discovery then ultimately it's going to shortcut how long it takes to get to the clinic stage and be rolled out to patients. So that community of sharing is absolutely critical."

Over a three-decade career, Professor Harrison has witnessed major advances in cancer treatment, but he is passionate and tenacious about what he and his team can achieve in the future.

"We want to better understand how we can move towards individualising a patient's treatment for cancer," he says. "That partly means getting drugs that work but it also means looking at what we already have in existence and how we use it. Cancer treatment has moved on so much since I was first a houseman in medicine 26 years ago. The survival rate of breast cancer has doubled in that time, and that's phenomenal."

"This particular research reflects our attempt to complete the circle from patient to laboratory to collaboration and back again – and hopefully, in the fullness of time, it will lead to a new drug."

Innovation in challenging times: the University's commercialisation arm goes from strength to strength

For 40 years the University of Edinburgh has been helping its academics to transform their innovative ideas into businesses through Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI), its commercialisation arm. It is fittingly coincidental that in its 40th year, ERI became the first Scottish university to form a total of 40 new companies.

Grant Wheeler, Head of Company Formation and Incubation in ERI, says there is a real culture of enterprise at the University, which has made it possible for ERI to support the formation of more than 200 companies since it began operating in 1969. "There's been a real effort to develop the culture of enterprise within the University," explains Mr Wheeler. "There are a number of ways ERI can help. Mentoring is a big part of the service we offer but we also help with licensing, premises and finance and have access to a great group of external professionals, such as lawyers and accountants."

Although the past financial year has seen unprecedented success for ERI, their achievements over the past 40 years have been well documented. Major success stories to have sprung from the research carried out at the University include Vision Group, the first Scottish university company to be floated on the UK Stock Exchange; Wolfson Microelectronics Ltd, now a global leader in the supply of integrated circuits supporting everyday items such as the iPhone and iPod touch; MTEM Ltd, which saves the oil industry millions of pounds a year with its revolutionary multi-transient electromagnetic survey technology and is the largest spin-out from any Scottish university. But ERI's 40th year proved to be it's best so far. Chief Executive Officer Derek Waddell points out: "40 is a real achievement for the University. We hit 26 the previous year and 26 the year before that, so this was a big step up. There is clearly a capacity to this but there are ways to stretch resources and that's what we've done."

Among the 40 record-breaking companies established at the University in 2009/10 is NGenTec, which was created to help overcome a major hurdle facing the burgeoning renewable-energy industry. The company has developed 'direct drive' technology that replaces heavy and expensive gearboxes in wind turbines. The gearbox is one of the most unreliable parts of a conventional wind turbine, often causing the greatest challenges to repair, particularly in an offshore wind turbine. NGenTec's direct drive electrical generator makes obsolete the gearbox - and therefore a lot of the unreliability - and can be up to 50 per cent lighter, reducing manufacturing and operating costs considerably.

NGenTec founder and Non-Executive Chairman, Derek Shepherd, says: "Our technology has the potential to revolutionise the renewable-energy industry by making wind power cheaper and more reliable, greatly increasing the efficiency of wind turbines for electric companies."

NGenTec grew from a research project of Dr Markus Mueller, Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in the University's Institute for Energy Systems. ERI recognised the project's potential to become commercial. Derek Waddell explains: "We filed for a patent and applied for proof-of-concept funding. Once we secured that we worked very closely with Dr Mueller and his colleagues, and helped them with the whole company formation, legal advice and licensing."

Another of the University's 2010 success stories is Actual Analytics, a behaviour analysis company born out of a three-year research project. Actual Analytics develops automated behaviour analysis software for pharmaceutical companies to aid the development of drugs for disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. James Heward, an Edinburgh graduate in artificial intelligence, and now CEO of Actual Analytics explains: "The original idea came as part of my dissertation in 2004/5, working with [co-founder] Dr Douglas Armstrong in the School of Informatics. We then took it further and got a proof-of-concept award from Scottish Enterprise. ERI helped with a lot of mentoring and training and provided financial assistance until we spun out in March 2010. "

Neil Campbell, head of the business development arm of Actual Analytics explains the far-reaching benefits of this technology: "We take a video file of a drug in use, put it into our software and analyse it. It saves all the manual work, making it cheaper and quicker, but also improves the quality of the data and eliminates reliability issues. So we've got better, more consistent data, and can make better-informed decisions, which in turn means that we can get the drugs to market quicker."

ERI's support role is not limited to advising University staff in commercialising their ideas. In the past year almost half the companies formed came through their initiative for students called Launch.ed.

Launch.ed was established specifically for University of Edinburgh students – at any stage in their academic career – to encourage entrepreneurship and provide start-up advice and business support. One such undergraduate to take advantage of Launch.ed is Eimear O'Carroll, a second year physics student and director of the company Restored Hearing, which has developed a one-minute cure for temporary tinnitus.

Ms O'Carroll explains that the concept for Restored Hearing originated while she was at secondary school. "We were doing a project on how well people can locate sound in different locations and of differing frequencies. It was a basic study of the physics of sound but when we had finished it we wanted to apply the knowledge we had gained to a real problem, which led to our interest in tinnitus and the anatomy and biology of the ear."

She and her colleagues discovered that, through aural therapy, they could alleviate temporary tinnitus in just 60 seconds and temporarily alleviate permanent tinnitus, allowing sufferers up to half a day's relief.

On embarking upon her studies at Edinburgh, Launch.ed provided Ms O'Carroll with a mentor who was able to offer practical advice. "Trying to think two or three years down the line was very difficult, so it's been great to have someone to get guidance from," she reflects. "Coming from the 'nice happy world' of academia we had no business experience but Launch.ed helped us overcome that."

As Derek Waddell says, central to ERI's ethos is to instil in enterprising minds the confidence to take that initial leap of faith. "How do you persuade them to take the first step, which is often the one they have the most difficulty taking? ERI are empowering these people to be entrepreneurial and then their own onus takes over."

Capital culture: the University shares its creative space

The University of Edinburgh makes a vital contribution to public engagement each year by creating and sharing space with the capital's wider community.

One of the University's most significant contributions to Edinburgh's cultural life is the provision of venues for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Science Festival to use for shows, workshops and talks. In total almost one million tickets were sold for events held in University buildings during 2010's summer festival period.

Lorna Brain, Festivals Manager at the University of Edinburgh's Festivals Office, believes that the venues, which include the George Square Theatre, Appleton Tower and the Pleasance complex, are a crucial expression of the University's relationship with the public.

"Our involvement in the Fringe and Science Festival is a hugely significant part of our public engagement," Ms Brain says. "Because of the venues that are used, the Fringe in some respects is the public face of the University. We can use both festivals as a way of projecting the unique qualities of the University and sharing the resources that we have available here."

The Science Festival, held each May and June, demonstrates the depth of goodwill and expertise from which the University can draw for the purpose of public education. "It's a great example of direct public engagement and the University's contribution is amazing," says Ms Brain. "The academics involved give their time for nothing, they run the workshops and give the talks."

The University is part of an initiative specifically aimed at inspiring young people about scientific ideas, Ms Brain explains. "*Discover Science with the University of Edinburgh at the National Museum of Scotland* is for pre-secondary school children, around the age of 11 and 12. It's about trying to target those children who might go on to do science at secondary school and then study it at University."

Ms Brain believes the beauty of the University estate is its adaptability: "Theatre companies and performers know we have the potential to accommodate unusual and iconoclastic site-specific events". She highlights the National Theatre of Scotland's acclaimed play *Black Watch*, first performed in 2006, as an example of the University's ability to provide venues that are synonymous with the performance. "The drill hall at Forrest Hill, where *Black Watch* was first performed, is normally used as a car park," she says. "But *Black Watch* was one of the most significant pieces of theatre that's come out of Scotland in a long time. The University was crucial to that because the play was written around the drill hall space."

If the University is to keep involving the public in new ways, venues must be forums for innovation as well as information. That was the thinking behind the creation of Inspace, a public engagement gallery and laboratory housed on the ground floor of the Informatics Forum on Crichton Street. Opened in 2009, Inspace is a partnership between the University and arts agency New Media Scotland, and combines exhibitions, educational events and science activities.

"It was envisaged as an interface between researchers and the broader public," explains Professor Jon Oberlander, Director of Inspace and Professor of Epistemics in the University's School of Informatics. "The aim was to create a highly visible 'shop

window' – to equip a lab where we could do research, talk about it and show it off. It's a 'smart space', filled with novel sensors and displays, to let us experiment with ways to make environments more intelligent, and to explore the social and ethical dimensions of this kind of technology."

Professor Oberlander foresees Inspace making a valuable contribution to the intellectual and artistic life of the city. "Inspace is in the city centre, and it's highly accessible, and highly visible," he says. "Over the past year, we've run a lot of events, ranging from talks to workshops to concerts to film nights, for a predominantly young adult audience. They've been very well attended, with more than 90 per cent capacity, on average. It's an especially flexible venue so there is a lot of potential.

"We're now pursuing opportunities to develop more daytime activities, and to make the space available for interaction for two hours a day. A good example of this was our 2010 festival exhibition *life.turns.* by Blipfoto. Standing outside, you could call up from your iPhone, custom-made, crowd-sourced movies, projected into the street. It's a different kind of public interactivity from what's available elsewhere in the University and the city."

Professor Oberlander is keen that Inspace builds on its work with local community associations, such as the West Crosscauseway Association, and partner groups within the University, to help them exploit the venue as a facility for dialogue with both the public and policymakers.

Inspace's exhibition for the 2009 Edinburgh Festival showcased a work that embodies the venue's willingness to cross-fertilise ideas about culture and technology. Described by its creators as an 'autonomous emotional robot band', Cybraphon was designed and built by experimental art and music collective FOUND. It takes the form of an old wardrobe packed with a mix of retro musical instruments and state-of-the-art electronic components. The FOUND collective includes Professor Simon Kirby and Dr Ziggy Campbell of the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. Their invention plays around 25 tunes and has a personality. Connected to the internet and constantly seeking out online verdicts on its performance, the machine is a witty, playful and provocative piece of art that comments on our current obsession with celebrity and social media.

Cybraphon won a 2009 BAFTA Scotland in the interactive category, and is currently housed at the University's Dugald Stewart Building. Professor Kirby feels that a combination of the University's support for the project and the chance to exhibit at Inspace was critical to the way it has charmed audiences.

"There was a real possibility that Cybraphon was going to be broken up and put away, because we needed a room to maintain it and work on other projects," he says. "The University has been fantastic in helping us work with the estate to find the right place to put it.

"Exhibiting it in Inspace undoubtedly opened it up to a new audience. By constructing something like this, you can have a specific dialogue with the community. People who've seen Cybrathon tend to respond to it immediately; they just seem to get the idea. There are important points of connections about ideas of community and culture and the world – and we're in absolutely the right environment to explore those ideas."

Perfect vision: a new imaging centre to transform patients' experience

The creation of a new University of Edinburgh imaging centre promises to deliver improved diagnosis and treatments for diseases ranging from cancer to schizophrenia.

The work of the state-of-the-art Clinical Research Imaging Centre (CRIC) at the Queen's Medical Research Institute (QMRI) is likely to bring substantial benefits to patients. The £20 million Centre is equipped with the latest technology, including a positron tomography (PET) scanner, used in cancer diagnosis; a high-resolution computed tomography (CT) scanner, for investigation of the heart and coronary arteries; and a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, used to research conditions such as psychosis.

Professor Edwin van Beek, Director of the CRIC, says that the idea behind the facility stemmed from an urge to bring together existing expertise and technology under one roof. He explains: "Professor Chris Haslett, the Director of the QMRI, together with David Newby, Professor of Cardiology at the University's Centre for Cardiovascular Science, proposed this idea of bringing together different equipment into one streamlined facility. Integration was the key word."

The CRIC is a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian and is backed by financial support from private donations, the European Union, the British Heart Foundation and grants from a range of sources. Professor van Beek believes the quality of its staff and imaging technology will allow the Centre to spearhead research into changes within the body that lead to disease.

"Increasingly imaging is seen as one way of identifying appropriate treatment for patients more quickly," he says. "Now we can get patients to this imaging research facility and accelerate the process. By combining our resources we can test new hypotheses and use imaging in significant new ways."

Professor van Beek, who is also Scottish Imaging Network: A Platform for Scientific Excellence (SINAPSE) Chair of Clinical Radiology at the University, is passionate about the advantages the Centre's equipment can bring to patient care. He believes the new technology will allow for a more intimate and immediate understanding of potential problems in the organs of the body.

"Our CT scanner is top end and can provide very detailed images extremely quickly," he says. "You can use it to see a complete heart within a fraction of a heartbeat. Traditionally the heart has been a difficult organ to visualise, but as scanners become faster you can now look at the heart, its blood vessels, and the heart valves.

"We'll also be able to investigate organ function, such as blood perfusion through the lungs, liver and the heart. This should enhance understanding of disease and may help in adjusting treatments earlier, leading to better preservation of organ function."

Complementing the CT scanner, the Centre's MRI scanner is able to render precise images of brain activity at a molecular level, leading to more accurate diagnosis. MRI scans are also used for research into liver and gynaecological diseases and diseases of pregnancy.

However, using this technology is not always about identifying problems or even risk factors. In many cases, it is simply about saving time and offering patients reassurance.

“Using cardiac CT imaging has a direct impact on patient care; it means that a lot of patients don’t need to have invasive cardiac catheterisation any more, while other causes for symptoms may be found that can be treated as well,” Professor van Beek explains. “Rather than having an intervention the patient can just lie in the scanner. It also provides patients more insight into what the problem really is and how it could be treated. It may be that they’re worried about their heart when in fact there is no problem there, so you can take that worry away.”

This preoccupation with the patient’s wellbeing extends to the Centre’s overall atmosphere, Professor van Beek explains: “It may make a big difference to patients with cancer, who have a lot of stress in their lives, if they have a calm environment. We want to create a sense that people will be looked after and we will try to give them a place where they can have some peace and comfort.”

Sharing a set of values about what the Centre should be, and working in partnership with colleagues, is at the core of how the CRIC will function. “Traditionally radiology colleagues were simply asked to do imaging, but now there’s very much a collaborative aspect to the work,” says Professor van Beek. “Clinicians will come in and say, this is what we’d like to do, can you help us? That collaboration is very important because it’s going to give the patient the best results, as imaging has such a huge arsenal of options to chose from.”

Professor van Beek is proud of the multidisciplinary ethic that underpins the Centre’s work. “What can’t be emphasised enough is the sheer breadth of the approach that’s been taken here,” he says. “We have everything from radiographers to biochemists, technicians, physicists, IT staff, secretaries, support staff and managers. All these people are incredibly valuable – everyone has a sense of ownership.”

Work on the CRIC started in November 2008 and was completed in late 2010, however it is already attracting diverse interest from around the University. “We are getting increasingly involved in medical education, from undergraduate to postgraduate teaching,” says Professor van Beek. “We’ve seen people from the Schools of Music, Archaeology, Anatomy, Medicine, Psychology, Informatics – the entire gamut of people within the University – who suddenly have the opportunity to come and work with imaging, giving students and other staff a whole new experience and understanding. We are open to anyone who brings new thinking, sees an overlap with their work or wants to test their theories. That’s how good ideas are born.”

Professor van Beek foresees the Centre making a substantial contribution to the life of the University and the wider community. “That’s the pathway we want to be on,” he says. “We have a duty to train a new generation of researchers. If research is done well it becomes fundable and there are more resources available to take that research forward. We want to then translate that research back into patient care.”

Imaging is not a panacea, he warns, but used well it can enrich academic discourse at the University and transform the experience of patients: “You have to be selective and you have to know how to use it effectively. To get the best results you need the interaction between different imaging experts and other clinicians within the institution. But if you join up that expertise it becomes very powerful.”

Reawakening Russian relations: the launch of a new language hub

A new centre dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in Russian language, through research, training and knowledge exchange, opened its doors at the University in 2010.

Based in Buccleuch Place, the Princess Dashkova Centre is rapidly establishing itself at the forefront of Russian study in the UK. The initiative is a partnership between the University and the Russkiy Mir Foundation, which was set up to promote Russian language, culture and dialogue around the world. Drawing on the University's leading expertise in Russian language, the Centre houses an extensive library and has access to two decades worth of Russian television and databases of full-text Russian media.

The Centre's director, Dr Lara Ryazanova-Clarke, Senior Lecturer and Head of Russian at the University, says the new facility is committed to exploring the wide field of Russian studies.

"The central idea is the promotion of Russian language and understanding of Russian culture across the world," Dr Ryazanova-Clarke, who is originally from St Petersburg, explains. "The Russkiy Mir Foundation started their work in the post-Soviet countries but recently turned their attention to Britain. They approached us and said they were keen to work with the most prestigious universities in the UK and would like to establish a strong relationship with Edinburgh."

The Centre takes its name from a transformational, iconic and controversial figure in Russian history. Princess Ekaterina Romanovna Dashkova (1743-1810) was a close confidante of Empress Catherine the Great, and led the coup that installed Catherine on the Russian throne in 1762. In 1776 Princess Dashkova came to Edinburgh with her son Pavel, who enrolled at the University. The record of her time in the city unveils a fascinating rapport between the Scottish and Russian Enlightenments.

"When it came to her son's education she had extremely high standards, and she selected this university – out of all the European universities – very carefully," says Dr Ryazanova-Clarke. "She lived in Holyrood Palace for three years while Pavel studied at the University and she was friends with the leading University professors and thinkers of the Scottish Enlightenment, including William Robertson, who was Principal of the University at the time and the personal tutor of her son. She was also a good friend of the philosophers Adam Smith and Adam Ferguson, and was a significant part of the city's Enlightenment network."

After departing the city Dashkova donated a collection of Russian commemorative medals to the University, a reflection of the profound impact Edinburgh had on her and her son. Dr Ryazanova-Clarke believes Dashkova's experience of Edinburgh was fundamental to the way she shaped Russian thought when she returned home. "Her contribution to Russian language and culture is extraordinary. When she went back to Russia she became head of the Academy of Sciences and established the Academy of the Russian Language. She launched the first dictionary of the Russian language – running to six-volumes – and edited it herself. And she introduced the letter ë to the Russian alphabet."

Dashkova's spell in Edinburgh is part of a tradition of intellectual transaction between the University and Russia. Other notable examples include Edinburgh alumnus Dr Robert Erskine, appointed chief physician to Peter the Great and President of the

Medical Chancery in Russia; the creator of the periodic table Dmitri Mendeleev, made an honorary graduate of the University; and Igor Tamm, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1958, who studied in Edinburgh before the First World War.

Dr Ryazanova-Clarke believes that the qualities of academic versatility, cultural curiosity and internationalism embodied by figures such as Dashkova should inform the work of the new Centre as it analyses Russia's contribution to the world going forward. "It's important and useful to reinforce the past connections between Scotland and Russia, as well as participate in the exchange of ideas about Russian culture today," she says.

In the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse, Russian language has been internationalised, with some former Soviet countries now negotiating a new identity as part of the European Union. "Russia is still spoken in many places, but this is a cause of controversy and contradiction in many countries that want to establish their own language and nationalising policies," Dr Ryazanova-Carke explains. "After several waves of immigration there are large Russian communities in Western countries. In Finland for example, Russian is becoming almost as widely spoken as Swedish, and Swedish is an official language of the country. So, are Russians going to influence the language policy of Finland? This is the kind of subject that will be very interesting to discuss."

Dr Ryazanova-Clark explains that the influence of Russian language and culture in some countries is a source of anxiety. "In Russia they are debating very actively and passionately whether the Soviet ancestry of immigrants to Israel is an important factor in Israeli-Palestinian conflict – and indeed whether this is an issue throughout the global arena."

The impact of the burgeoning Russian-speaking community in the UK will also be explored at the Centre. "There is a growing Russian-speaking community in this country," Dr Ryazanova-Clark explains. "It's important to consider these Russian-speaking environments and the fact that when there is a large enough community Russian schools are being established. The type and quality of education for Russians becomes highly significant. In Edinburgh there is now a Russian school with more than 100 students, while the University is a very popular destinations for Russian students choosing to study in the UK, with more than 70 students currently enrolled."

In addition to her role as Director of the Princess Dashkova Centre, Dr Ryazanova-Clarke is also Convener of the Research Unit for the Study of Russian in Context at the University. "The research unit has eight PhD students, and they are our great research strength," she says. In April 2010 she organised a major international conference, The Russian Language outside the Nation, which investigated the role Russian has played in countries including the Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia and Central Asia. The conference's success was a sign of the international expertise the Centre can mobilise.

With international postgraduate conferences and a fellowship programme also planned, Dr Ryazanova-Clarke is confident that the Centre will deliver its ambition to establish itself as a vital hub for collaboration and learning at the University. "This is the first centre of its kind in Britain," she enthuses. "It is unique and it will help Edinburgh reaffirm itself as a pivotal place for Russian language research and interaction between Russia and the UK."

Music for all: University researchers bring smiles of joy

An invention developed at the University of Edinburgh is bringing music to children who are unable to use traditional instruments.

The Skoog, a brightly coloured soft cube that is fun to touch, yet robust enough to resist strong handling, allows children who are severely disabled to play music in an expressive and creative way. When squeezed, hit with a stick or even thrown against a wall, technology within the instrument's tactile surface converts the impact into the sound of various pre-programmed instruments, such as a flute, trumpet or drums. As a result, users can make a variety of sounds on the Skoog and alter pitch, timbre and volume with a very small range of movement – allowing people who have never played instruments before to become budding musicians.

University researchers Dr Ben Schögler and Dr David Skulina developed the Skoog as part of a University project to make music accessible to everyone. Dr Schögler explains that while children have fun playing the Skoog, the creativity allowed by the instrument also greatly helps to improve concentration and communication skills.

“The Skoog is having a really positive impact on people’s lives,” he says. “Children make progress with the instrument in a single session – even in half an hour you can see them gaining in confidence, skill and dexterity.”

The idea for the Skoog came when a group of researchers at the University’s Schools of Physics, Music and Engineering came together in 2002 to design a new kind of instrument – one that wouldn’t rely on its physical shape to produce sound. While instruments usually require specific actions, such as strings being plucked or horns being blown, those activities are impossible for some people to perform. But as the Skoog’s sound comes from a computer, it doesn’t require the instrument to be a specific shape, making it much easier to play.

“We wanted to make an instrument that could be played by non-musicians,” says Dr Schögler. “Instruments are difficult to play, and it’s harder if you’re physically disabled. Making music is part of being human and plays a big part in how we learn, but previously there wasn’t an instrument that allowed people who are physically impaired to do that.”

Funding for the Skoog’s development was awarded in 2005 from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA). The funding body tasked the Edinburgh researchers with building an instrument that was not only accessible to all but also commercially viable. To help them meet that challenge, the Glasgow-based Tapestry Partnership – a group that promotes the best use of teaching methods – arranged for the researchers to visit schools across Scotland and investigate what type of instrument would work best.

Through group work and music therapy with children with special needs, the researchers found that children gave the best response when they could interact with something soft and tactile. After testing and building a prototype with wires, upholstery foam and tennis balls, the Skoog was born.

Although the response from both children and teachers to the new instrument was encouraging, the research team faced a difficult choice as to where to go next.

"We had two options – seek more funding to develop the Skoog further, or take the project on commercially ourselves," reflects Dr Schögler. "We thought we were on to something and that we could do this."

With help from Scottish Enterprise and Edinburgh Research and Innovation – the University's commercialisation arm – a company, called Skoogmusic, was created. The initial plan was to test how the Skoog would be received by the wider world, and in September 2009 the team took the instrument to a trade fair in Scotland. The response was immediate.

"We were just testing the water, but people loved it straight away," says Dr Schögler. "The reaction from the educational world was very positive – people seemed to like what the Skoog is, and what it's trying to do. It gave us the inspiration and the impetus to get through to the next phase, which was to secure funding."

Despite the global financial climate, the Skoog's potential saw its makers secure an initial £400,000 from investors, allowing them to produce and start selling Skoogs in early 2010. Now, children in special needs schools across Scotland are using it to make music, be creative and learn.

Alison Clark, a teacher at Hillside School in Cumnock, Lanarkshire, says the Skoog has made a real difference to her pupils. "Children at Hillside can't really access conventional musical instruments because of their disabilities, but they really enjoy playing with the Skoog," she explains. "You can tell from their body language and their facial expressions, and they'll even sing along."

For Skoogmusic, the plan is to keep spreading the Skoog to schools in the UK and beyond. Schools in New Zealand are already using the instrument and North America and Europe are also showing interest.

"There's been so much goodwill towards our project – from schools, local authorities and musicians – but we need to use that to make sure the Skoog is widely used in education," says Dr Schögler. "Already, teachers are using it outside of special needs education to make compositions and video pieces, and we want to do what we can to support people using the Skoog in different ways and different areas."

One of those areas is in public performance. In November 2009, one thousand children from the schools who assisted in testing the Skoog went to Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall to perform a new composition by Nigel Osborne, the University's Reid Professor of Music and one of the key researchers behind the instrument. Four children playing Skoogs accompanied a full orchestra and choir, performing a piece that celebrated the device's creation.

"It's important to get children making music from a young age to keep them engaged creatively and to help them to be happy," says Dr Schögler. "And it's been great to see children realise that they can use the Skoog to do that."

Explosive evidence: helping the world better understand natural hazards

At the age of 15 Thor Thordarson was walking on a glowing lava flow when he felt his rubber boots begin to melt. He turned around and ran.

Now, as Reader in Volcanology and Natural Hazards at the University of Edinburgh, Dr Thordarson is an expert voice explaining the science behind the volcanic ash cloud that grounded flights across Europe in the spring of 2010.

Dr Thordarson knew from a young age that he wanted to be a scientist, but sensed he would not be satisfied studying physics, chemistry or biology in isolation. "I picked geology for a very simple reason: it would mean more field trips," he says. "The other sciences involved too much lab work, and I wanted to look at nature. I got into geology and found it intriguing. The two main interests in geology that stood out were sedimentology and petrology. Then I realised that with volcanology I could combine the two."

Dr Thordarson's academic career has included a Masters degree at the University of Texas at Arlington; a PhD in volcanology at the University of Hawaii; a spell studying volcanic eruptions in New Zealand; and research for the mining industry in Australia. He has studied volcanic eruptions along the Hawaiian Chain and across the Columbia River Plateau, the North Atlantic Igneous Province, the Deccan Plateau, the Ontong Java Plateau and the greenstone belts of Australia and Finland. But it is his native Iceland that has been the recurring locus of his work.

"I decided very consciously that Iceland would be my laboratory," he says. "I'm an Icelander and I know the geological history of the country. It is an exceptional laboratory; there are very few places in the world where you have such diverse volcanology. It's an ideal place to do the necessary fieldwork to take on outstanding problems in volcanology."

In March 2010 the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull erupted, sending a vast swathe of ash into the sky. Dr Thordarson's measured and incisive commentary on the eruption made a major contribution to the media and wider public's understanding of the event.

The eruption's unusual characteristics intrigued Dr Thordarson from the outset. "What was interesting was that it was a sustained, yet very weak explosive eruption in comparison with past events," he explains. "It didn't feature very high eruption columns, but it produced a lot of very fine ash. This combination and the prevailing west winds at the time are the main reasons why a relatively small eruption dispersed ash over so much of Europe."

Similar ash clouds have been recorded over the past century; one in 1947 spread across Ireland, UK, southern Scandinavia and Finland. A succession of ash plumes since 1970 were carried north rather than west, sparing Europe any problems – but all were investigated and reported by scientists. In 2000 a NASA plane flew into an ash cloud, resulting in £3.5million worth of damage to its engines. But the Eyjafjallajökull eruption was presented by much of the media as a new phenomenon, and the authorities were initially caught off guard.

"The surprising thing to me is how poorly prepared communities were for dealing with the consequences of the flight restrictions induced by the ash cloud," comments

Dr Thordarson. "The UK MET office made their predictions well. But a lot of people were surprised that ash from Iceland would reach the rest of Europe, yet this wasn't hidden knowledge. A number of researchers had already identified horizons of ash from Iceland in peat and lake sediment across the UK, Scandinavia and Germany."

Though disruptive to travellers and commercially damaging to the airline industry, the ash cloud also produced rewards. For Dr Thordarson and his colleagues, it was an opportunity for research, for the pooling of ideas and data, and, vitally, for communicating the science behind the eruption to a larger audience.

"For the volcanology community and the science community it's been a wonderful opportunity," he explains. One of the things that we are trying to make sure happens as a result of this, is that there's an interdisciplinary approach, so good links are forged between the communities of atmospheric, remote sensing and volcanological sciences. We're trying to connect all these things together to establish a broad collaboration among European scientists, and with scientists in the US."

The University of Edinburgh recently announced a new project, to be undertaken by the volcanology team in the School of GeoSciences, to study the effects of Icelandic eruptions on Scotland. The initiative includes the appointment of a new Royal Society Fellow, Dr John Stevenson joining the University's School of GeoSciences. It is hoped that this research will ultimately help to deepen our understanding of the pattern and behaviour of volcanic ash clouds. Information gathering and preparation will be crucial, Dr Thordarson warns, because further ash clouds are highly likely to affect us again.

"Social memory is short. We have to ensure that this doesn't get forgotten about, because it might happen again – as soon as next year or next month. We will gain a great deal if we are ready for it – reactive responses always cost more than if you've prepared yourself. I think if we do our research robustly and are willing to apply our resources together then we might actually be able to reduce the impact of an ash cloud, much more than we did last time."

Meeting the challenge created by any future natural hazards will create a powerful sense of solidarity but also a clearer articulation of scientific ideas clearly, Dr Thordarson believes. "Natural hazards are going to be a continuing issue – but for hazards to be hazards you need to have people, as this eruption proved," he explains.

"We are increasing our population, so more people are living in areas exposed to hazards, and eventually will be affected. The better we deal with them, the less impact they will have on our lives. But that takes a communal effort. I hope that as a scientific community we demonstrate that we can always put the advancement of scientific knowledge ahead of personal gain."

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

Commissioners' Ordinance

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

The paper sets out the current position in respect of the Ordinances 207 and 208 and the development of new employment policies to replace those relating to the Commissioners' Ordinance.

Action requested

Court is invited to note Privy Council approval of Ordinance 208, agree the commencement date of 9 November 2010 for the Ordinance and confirm that until such time as revised policies are approved by Court the current procedures should remain in place.

Resource implications

No direct implications.

Risk assessment

None

Equality and diversity

Equality and diversity issues will be taken forward as part of discussions on the development of the new policies.

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Originator of the paper

Ms E Fraser
Dr Katherine Novosel
November 2010

Commissioners' Ordinance

Ordinance 208: Employment of Academic Staff

At the last meeting of Court, it was confirmed that Ordinance 207: Amendment of Powers of the University Court had been approved by the Privy Council at its meeting on 21 July 2010 and that this had then allowed Court to seek Privy Council approval for Ordinance 208: Employment of Academic Staff. The University has now been notified that the Privy Council at its meeting on the 13 October 2010 approved Ordinance 208.

In accordance with Ordinance 208 the University Court now requires to determine the date on which the Ordinance shall come into force thus revoking the Commissioners' Ordinance (formally the Ordinance of the University Commissioners (Academic Staff) inserted by the University Commissioners (Statute Modifications) (University of Edinburgh) Order 1992 (S.I. 1992/2700)) and enabling the University to determine regulations in relation to academic staff as previously set out in the Commissioners' Ordinance.

Position on the development of new Policies

Court had been informed at its meeting on 19 October 2009 of the intention to bring forward revised policies and procedures for employment issues covered by the Commissioners' Ordinance prior to or at the same time as Privy Council approval was granted to the Ordinance and that if this was not possible that Court should adopt the procedures currently in place until such time as new procedures were approved. This approach had been approved by Court.

An Employment Policies Steering Group comprising senior management, HR and Trade Union members was established by CMG on 21 April 2010 to oversee the development of new employment policies to replace those relating to the Commissioners' Ordinance. These policies will apply to all staff on standard University terms and conditions and cover: discipline, grievance, capability, absence management, redundancy and the associated appeals processes.

The new policies are now at an advanced stage of development and will be considered by the Combined Joint Consultation and Negotiation Committee (CJCNC) on 3 November 2010. It is hoped that the policies will be agreed at that CJCNC meeting or shortly afterwards, subject to the Trade Unions balloting their members. The policies will then be presented to Court for formal approval as required by Ordinance 208.

Action

Court is invited to note Privy Council approval of Ordinance 208, confirm that the Ordinance should come into effect from 9 November 2010 and to confirm that until such time as revised policies are approved by Court the current procedures should remain in place.

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

Regulation of Foundations, Mortifications, Gifts, Endowments and Bursaries

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

In consultation with the University's legal advisors an Ordinance has been drafted with the aim of empowering the University Court to alter the terms of dormant or partially dormant endowments. These proposals were considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 25 October 2010 and the Committee commends the draft Ordinance to Court.

Action requested

Court is invited to consider the draft Ordinance and approve the commencement of the formal eight week consultation process.

Resource implications

The approval of the Ordinance by the Privy Council will allow the release of significant funds.

Equality and Diversity

There are safeguards within the current draft of the Ordinance to ensure that no action would be taken which would be detrimental to students.

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? No

Disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation

Originator of the paper

Mr Allan Digance
Dr Katherine Novosel
October 2010

The University of Edinburgh

The University Court

8 November 2010

Academic Report

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

The paper is the Academic Report to Court providing information on the discussion which took place at the most recent meeting of the Senate on 6 October 2010 and of the business dealt with by the electronic Senate of 14-22 September.

A copy of the full minute of the Senate meeting, together with related papers, can be found as always on the Senate webpages at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/committees/senate/agendas-papers>

Action requested

No action is requested on this occasion. The report is for information in order to update Court on Senate activities.

Resource implications

Does the paper have resource implications? No

Risk assessment

Does the paper include a risk assessment? No

Equality and diversity

Does the paper have equality and diversity implications? No

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Originator of the paper

Jane McCloskey
Senate Secretariat
27 October 2010

Senate Report to the University Court – October 2010

1. Summary Report from the Senatus Meeting on 6 October 2010

Part One: 'Exploring E-Learning'

The meeting began as usual, with presentations and discussion around a particular theme. The strategic theme for the autumn meeting was '*Exploring E-Learning*'. This was discussed in the context of the continued integration of E-Learning techniques into the curriculum and the development of a number of highly successful online distance learning programmes in various areas of the University. The aim of the session was to consider examples of the use of E-Learning across all Colleges and to share experiences, including the benefits of E-learning and the challenges involved in developing successful E-learning initiatives.

Dr Sian Bayne, Senior Lecturer and Programme Director for the MSc in E-Learning, provided a helpful and engaging introduction to the topic, highlighting some of the principal drivers behind increased engagement in E-Learning and looking at how these lead to a rethink of the way in which teaching and assessment are delivered.

Representatives from each of the Colleges presented examples of successful E-learning initiatives in their areas. Dr Kim Picozzi, Lecturer in Global Health at the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, provided an overview of the online distance learning programmes currently on offer within that College. She stressed the collaborative nature of the provision, which pool resources and permit students to 'dip into' different elements of the various programmes. Dr Picozzi also put forward a number of challenges faced by the University in seeking to meet the needs and expectations of distance learning students. Dr Paul McLaughlin of the School of Biological Sciences spoke about developments in the use of E-Learning techniques in undergraduate teaching and assessment at the College of Science and Engineering. He highlighted innovative teaching methods made possible by the new teaching studio at JCMB, which has enabled the use of pre-recorded video/audio materials and new ways of group working. Professor Graeme Laurie, Director of the AHRC/SCRIPT Centre and Ms Erin Jackson, Online Distance Learning Manager, provided an overview of the distance learning programmes available at the School of Law. The SCRIPT Centre offers 4 eLLM degrees, 1 taught eCPD and 2 self-access eCPD programmes involving around 12-15% of the School's academic staff. Since the Centre began offering online programmes in 2005/6, it has generated a gross income of over £1million.

This was followed by a presentation from Mr James Lamb, student on the MSc in E-Learning and Assistant Director of the Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools. Mr Lamb spoke of his experiences of online learning, highlighting some of the benefits of this method of learning, including its flexible nature and the fact that it is an exciting environment in which to learn, enabling interaction with a wide range of students from across the world. He also identified some challenges facing online distance learners, such as a sense of campus disorientation to begin with in trying to familiarise oneself with the new learning environment, and a heightened sense of isolation when things go wrong.

In the subsequent discussion, there was a good deal of enthusiasm for the expansion of online learning provision but also some concern about the availability of resource available to support any such development. It was noted that the continued development of distance learning and associated increase in distance learner numbers raises challenging questions about how best to support these students, both for the University and EUSA.

Vice Principal Jeff Haywood concluded the session by announcing to Senate that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had decided the University should make a substantial investment over the next 5 years in support for the development of E-Learning provision. This would enable the investment of several million pounds in the E-Learning projects across the University.

Senate Report to the University Court – October 2010

Part Two: Formal Business

i. National Student Survey (NSS) 2010

Vice Principal Hounsell provided an update on the University's performance in this year's National Student Survey (NSS). He began by informing Senate of the launch of a new website designed to support the work on improving feedback to students. The website contains information relevant to both staff and students, including examples of good practice in different subject areas and can be accessed at www.tla.ed.ac.uk/feedback.htm.

Vice Principal Hounsell noted that the University had done well overall in the NSS 2010, having been placed in the top quartile of all UK universities. The University had performed particularly well in those categories relating to staff and the quality of teaching. However once again the performance in categories relating to assessment and feedback was disappointing. Although two-thirds of all Schools had improved on their overall assessment and feedback score since 2009, there was still significant room for improvement. Professor Hounsell explained the University had therefore decided that additional measures would now be implemented. He would shortly be writing to Heads of Schools with further details, however these measures would include:-

- An additional principle will be inserted into the University's *Feedback Standards and Guiding Principles* introducing a commitment that feedback will be returned within the semester in which it was submitted and no later than the beginning of the following semester;
- Those Schools which scored less than 50% satisfaction rating for promptness of feedback will be required to monitor and report on feedback turnaround times;
- A further 8 schools will be required to develop an action plan to improve feedback;
- Steps will be taken to promote and encourage greater peer review of feedback.

Senate members, having noted the fact that other UK universities had managed to make more significant improvements on assessment in feedback in recent years, wondered what steps those institutions had taken. Several possibilities were mooted, including the possible role played by the structure of this University or its patterns of assessment, or perhaps that other universities had taken more robust action earlier. Senate observed that the problem may lie within a specific unit within a school, so that overall a School may be performing satisfactorily but a specific unit within may be struggling. Conversely a school may be performing less well but certain areas within it may be scoring highly. Senate recognised that significant efforts had been made by schools to improve feedback standards in recent years. It noted that in some areas individual performance may be holding back the improvements at School level and that, in such cases, it is likely that the issue will need to be addressed via performance and development appraisal and review.

ii. Communication from the University Court

Senate noted without comment the content of the report from Court of its meeting on 27 September. The Principal provided a further brief update on the process of external consultation on the proposed ECA merger. Vice-Principal Fergusson thanked those colleagues involved in the development of that proposal and requested their continued co-operation in achieving the great deal of work which still lies ahead.

iii. Report from the Central Academic Promotions Committee and related Draft Chair Resolution.

Senate conveyed congratulations to Dr Arvind on his promotion to a Personal Chair. It had no observations on the related Draft Resolution No 60/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Distributed Wireless Computation.

Senate Report to the University Court – October 2010

2. Summary Report of Senate Business Conducted Electronically

The Senate conducted electronic business between 15-22 September 2010. This included consideration of the following items:

- **Report from the Court meeting of 21 June 2010** – Senate noted the content of the Court report and offered no comment on Draft Resolution no.55/2010: Appeals Against Dimissal.
- **Report from the Central Management Group meeting of 1 September 2010** – Senate noted the content of the report.
- **Draft Chair Resolutions** – No comments were received in relation to four chair resolutions presented by Court (Resolutions 56-59/2010).
- **Annual Subject Review Statement to the Scottish Funding Council** – Senate approved the University's annual report to the Scottish Funding Council on internal subject review activity, including engagement with professional and statutory bodies.
- **Report on Student Appeals** – Senate received a report of student academic appeals received in the 2009-10 academic session.
- **Report on Student Discipline** – Senate received a report on student discipline during the 2009-10 academic session.

October 2010

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Resolutions

No observations having been received from the General Council, the Senatus Academicus or any other body or person having an interest and in accordance with the agreed arrangements for the creation and renaming of Chairs, the Court is invited to approve the following Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 56/2010: Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Quantitative Criminology
- Resolution No. 57/2010: Foundation of the Jeanne Marchig Chair of Animal Welfare Education
- Resolution No. 58/2010: Foundation of a Chair of Pregnancy Research
- Resolution No. 59/2010: Foundation of a Chair of Health in Social Science
- Resolution No. 60/2010: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Distributed Wireless Computation

An amendment has been suggested to Resolution 55/2010: Appeals Against Dismissal. The amendment has been considered by the Joint Union Liaison Committee (JULC) which has confirmed that it is content with the new wording and indeed welcomes the change. Court is invited to approve the revised Resolution:

- Resolution No. 55/2010: Appeals Against Dismissal

Katherine Novosel
Head of Court Services
November 2010

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 55/2010

Appeals Against Dismissal

At Edinburgh, the Eighth day of November, Two thousand and ten.

WHEREAS, in exercising its powers to make resolutions and regulations in relation to the employment of staff, the University Court wishes to adopt arrangements for appeals against dismissal which are fair and impartial;

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 8 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves that any procedures or regulations relating to appeal against dismissal by a member of staff shall give expression to the following principles:

1. Appeals will be heard by a person, appointed by the Principal, who will have had no previous involvement in the case, and should not be familiar with the events which led to the employee's dismissal.
2. The person appointed by the Principal shall be an appropriately experienced senior member of the University or an external person drawn from a panel appointed by the Court, following consultation with the recognised trades unions, and which may include members of Court.
3. The Principal may delegate the responsibilities set out in section 1 of this Resolution to the Director of Human Resources for staff other than academic staff (as defined in Ordinance 208).
4. If an appeal against dismissal concerns a member of academic staff on Grade 8 or above, there must be an external component to the process.
5. The person hearing the appeal may choose to be joined by up to two advisory assessors: in cases relating to the dismissal of academic staff, if the person hearing the appeal is not a member of the academic staff of the University then appointment of an academic member of staff of the University as an assessor is obligatory.
6. Having due regard to the confidentiality of the persons involved in any appeal the University Court shall be routinely notified of:
 - all appeals against dismissal and how they are to be heard; and
 - the outcome of all such appeals and actions taken, once known.
7. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from a date yet to be determined by the University Court.

For and on behalf of the University Court

K A WALDRON

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 56/2010

Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Quantitive Criminology

At Edinburgh, the Eighth day of November, Two thousand and ten.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Personal Chair of Quantitive Criminology founded by Resolution 34/2010:

AND WHEREAS paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, provides that the University Court may, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and with the consent of the incumbent and patrons, if any, alter the title of existing professorships:

AND WHEREAS the Chair dealt with in this Resolution is in the patronage of the University Court itself:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. The Personal Chair of Quantitive Criminology shall hereafter be designated the Personal Chair of Quantitative Criminology.
2. This Resolution shall come into force with immediate effect.

For and on behalf of the University Court

K A WALDRON

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 57/2010

Foundation of the Jeanne Marchig Chair of Animal Welfare Education

At Edinburgh, the Eighth day of November, Two thousand and ten.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found the Jeanne Marchig Chair of Animal Welfare Education:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Jeanne Marchig Chair of Animal Welfare Education in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. This Resolution shall come into force with immediate effect.

For and on behalf of the University Court

K A WALDRON

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 58/2010

Foundation of a Chair of Pregnancy Research

At Edinburgh, the Eighth day of November, Two thousand and ten.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Chair of Pregnancy Research:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Chair of Pregnancy Research in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. This Resolution shall come into force with immediate effect.

For and on behalf of the University Court

K A WALDRON

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 59/2010

Foundation of a Chair of Health in Social Science

At Edinburgh, the Eighth day of November, Two thousand and ten.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Chair of Health in Social Science:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to that Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Chair of Health in Social Science in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. This Resolution shall come into force with immediate effect.

For and on behalf of the University Court

K A WALDRON

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Resolution of the University Court No. 60/2010

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Distributed Wireless Computation

At Edinburgh, the Eighth day of November, Two thousand and ten.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Distributed Wireless Computation:

THEREFORE the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 3 of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, with special reference to paragraph 5 of Part II of Schedule 2 to the Act, hereby resolves:

1. There shall be a Personal Chair of Distributed Wireless Computation in the University of Edinburgh, which shall be established solely for the period of tenure of the Professor appointed, and on the Professor ceasing to hold office, the provisions of this Resolution shall cease to have effect, and the said Personal Chair shall thereupon cease to exist.
2. The patronage of the Personal Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. Notwithstanding the personal nature of this Chair, the terms and conditions of appointment and tenure which by Statute, Ordinance and otherwise apply to other Chairs in the University shall be deemed to apply in like manner to the Personal Chair of Distributed Wireless Computation together with all other rights, privileges and duties attaching to the office of Professor.
4. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 September Two thousand and ten.

For and on behalf of the University Court

K A WALDRON

University Secretary

The University of Edinburgh

University Court

8 November 2010

Donations and Legacies to be notified

Brief description of the paper, including statement of relevance to the University's strategic plans and priorities where relevant

A Report on legacies and donations received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust from 1 September 2010 to 27 October 2010.

Action requested

For Information

Resource implications

None

Risk Assessment

n/a

Originator of the paper

Mrs Liesl Elder
Director of Development

Freedom of information

Can this paper be included in open business?

No, its disclosure would substantially prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.