



University Court  
Videoconference  
Monday, 22 February 2021

**AGENDA**

- |          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Minute</b><br>To <u>approve</u> the minute of the meeting held on 30 November 2020                                     | <b>A1</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Matters Arising &amp; Review of Action Log</b><br>To <u>raise</u> any matters arising and <u>review</u> the Action Log | <b>A2</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Principal's Report</b><br>To <u>note</u> a report from Peter Mathieson, Principal                                      | <b>B</b>  |

**SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

- |          |   |               |
|----------|---|---------------|
| <b>4</b> | <b>Research Excellence Framework 2021 Briefing</b><br>To <u>consider</u> a briefing from Jonathan Seckl, Senior Vice-Principal            | <b>Verbal</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Adaptation &amp; Renewal Team Report</b><br>To <u>note</u> a report from Barry Neilson, Director of Strategic Change                   | <b>C</b>      |
| <b>6</b> | <b>EUSA President's Report</b><br>To <u>note</u> a report from Ellen MacRae, EUSA President   | <b>D</b>      |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Finance</b><br>To <u>consider</u> the papers presented by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance  |               |
|          | • <b>Director of Finance Report</b>   | <b>E1</b>     |
|          | • <b>Covid-19 Short and Medium-term Financial Funding Update</b>  | <b>E2</b>     |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Communications and Marketing Update Report</b><br>To <u>note</u> a report by Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications and Marketing | <b>F</b>      |

**ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

- |           |  |               |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Strategic Partnership with Edinburgh International Book Festival</b><br>To <u>approve</u> | <b>G</b>      |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Committee Reports</b>   |               |
|           | • Exception Committee  | <b>H1</b>     |
|           | • Policy & Resources Committee   | <b>H2</b>     |
|           | • Nominations Committee  | <b>H3</b>     |
|           | • Remuneration Committee   | <b>Verbal</b> |
|           | • Knowledge Strategy Committee   | <b>H4</b>     |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Development Trust Update</b><br>To <u>note</u>  | <b>I</b>      |

- 12 Donations and Legacies; Alumni Events** J  
To note
- 13 Staff Benefits Scheme Contingent Asset Address Amendment** K  
To approve
- 14 Resolutions** L  
To approve
- 15 Any Other Business**  
To consider any other matters
- 16 Date of Next Meeting**  
Monday, 26 April 2021



UNIVERSITY COURT

30 November 2020 (Videoconference)

[DRAFT] Minute

- Members Present:** Ann Henderson, Rector (in Chair)  
Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member  
Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor  
Alastair Dunlop, Chancellor's Assessor  
Doreen Davidson, General Council Assessor  
Jock Millican, General Council Assessor  
Sarah Wolffe, General Council Assessor  
Sarah Cooper, Senatus Assessor  
Fiona Mackay, Senatus Assessor & Academic Staff Member  
Claire Phillips, Senatus Assessor  
Kathryn Nash, Trade Union Academic Staff Member  
Sarah McAllister, Professional Services Staff Member  
Joyce Anderson, Trade Union Professional Services Staff Member  
Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member  
Perdita Fraser, Co-opted Member  
Caroline Gardner, Co-opted Member  
Alan Johnston, Co-opted Member  
David Law, Co-opted Member  
Hugh Mitchell, Co-opted Member  
Clare Reid, Co-opted Member  
Frank Ross, City of Edinburgh Council Assessor  
Ellen MacRae, Students' Association President  
Rachel Irwin, Students' Association Vice-President Activities & Services
- Apologies:** None
- In attendance:** Sarah Smith, Vice-Principal Strategic Change and Governance; and  
University Secretary
- Presenters & Observers:** Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services  
Leigh Chalmers, Director of Legal Services  
Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student Experience  
Lee Hamill, Director of Finance  
Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students  
Gary Jebb, Director of Place  
Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal (Interim) Corporate Services  
Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing  
Dorothy Miell, Vice-Principal & Head of College  
Gavin McLachlan, Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to  
the University  
James Saville, Director of Human Resources  
Jonathan Seckl, Senior Vice-Principal  
Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning  
Moirra Whyte, Vice-Principal & Head of College

## **1 Minute**

**Papers A1-A2**

On behalf of Court, the Rector thanked Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning, for her advice and service to Court and wished her well in her new role at the University of Aberdeen from January 2021.

The Minute of the meeting and note of the seminar held on 28 September 2020 were approved.

The Rector suggested that informal online events could be arranged to help Court members and executive staff keep in touch outwith formal meetings given that in-person events are not being held at present.

## **2 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log**

**Paper A3**

There were no matters arising. The action log was reviewed, with the following requests made:

- Inclusion of an expected action completion date in future versions; and,
- Provision of interim updates on the transport strategy and student residential accommodation strategy for the next meeting, noting that these are paused at present given the pandemic.

## **3 Principal's Report**

**Paper B**

The Principal recorded his thanks to Tracey Slaven for her advice and work for the University and wished her well in her new role.

Court noted the contents of the report and additional information on:

- Brexit: UK-EU negotiations are continuing and it is hoped that agreement can be reached before 31 December. The UK position is to seek continued access to EU research funding programmes but alternative arrangements including a 'Discovery Fund' are being considered if continued access is not secured. A UK alternative to the Erasmus+ student and staff mobility programme is also being considered;
- Covid-19 cases and testing: current case numbers in the University community are lower than in the wider population within the region. Asymptomatic testing for students intending to travel over the Christmas vacation begins today, with capacity in place for all those who opt to be tested;
- Covid-19 wider impact: the implementation of new finance and payroll elements within the People & Money system may be delayed and any revised 'go-live' date will avoid peak periods such as the finance year-end. More broadly, while priorities and timescales of some projects may shift as a result of the pandemic, the University's Strategy 2030 remains fit-for-purpose, including projections for the future student population;
- Covid-19 points of reflection: the world is learning to control and defeat a novel virus and the University is making an important contribution to this. The speed of adaptation to the new circumstances by the University community has been admirable. The present period has shown that internationalisation without physical travel is possible. The pace of change has accelerated and

there is an opportunity to choose which changes to keep permanently and which to discard and a light has been shone on pre-existing inequalities and universities have a role in addressing these as tools of social mobility.

Members discussed the following points:

- Media coverage of student Covid transmission has been greatly disproportionate to the actual number of cases and should be countered by the data and the government;
- Staff workload and preparations for the second semester – additional respite days over the Christmas period have been granted in recognition of the unique challenges of this year. A staggered restart of teaching and arrival dates have been agreed between the four universities in Edinburgh to aid with a safe resumption in January;
- Potential additional costs for some students who may need to pay for Covid testing if they wish to return to their home country over the winter vacation given requirements in some countries or any new immigration costs for affected students by the end of the EU transitional period on 31 December. More international students are expected to stay in Edinburgh over the winter vacation than usual given travel restrictions and for those who do wish to travel free lateral flow testing is in place but any requirements for other forms of testing will need to be met by private provision. Government advice is being sought on any new immigration costs related to the end of the EU transitional period.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

### **4 Adaptation & Renewal Report**

**Paper C**

An update on the work of the Adaptation and Renewal Team from mid-September to November was reviewed. Current efforts are focused on: asymptomatic testing for students intending to travel over the Christmas vacation, with over 14,000 tests booked to date (with two bookings per student as two tests are taken); access to services for those remaining in Edinburgh over the winter vacation; and, preparations for the second semester. Government advice for the beginning of the second semester is awaited but is expected to include testing and a staggered return. Longer term planning within the reshaping workstream is considering reshaping within the context of Strategy 2030, with an initial discussion later this week at a University Executive virtual 'away day'. Members discussed the provision of temporary student villages that increase the amount of physically distanced indoor space for students and the level of staff consultation planned for the reshaping workstream and accounting for greater staff workloads with hybrid teaching. It was noted that the reshaping workstream is still at an early stage but consultation and engagement will be central to its development and will include an opportunity to consider the longer term implications of hybrid teaching and teaching and research careers more broadly.

### **5 Student Experience Update**

**Paper D**

A regular update on student experience activities and a presentation on curriculum transformation was reviewed. Reflecting on the current semester, there has been a

greater emphasis on engagement with students in halls of residence, including regular 'Town Hall' meetings, but there has been an undoubted negative impact on student experience from public health restrictions on social interactions outside of households.

Regarding curriculum transformation, the intention is to build a consensus around improving the current complex offering, including the transition to the University and generating a lifelong affiliation after study. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Building a better understanding of current strengths and weaknesses from an external perspective and testing any changes with prospective students and other stakeholders;
- The current level of academic staff engagement with curriculum transformation – feedback has indicated a clear appetite for reforming the current curriculum, recognising that it is overly complex;
- Considering whether a new curriculum needs improved models of contracts for teaching staff to deliver this;
- Ensuring that a new curriculum is based on the University's values; and,
- Potential for community gardens or allotments to help with social interaction and mental health.

## **6 EUSA President's Report**

**Paper E**

The Students' Association President reported on activities since the last meeting, including greater use of Association venues as the semester has progressed and encouraging levels of participation in intramural sports. It was noted that public health measures have made the transition to university life more difficult for many new students. The experience to date has been markedly different to expectations for many students and as such there is a desire from many students for financial recognition for this. The importance of active outreach and communication with students remaining in Edinburgh over the winter vacation period was emphasised and the provision of asymptomatic testing for those returning to home addresses welcomed, although students may choose to travel outside of the recommended period and may not opt-in for testing. On behalf of Court, the Rector thanked the student sabbatical officers for their work on behalf of the student community.

## **7 Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report**

**Paper F**

A summary of Audit & Risk Committee's activities and opinions in 2019/20 was reviewed. The Committee Convener congratulated Paul McGinty on his appointment as Head of Internal Audit and noted that the current co-sourcing approach for internal audit services will be reviewed in the New Year. The Committee intends to hold a joint workshop with the Risk Management Committee, with both committees considering the topic of improving risk appetite reporting. It was noted that the external audit of the Annual Report & Accounts has concluded, with an unqualified opinion issued. It was agreed that the report provides reasonable assurance that the University's internal control environment during 2019/20 was sufficiently adequate for Court to approve the Annual Report and Accounts.

## **8 Risk Management Post Year End Assurance Statement**

**Paper G**

It was noted that no significant new events or material issues since the year end of 31 July 2020 that could impact on the ability of Court to approve the Annual Report and Accounts had been reported.

## **9 Finance**

### **• Director of Finance's Report**

**Paper H1**

The Director of Finance reported on: a new proposed approach for managing the short term investment of donations; on-going discussions with the Students' Association regarding potential additional financial support; the expected completion by the Investment Committee of a transition out of fossil fuel investments by the year end; and, the planned investment of endowment funds in a new fund tied to the University's Strategy 2030 and sustainability objectives.

### **• Interim Financial Update**

**Paper H2**

An interim financial update including financial scenario modelling and a five year forecast was reviewed. It was noted that a further update is intended for the end of January, with financial reporting using the standard format to return at a later date. The additional financial briefings offered to Court members were welcomed.

### **• Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20**

**Paper H3**

Following scrutiny by the Audit & Risk Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee, the draft Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2020 were presented for approval. It was noted that while the operating surplus reported is a positive result given the impact of the early stages of the pandemic from March to July 2020, this has been bolstered by City Deal funding and two significant philanthropic donations, with the underlying operating performance not including restricted income in a deficit position. The distortion in the total comprehensive income figure resulting from large non-cash movements in pension provisions was discussed and the need for accompanying communications to explain the results for stakeholders unfamiliar with the accounting conventions used, with a Frequently Asked Questions document suggested. It was confirmed that lenders with covenants in place are familiar with the UK accounting conventions used in respect of non-cash movements such as pension provisions and are content. The importance of maintaining an operating surplus to allow for reinvestment was noted and the Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20 approved.

### **• Letter of Representation**

**Paper H4**

The letter of representation, to provide the external auditors with a written declaration that the Annual Report and Accounts are sufficient and appropriate and without omission of material facts, and its signing by the Principal and by the Senior Lay Member, was approved. It was noted that, following a suggestion at Audit & Risk Committee, a 'back-to-back' letter of representation from the Director of Finance to Court members had been included to help with providing assurance to Court.

- **Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20 – US GAAP**

**Paper H5**

The US GAAP Management Commentary and Financial Statements 2019/20, a restatement of the UK figures in the US accounting format, was approved.

**10 Planning Round Cycle 2021-22 & Student Number Planning**

**Paper I**

The timetable for the 2021-22 planning round, the proposed approach to managing uncertainty in relation to student number planning for 2021-22 and an update on the student intake for 2020-21 was considered. The positive application figures for 2021-22 to date were welcomed and the rate of offer making in comparison to other Russell Group universities discussed. Given the policy environment and uncertainty over withdrawal rates for the cohort admitted in the current year, offer making by universities is expected to take place at a slower rate than in more typical years. The importance of communicating likely timescales for decision-making to applicants was noted.

**11 4D Cellular Medicine at the Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine**

**Paper J**

A request for capital funding to accommodate a 4D cellular medicine hub for the Medical Research Council (MRC) Human Genetics Unit at the Western General Hospital site was reviewed. The MRC's agreement to match fund the project cost conditional on specific assurances was welcomed. It was noted that the unit is a flagship centre of research excellence but is constrained by the quantity and quality of its accommodation, which this project will help address. Members discussed liability in the event of any over-spending on the build, noting that a net underspend has been achieved for estates capital projects in recent years and discussed conditions in the MRC grant award. Court agreed to approve funding to complete the project.

Separately, it was noted that Estates Committee will consider requests at its next meeting in relation to three capital projects that are currently deferred in order to undertake some essential compliance work within two of the projects and to provide some research facilities required as a result of a deferral of a third project.

**12 Development & Alumni Office Annual Report**

**Paper K**

An annual report and progress update for the Development & Alumni Office for academic year 2019-20 was reviewed. The Principal congratulated all those involved in contributing towards a highly successful year and noted the challenges ahead that could impact upon philanthropic giving. How Court members can best support development and alumni activities was discussed, with members thanked for their interest and engagement to date and information on forthcoming online events such as the Edinburgh Conversations to be circulated.



## ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

### **13 Hong Kong Foundation Bank Account** **Paper L**

To support the activities of the University of Edinburgh Hong Kong Foundation the opening of a bank account with HSBC in the name of 'University of Edinburgh Hong Kong Foundation Limited' was approved, to be operated as set out in the paper.

### **14 Donations and Legacies; Global Alumni Events** **Paper M**

Legacies and donations received since the last meeting and an update on current alumni relations activities were noted.

### **15 Integrating Climate Emergency and Strategy 2030 commitments in University Committee papers** **Paper N**

The inclusion of a new section and accompanying guidance in Court and committee paper templates to integrate consideration of the Climate Emergency, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategy 2030 outcomes was approved.

### **16 Enterprise IT Investment** **Paper O**

A proposed investment in Enterprise Infrastructure to provide a consolidated platform for central on-premises IT services aside from high performance research computing was approved.

### **17 DiRAC3 High Performance Computer Purchase** **Paper P**

The purchase of a high performance computing facility for particle physics theory researchers across the UK, to be hosted at the University and funded by the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council, was reviewed. The funding award was welcomed and the impact of high performance computing on the 'zero by 2040' carbon target discussed. It was noted that the facility is relatively small in size and will be located alongside other high performance computers at the Advanced Computing Facility, where specialised cooling measures are taken to reduce energy usage. Further innovative carbon reducing ideas are being explored for the Advanced Computing Facility, although carbon offsetting will also be required to meet the zero by 2040 target. It was requested that sustainability analysis be included in future high performance computing proposals similar to that included within estates capital project proposals. The purchase of the facility was approved and signing authority delegated to Professor Dave Robertson, Head of College of Science & Engineering.

### **18 Staff Benefits Scheme: Proposal to switch standard security asset** **Paper Q**

*Doreen Davidson declared an interest as a Trustee of the Staff Benefits Scheme and absented from decision-making on the item.*

A proposal to switch an existing standard security granted to the Staff Benefits Scheme in order to appropriately reflect the overall intended and agreed value of

assets being assigned for this purpose was reviewed. Noting that the intention is to switch the security from one University property to another of similar value, the proposed switch was agreed subject to the endorsement of the Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme.

## **19 Committee Reports**

- **Exception Committee**

**Paper R1**

*The Rector absented the meeting for this item and for the Nominations Committee Report (Paper R4), with the Senior Lay Member presiding.*

The following matters relating to the Rector Election 2021 approved on behalf of Court by Exception Committee were noted:

- The election dates, with voting to take place from Tuesday, 23 February 2021 until Friday, 26 February 2021;
- Appointment of the Chancellor's Assessor, Sheriff Principal Alastair Dunlop QC, as the Returning Officer, with a Deputy Returning Officer to be nominated by the University Secretary; and,
- Rector Election Regulations 2021 (without the inclusion of an option to re-open nominations, maintaining the status quo position given the differing views of the two representative bodies for the student and staff electorates).

- **Court Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) Sub-Group**

**Paper R2**

The report was noted.

- **Policy & Resources Committee**

**Paper R3**

The report was noted.

- **Nominations Committee**

**Paper R4**

The report was noted and the following appointments were approved:

- Sarah Wolffe QC as the Court nominee to the Scrutinising Committee for the 2021 Rector election; and,
- Ross Millar, Chief Risk Officer at Artemis Investment Management LLP, as an external member of Audit & Risk Committee for a three year term of office from 1 January 2021.

- **Audit & Risk Committee**

**Paper R5**

The report was noted and the Annual Strategic Risk Report and Modern Slavery Statement 2019-20 were approved.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

**Paper R6**

The report was noted.

- **Senate**

**Paper R7**

The report was noted.

## **20 Resolutions**

**Paper S**

The following Resolutions were approved:

- Resolution No. 74/2020: Removal of Members of the University Court
- Resolution No. 75/2020: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Organic Synthesis
- Resolution No. 76/2020: Foundation of a Personal Industrial Chair of Data-Driven Manufacturing
- Resolution No. 77/2020: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Chemical Reaction/Catalysis Engineering

## **21 Court Meeting Dates 2021-22**

**Paper T**

Meeting dates for the academic year 2021-22 were approved as follows:

- Wednesday 6 October 2021 (Seminar and Meeting)
- Monday 29 November 2021 (Meeting)
- Monday 21 February 2022 (Seminar and Meeting)
- Monday 25 April 2022 (Meet the Court event and Meeting)
- Monday 13 June 2022 (Meeting)

## **22 Any Other Business**

On behalf of Court, the Senior Lay Member thanked all staff for their work over the semester in challenging circumstances and recorded its congratulations to undergraduate student Peter Sawkins, winner of The Great British Bake Off 2020.

## **23 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 22 February 2021.



**UNIVERSITY COURT**

**22 February 2021**

**Principal's Report**

**Description of paper**

1. The paper provides a summary of the Principal's main activities since the last meeting of the University Court.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is asked to note the information presented.

3. No specific action is required of Court, although members' observations, or comment, on any of the items would be welcome.

**Background and context**

4. The report summarises key issues for the University and the Principal's engagement with regard to local, national, international and sector-wide developments and activity.

**Discussion**

5. As colleagues are acutely aware the Pandemic took a dramatic turn for the worse over the Christmas period which has had a significant impact on the University's approach in the New Year. This, and the subsequent policy announcements from the Scottish Government, have ultimately meant the following: apart from in some very limited cases, such as Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, Undergraduate teaching will remain digital for the rest of Semester; a final decision re Postgraduate Taught students is imminent but teaching is also expected to remain digital for the rest of the semester for most courses; students have been encouraged not to return to campus in line with Government travel restrictions; where students have returned social distancing restrictions are actively promoted and disciplined if there are transgressions; a small number of positive cases are being managed; asymptomatic Covid-19 testing is available to on-campus/returning students (in contrast to the twice weekly serial testing in England); a package of support measures are in place to support students with their studies and assessments taking into account the impact of the pandemic; in person graduation ceremonies have had to be cancelled for 2021.

6. Of course, another key implication of the continued strict lockdown is the closure of schools and childcare facilities and this coupled with the ongoing need to adapt to changes, support students and continue with our activities does lead to increased work pressure for very many of our staff. This situation has been alleviated, to some degree, in England where university staff have been designated as critical workers allowing them to access schools but this has not happened in Scotland. There is no easy solution to this ongoing pressure and we remain indebted to our dedicated staff.

7. Our current 2021 admissions position is broadly positive except Europe, which has decreased, largely in response to the changing tuition fee rates from 'home' to 'overseas'. Our overall increase is reflected nationally, with similar increased applications across our competitor group. Encouragingly, we have seen large increases in our Scottish domiciled widening participation applications.

8. Our postgraduate taught applications have decreased at this stage compared to last year. This is primarily due to a reduction in applications from China following very significant growth in recent years. Applications have increased from Scotland and the rest of the UK although applications from Europe have decreased. Postgraduate research applications are up compared to the same point last year and across all cohort groups.

9. Although the overall position at this early stage of the cycle is largely positive the external environment remains challenging owing to continued disruption caused by the pandemic. This also means that our undergraduate admissions decision making process is slower than it normally would be. A number of factors are important here including: the UCAS deadline being extended until the end of January and the deadline for applicants to decide on their offers being moved from early May to 10 June; higher than anticipated numbers of very well qualified applications; a corresponding increase in predicted grades and the cancellation of exams across all four UK nations.

10. Another key factor is that we still do not have confirmation on our 2021/22 Scottish Funding Council funded places allocation including how the Scottish Funding Council will approach funding for places previously awarded to EU students.

11. With regard to the applications cycle all applicants, careers advisers, secondary schools and key stakeholders have been made aware of the likely response times and we will continue to ensure that everyone is kept engaged across the cycle.

12. The Scottish Government draft budget was announced on 28 January with a 2.7% uplift in higher education funding. Some additional funds, to help reimburse costs related to the pandemic, are also expected with details not fully confirmed at time of writing.

13. I have been asked and accepted to act as lead on Universities UK's interaction with the UK Government on Security matters, I will also lead in a similar way for the Russell Group. This will include such concerns as cybersecurity and national/international security matters.

14. We have announced the next steps in the work to address contemporary and historic racism with alumnus Professor Sir Geoff Palmer to chair a steering group to create a forum for debate, seek views from local and global communities, and provide recommendations on outcomes from a review of the University's history with respect to race. A panel event was also held on 22 January that brought together students, academics and members of the public to discuss the renaming of the David Hume Tower and Hume's legacy more generally.

15. Since the last Court meeting Brexit has happened and the negotiated trade agreements are in place. Our strong global ethos will remain and our significant European partnerships enjoy full commitment from all sides. The EU-UK trade deal confirmed that the UK will associate to the EU's flagship €80bn Horizon Europe programme, subject to the finalisation of association regulations. As Court will be aware the Erasmus programme will not continue for the UK and is to be replaced by the Turing Scheme. Details are yet to be confirmed but this new overseas study and work

placement initiative is intended to offer students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, a period abroad at a range of global destinations.

### **Selected meetings and events from December to mid-February**

#### **16. *University***

- Academic Strategy Group (core membership is Heads of Schools), has been meeting weekly/fortnightly. This has proved a very useful forum for consultation and discussion on a wide range of matters including delivering hybrid teaching for semester one; kick-starting research; staff support; communications; safe campus issues; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion planning; the financial situation; and scenario planning.
- Leaders' Forum, comprising around 150 of the University's senior staff, has been meeting every 4-5 weeks.
- Adaptation and Renewal Team has been meeting weekly.
- Senior Leadership Team weekly meetings continue. In addition we recently held a virtual away day where the lessons learned from the Adaptation and Renewal work were discussed. Time was also spent on Senior Team development.
- Met with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Leads from around the University.
- Welcomed attendees of the Edinburgh Race lecture given by Professor Iyiola Solanke, Chair of European Union Law and Social Justice within the University of Leeds Law School, on 'The Eclipse of Black Women in Anti-Discrimination Law'.
- Welcomed attendees to the Fennell Forum, which discussed 'What's Next? The Legacy of Donald Trump and the Prospects for the Biden Presidency'. The panel was chaired by Dr. Allan Little, Special Correspondent, BBC News.
- Addressed attendees of a virtual Holocaust Memorial Day organised by students in the Edinburgh Jewish Society.
- Welcomed attendees of the Edinburgh Earth Initiative Workshop.
- Participated in the General Council Half-yearly meeting, presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019-20.

#### **17. *Edinburgh and Scotland***

- Participated in several Partnership meetings with Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council, often together with leaders of Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council) and regional Councils.
- Participated in an Edinburgh Festivals Forum meeting.
- Chaired the quarterly meeting of the Higher Education / Further Education Strategy Group (feeds into the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal meetings).
- Participated in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee and Leaders' meeting.
- Liaised with the Divisional Commander for the Edinburgh Division of Police Scotland, Chief Superintendent Sean Scott on several occasions.
- Chaired the Selection Panel for the next Chair of the Board for Academic Medicine.
- Chaired several meetings of the Edinburgh Business Resilience Group Innovation Group, a short lived Task and Finish Group organised by Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, plus meetings of the "parent" group which includes other theme leaders.
- Participated in the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls January event.

- Participated in the signing ceremony for the Edinburgh Climate Commission's Edinburgh Climate Compact, and their first meeting of the Climate Champions Group.
- Participated in a Life Sciences Scotland - Industry Leadership Group meeting.

#### 18. *Sector and Public Affairs*

- Regular contact and discussions with Scottish Ministers including the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education Mr John Swinney and the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science Mr Richard Lochhead.
- The Principals of Edinburgh's universities meet monthly to share progress on various activities.
- Participated in several Russell Group Board meetings.
- Participated in the Scottish Funding Council Board meeting.
- Participated in a Jisc organised webinar on Operating Systems for Teaching at Scale.
- Participated in several discussions on coronavirus organised by Universities UK.
- Participated in several Vice-Chancellor discussions on the USS Valuation, organised by Universities UK.
- Participated in several meetings on the A701 and A702 Easter Bush Business Case.
- Participated in a Q&A with Michelle Donelan MP, Minister of State for Universities, on the changes to January restrictions.
- Participated in Universities Scotland organised meeting with Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser, Chief Executive Officer of UK Research and Innovation.
- Participated in the first meeting of the Medical Undergraduate Group, chaired by the Director for Health Workforce, Gillian Russell.
- Participated in a meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, Fiona Hyslop MSP, organised by Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce.
- Participated in a Scottish Funding Council Liaison Meeting.
- Participated in a Scottish Government webinar on 'Covid-19 - Higher Education challenges and lessons for the future'.
- Participated in the Universities UK International Policy Network meeting.

#### 19. *International (all online from Edinburgh!)*

- Participated in the Low Carbon College Annual meeting with Shanghai JiaoTong University.
- Participated in the Times Higher Education and Huawei roundtable on integrating the UK's industrial strategy with research and development targets.
- Participated in the Universitas21 Executive Committee and their Peer to Peer gatherings with fellow Presidents/Principals.
- Participated in the 2021 China-UK Education and Chinese New Year Gala.
- Presented at a joint event with the University of Glasgow on 'Scottish Universities - Harnessing Research Excellence to Address Global Challenges with European Partners' aimed at network members from League of European Research Universities, Una Europe, Coimbra and UNICA.
- Participated in a Global Open Finance Centre of Excellence meeting with senior leaders from HSBC - UK.
- Participated in a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Finance and Investment Committee meeting.

**Resource implications**

20. There are no specific resource implications associated with the paper.

**Risk Management**

21. There are no specific risk implications associated with the paper although some reputational risk may be relevant to certain items.

**Equality & Diversity**

22. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

**Next steps/implications**

23. Any action required on the items noted will be taken forward by the appropriate member(s) of University staff.

**Consultation**

24. As the paper represents a summary of recent news, no consultation has taken place.

**Further information**

25. Peter will take questions on any item at Court or further information can be obtained from Ms Fiona Boyd, Principal's Office.

**26. Author and Presenter**

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Mathieson  
14 February 2021

**Freedom of Information**

27. Open paper.





UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Adaptation and Renewal Team Report**

**Description/Summary of the paper**

1. This paper provides Court with an update on the work of the Adaptation and Renewal Team. The paper covers the period from December 2020 to mid-February 2021.

2. The period has been dominated by the critical Scottish Government announcements on 19 December 2020 and subsequent announcement on 4 January 2021 and the impact this has had on students, staff, learning and teaching, research and professional service and support activity.

3. This paper supports the outcomes set out in Strategy 2030 by supporting the University's continued sustainability.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

4. Court is invited to consider and comment on the report.

*Paragraphs 5-44 – Closed Section*

**Communication and Engagement**

45. Communication and Engagement leads have been embedded across Adaptation and Renewal and co-ordination groups including colleagues from Colleges and Professional Services Groups and is well established.

**Resource implications**

46. Delivery of Adaptation and Renewal activities will require the active reprioritisation of our existing plans and budgets.

**Risk Management**

47. A focussed risk register is being maintained covering the co-ordination activity of Adaptation and Renewal.

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

48. There are no direct impacts or considerations.

**Equality & Diversity**

49. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion will be considered by members of all groups and there is formal representation via a named individual on each work-stream and at the Adaptation and Renewal Team by Sarah Cunningham-Burley.

50. The University needs to ensure each work-stream engaged in Covid-19 mitigation/renewal is equipped to carry out Equality Impact Assessments.

### **Further Information**

51. *Author & Presenter*

Barry Neilson

Director of Strategic Change

### **Freedom of Information**

52. **Closed.** Our approach to adaptation and renewal planning is commercially sensitive.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Edinburgh University Students' Association President's Report**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper is to note developments at Edinburgh University Students' Association since the last Court meeting, and to provide an update on current work and initiatives. It also includes a report from Edinburgh University Sports Union (Appendix 1).

2. The Students' Association and Sports Union activities both contribute to the following aspects of Strategy 2030:

- i) 'We will be a destination of choice, based on our clear "Edinburgh Offer". All of our staff and students will develop here, whether they are from Leith, Lisbon, Lahore or Lilongwe'

**Action requested/Recommendation**

3. Court is invited to note the report, and consider its contents as supporting other initiatives and projects designed to improve student satisfaction and enhance the student experience.

**Background and context**

4. This paper outlines current activity, and financial and strategic developments. It is a regular standing item on the Court agenda.

**Discussion**

*Association Finance Update*

5. The Association's financial position at the end of December 2020, period 9, is shown below.

£ 000's

|  | YTD            |                |            |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|
|  | Actual         | Budget         | Variance   |
| Commercial net income                      | (1,415)        | (1,448)        | 34         |
| Block Grant                                | 2,294          | 2,283          | 11         |
| <b>Total net income</b>                    | <b>879</b>     | <b>835</b>     | <b>44</b>  |
| Membership Engagement & People Development | (812)          | (856)          | 44         |
| Corporate Services                         | (952)          | (979)          | 27         |
| Marketing & Communications                 | (265)          | (282)          | 17         |
| Central Overheads                          | 223            | 92             | 131        |
| <b>Total non-commercial expenditure</b>    | <b>(1,806)</b> | <b>(2,024)</b> | <b>218</b> |
| <b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>                 | <b>(927)</b>   | <b>(1,189)</b> | <b>263</b> |

Numbers shown in red & brackets denote a net expense or an adverse variance

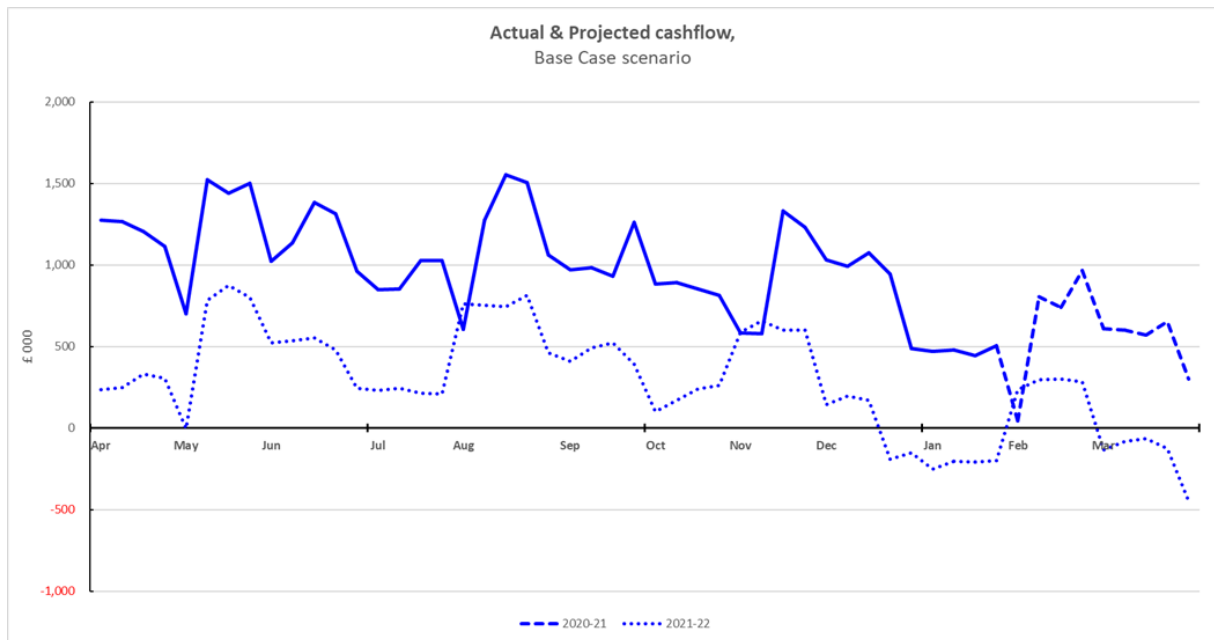
Central overheads includes income from CJRS government scheme

6. While the year to date figures above might read favourably against our revised budget, the original pre-pandemic budget showed a surplus of c£150k at this point in the year. Our overall financial position is c£1.1m worse than original expectations. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) has been extended until the end of April 2021 and the Association continues to make use of this as much as possible – total income of £1.7m was claimed under this scheme between April and December, of which £900k related to salaried staff and was therefore a net benefit to the Association. The remainder related to hourly-paid staff which broadly equated to the cost of retaining and paying these staff during the lockdown period – supporting payments of around £800k into (mainly) students' pockets so far this year on top of the wages paid for shifts actually worked.

7. Trading conditions remain challenging due to ongoing Government restrictions. During December cafes, shops and some student spaces were allowed to remain open, whilst many students started going home early for the Christmas holidays and this had a further impact on trading performance. The lockdown announced on Boxing Day did not have a material impact on these results, but the effect of this will be seen in January results onwards. The Association put together an initiative to support those students remaining on campus over the holidays and this has had a positive impact on engagement with students over this difficult time. Many of the staff who opted to leave the Association under the Voluntary Severance scheme left during December. One off costs of £133k were paid to them in the month with the resulting staff cost savings being achieved from January.

#### *Cash Position*

8. The latest cash forecast shows an improving position over previous forecasts. This is mainly due to the extension of the CJRS which is offsetting the fixed cost of activities not allowed to take place and the salaried staff cost savings realised under the voluntary scheme. This forecast now shows that cash balances do not go below zero until later in 2021, although there are months (end of January and end of April) where the cash reserves are dangerously close to zero – in both cases there is a timing lag between the end of the month salary payments and the receipt of the next quarterly grant income. This does not include any additional grant funding from the University.



*All forecasts subject to assumptions and error/uncertainty*

### *Looking ahead*

9. It is clear that significant activity over the summer is unlikely, many of our typical trading activity partners have not yet cancelled events for sure, but we expect them to do so. We have downgraded our 'Festival' trading expectations to 5% of typical. At such levels this could represent merely being open with no festival activity. In terms of Semester One 2021, we are following a reasonable set of working assumptions, similar to the University, that are balanced such that they may allow us to scale up, or scale down from that base. We are assuming sites will be able to open, but with restrictions similar to those in Level 2 of the Government framework. We don't share the optimism of 1m distancing over 2m remaining as the default; but are currently assuming 1m in hospitality environments.

10. The real challenge will remain in group activities, both for Student Society type activity and trading. A reasonable amount of meaningful sociality activity could exist if (say) a 50 person limit was in place. Many events host more attendees though and unlikely to progress in their prior format. This will include significant trading loss of opportunity.

11. In terms of the overall financial picture, the loss of a second festival and events season, not just the fringe, is significant and is pushing us to an anticipated £1.2m loss next year. This year has seen significant support in the Furlough scheme. Other Government schemes have been accessed but are insignificant with total income being less than £20k.

12. Of course the furlough scheme is helping mitigate our commercial services cost base, but there is still a residual cost both to staff (pension, national insurance, top up and the cap on furlough payments) and other operating costs. A core challenge is balancing how much cost to reduce versus retaining some capacity to operate in the future. In terms of staff savings; we have now stopped the Furlough '20% top up' dropping those staff on furlough salary to 80% of normal. We have also accepted Voluntary Redundancies equating to £440k per annum (net). Finally, we have

identified further compulsory redundancy possibilities in the region of £200k per annum. We are likely to progress these in line with the Furlough scheme ending, although an extension to the scheme will not necessarily lead to a reprieve in those.

13. Whilst there are ongoing operational costs, certainly having buildings closed and operations restricted has led to savings. As such we are now looking to 'hibernate' space and services going forward until revenues from commercial trading can once again bridge the gap between University grant funding and the cost of providing those services. Given this is likely to be 12-18 months at least, the business case for compulsory redundancies is maintained.

#### *Planning and Reshaping*

14. We are currently preparing our submission to the annual Planning Round process. This will reflect our current financial challenges, and also highlight the value created by the Association in terms of student experience and support. The challenge of responding to the pandemic impacts has been enormous. We were just finishing the first year of our strategic plan to 2025. As a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic, various Students' Association pre-pandemic services have become less relevant, difficult to deploy effectively, or outlawed/ regulated in the medium-term at least. There is little knowledge of when the environment might change in relation to the pandemic direct impact, regardless of indirect impact. And there is a belief that the cultural and operational impact of the pandemic will extend beyond any lifting of government restrictions, e.g. will students' mode of study change forever; what will the use of digital technology look like in future; and what are the longer-term changes in consumer behaviour.

15. Considering this, and our resulting financial position, we saw the need to explore and instigate a new financial business model that can repay pandemic loans and rebuild reserves, whilst also providing headroom for reinvestment. In October 2020 we began a programme of work to develop a Reshaping Plan which was completed, and subsequently approved by our Trustee Board, in January 2021.

16. Our Reshaping Plan will deliver on the Students' Association's Priorities for our members, as detailed in our [Strategic Plan 2019-2025](#). We have confirmed the broad priorities (as well as principles and ambition) in our Strategic Plan hold true. But the implementation and extent of these will change. The Reshaping Plan therefore gives us a sense of strategic direction at a practical level, outlining some transformation work to deliver over the short term, as well as longer term continuous yet breakthrough improvements.

#### *Provision of on campus services*

17. Our physical sites remained open until Christmas, and despite restrictions on hospitality we did remain busy. Our buildings were popular locations and 'full' although with an inevitable decline as students started to travel (most likely) home ahead of the Christmas / Winter holiday.

18. Teviot Row House remained open until Wednesday 23 December and was reasonably busy with remaining students up until that time. In particular with students remaining in Edinburgh able to collect gift bags on the Monday / Tuesday immediately prior to Christmas. As one might expect this was mainly international

students, and we had great feedback on this gesture of care and support. We gave away around 900 gift bags in Christmas week.

19. Our retail shop at Pollock Halls remained open throughout the Christmas vacation as a service. Sales were very low at around £50 per day. Since the first week of January trade has slowly picked up, and is now around £800 per day, predominantly food sales– for clarity this is still 25% of ‘normal’ levels and is a loss-making service at this point.

20. All other buildings are closed, with an exception for emergency service at the dentist in Potterrow. There is likelihood of very low campus activity and footfall, even if restrictions ease; as such we are now anticipating only limited opening of buildings through to the summer at least. The focus being on providing a base for students and maintaining loyalty. We do not anticipate any significant commercial opportunity, although remain well placed to take advantage of any relaxation of trading restrictions.

### *Student Engagement*

21. In light of the latest lockdown we have now switched back to a focus on providing services remotely and facilitating digital activity with student groups. The sabbaticals’ updates outline a number of online campaigns and engagement activity, and we have also been able to transform delivery of several of our regular annual activities and are seeing some really positive levels of engagement with these.

### *Give it a Go*

22. Give it A Go is our annual activity to re-introduce students to Student Societies, and other student groups, in Semester 2. Students were able to sign up to try something new and make new friends at a series of online events hosted by our Societies and us. There were over 70 societies’ events, with a further 50 groups hosting at our online fair. Our own entertainment programme during the week was varied, with quizzes (20 households participating) an online ceilidh with 50 households participating, and 40 joining our online yoga session. Walking tours were put on hold due to the current guidance but we hope to reinstate those in February or March if restrictions allow as these were popular earlier in Semester 1.

### *Student Elections 2021*

23. Nominations opened in January for students to put themselves forward for one of over 50 positions which include full-time Sabbatical Officers, Liberation Officers, and School, Section and Activities Representatives. (Voting will be open from 8-11 March). With a week of nominations still to go, interest in our March elections is looking very positive, with 100 nominations in total and 16 of these for sabbatical positions so far. It will be interesting to see how an entirely digital campaigning period goes, given the previous traditional methods of face to face campaigning, lecture shout outs, posters/banners around campus are not available this year. Given the unknown impact, we are targeting voter numbers at last year’s rate of 6,600. Last year our elections results event was one of our last physical events in Teviot, and we are working to ensure that we can still deliver a creative, engaging, supportive and celebratory experience for candidates, and on an ongoing basis maintain the supportive candidate community during the whole process that we have been able to achieve in person in recent years.

### *Annual Awards*

24. Our two flagship awards schemes/events – Teaching Awards, and Student Awards, both pivoted rapidly to an online event version to announce the results last year, although the ongoing nominations process was already online. Given the current level of restrictions, and no guarantee of what March/April will bring, we are planning for both events to be online this year, although with much longer lead time we will be able to deliver more creative elements to this. The Teaching Awards 2021 launched in November, and we had over 1000 nominations from students by the end of January for a wide range of teaching, learning and support staff. This is up on last year, and nominations are open until April, although our regularly updated [Roll of Honour](#) lists this year's nominees so far. We were pleased to see the University celebrating our Teaching Awards scheme as part of this year's Annual Report and Accounts, and feedback from staff on receipt of nominations has highlighted the positive motivational element that this student recognition brings, and also drawn attention to the challenges staff have faced particularly this year.

25. Our Student Awards launched at the end of January, and aims to recognize individuals and student groups who have made a positive contribution and made a difference this year. We have removed the traditional categories, recognizing that the pandemic has created an entirely different landscape and placed significant barriers in students' way this year. We're already starting to hear some wonderful stories of students who've supported and encouraged others in this very unique set of circumstances. Our shortlist for this year will be announced on 15 March, with an online ceremony taking place on 14 April.

### *Student Support*

26. We have also maintained front facing services to students digitally, such as the Advice Place, Peer Support groups and Student Representatives support (School reps and Programmes).

### *The Advice Place*

27. Demand for advice and support remains high in the face of a frequently changing landscape for students in relation to their studies, their fees and finances, and accommodation concerns, amongst other things. Whilst there has been a reduction in the number of 'basic/transactional' enquiries (mainly due to sanitary products/safer sex product pick-up not being available via the service currently), casework levels remain steady. Based on current numbers, even without the basic transactional activity, we are estimating c11,000 interactions in total this year, compared to c13,500 last year, with far more of these being related to ongoing casework.

28. The closure of schools and nurseries has created some problems with staff availability, but we are generally managing to maintain service levels. Demand for advice and support remains high in the face of a frequently changing landscape for students and heightened anxiety and pressure in relation to their studies, their fees and finances, and accommodation concerns, amongst other things.

### *Peer Learning and Support*

29. We are supporting sessions which are still running online across Schools and courses. We have 57 schemes operating across Schools, and centrally, only 4 have



paused for the year and there are 5 new schemes beginning. Our groups ran over 300 events/activities last semester, and our team have been supporting our 430 leaders with training workshops, observing and feeding back on sessions, and providing resources to help leaders manage their events online. Last semester alone there were 2,200 attendees at Peer Learning & Support activities.

30. In addition, our Global Buddies scheme matched over 2,500 incoming international students with 350 volunteer buddy group leaders to create connections and support.

#### *Student Representation Activity*

31. Since November the Sabbatical Officers have been involved in the shaping of support provided over the winter break and plans for Semester 2. A new lockdown and the cancellation of most undergraduate return to campus has obviously changed what a lot of these plans now look like. It has also highlighted the importance of platforming the student experience and their concerns as this pandemic continues.

32. We are supporting all our Student Reps to fulfil their roles as best they can in representing their constituents, in a variety of ways, at this challenging time, although digital tools have really boosted engagement. We have a Microsoft Teams forum for our c1,300 programme reps, with 92% being active participants. 900 Programme Reps have completed online training, and c900 have attended our regular live Teams events. The ongoing 'live' Teams community and our monthly online School Rep forums provide a good route for student feedback and have given insight into views on issues such as study space, online assessment, and the most recent 'Safety Net' discussions and reactions to cancellation of graduations.

#### *Sabbatical Officers' Updates*

##### *Ellen MacRae, President*

33. With Scottish Government asking students not to travel back their term-time address, I am currently concerned about the harm this could do with students' sense of place within the city of Edinburgh. This city is not just a 'term time address' for many students, so many have established their lives, communities and homes here. I was able to express my concerns around this messaging at University Executive and the Adaptation & Renewal Students Group. This was also a point for discussion at the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Students meeting I participated in at the end of January. I got to represent over 200,000 students studying at Scottish Universities during the investigation into the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on students' tuition and accommodation, and the case for compensation. Recommendations outlined in the [full report](#) include:

- "The Government should substantially increase hardship funding to address rental costs for student properties they cannot access, lost income, digital poverty and other unexpected costs."
- "The Government should work with landlords to introduce measures to temporarily increase flexibility for student accommodation to allow students to leave contracts they aren't using more easily, and to reduce pressure on landlords." and
- "UKRI studentships for PGR students should be extended to allow research to be finished to usual high standards, in circumstances where lockdown has

affected access to facilities and resources. Consideration should also be given to support for self-funded students.”

34. The New Year also brought Brexit, so I've also enjoyed being involved in the EU Communications group to ensure that the University is still communicating about its commitment to [being European](#) and the support available to EU students. In a 'Sense of Belonging and Community' meeting, we had a productive discussion about improving international students' visibility with the University community and the desire to send the message that, despite Brexit, Edinburgh is still your home. This ties in well with a '[We Are European](#)' Student Council motion passed last year which I wish to carry forward this semester.

*Rachel Irwin, Vice President Activities & Services*

35. Before the Winter Break, Rachel worked with the University and the Students' Association to create and promote their respective Winter Break activities offer for students remaining in Edinburgh over the Winter Break. This included the University's [Sharepoint site](#), Yammer page, and buddying system whereby students could be partnered with a volunteer staff member or alumni to socialise safely outdoors, as well as the Association's 12 Days of Christmas campaign and free goodie bags for remaining students. These services were well received, by all accounts.

36. Since the semester has begun, she has been involved in the Association's Give It A Go Week, attending some society and student-led events, as well as hosting a few online How-To sessions for new students on how to join societies and make friends as an online student. Rachel has also been a part of the recently reformed Sense of Belonging taskforce within the University, alongside some other Students' Association staff. This group's purpose is to tackle some of the issues identified through the likes of the Pulse survey last semester, which highlighted that many students feel isolated and lack a sense of community and belonging. A key focus of this group will be ensuring marginalised groups such as the Black and Minority Ethnic community and our international students are sufficiently supported, as they are often the hardest hit in this area. Further government restrictions have meant that the likes of the Coffee Buddies scheme, and the planned phased return to in-person activity, have been put on hiatus for the time being. Thus, Rachel has been engaged in internal conversations on how the Association will spend the additional Scottish Government funding to somewhat replace these initiatives and support student welfare in other ways.

37. In January, Rachel sat on the Semester 2 application panel for the Participation Grant, which grants students from more disadvantaged backgrounds funding to participate in extra-curricular activity. As well as this, Rachel has been working a lot with Amanda, Vice-President Community, on their shared sustainability goals. This includes their Green During Covid-19 campaign, which is due to launch this month, featuring some fantastic student volunteers and their work as champions of sustainability. Furthermore, Rachel has been working with Amanda to create a new Sustainability Policy for the Association, aimed at elevating the importance of sustainability within our Strategic Plan, and will be all-encompassing across the Association's services and operations.

*Amanda Scully, Vice President Community*

38. Amanda has been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work preparing for campaigns and projects around specifically accommodation and sustainability. In terms of accommodation, Amanda has been doing research on the University's Residential Strategy, specifically looking at how accommodation within the university estate can be made more affordable. Considering the most recent lockdown announcement, Amanda and myself have been working to address student issues in accommodation, particularly the ways in which private tenants are being affected by this pandemic and has been working closely with NUS Scotland to lobby the government to provide students' support in this area.

39. For the 'Green During Covid-19' campaign, Amanda and Rachel have spent the past month researching and gathering resources on various sustainability topics and outreaching to students and student groups to gather video content to help the campaign. Amanda has also been working closely with University to incorporate student input and expertise into the Edinburgh Earth Initiative, the University's project aimed at delivering game-changing responses to the climate emergency. She has been working to help plan and deliver a student workshop in February and has worked to further incorporate students in two workshops alongside academic staff in climate leadership.

40. In January, Amanda also attended a roundtable on UK University's Responsible investment strategies as part of SOS-UK's Invest for Change campaign, specifically presenting on how our students and the Students' Association are fundamental in bringing change to the University's own divestment and investment policies. Finally, for sustainability, Amanda, has also enjoyed creating a first draft for the internal sustainability strategy for the Association and is working to revive the Sustainability Working Group within the Association to help further our internal sustainability work.

*Fizzy Abou Jawad, Vice President Education*

41. Before the winter break, Fizzy conducted a student consultation with our elected academic representatives, including both School and Programme Reps. The consultation aimed to determine students' expectations for Semester 1 teaching, compared to the reality of their experience. The results of this consultation were passed on to University staff members and shared on the Edinburgh Hybrid Exchange blog. Her initial intention was that the findings could be used to help shape teaching for this semester – or at the very least aid staff in managing students' expectations. Fizzy also made a lot of progress with increasing School Representative awareness in the College of Science and Engineering, getting Schools to agree to share profiles of the Representatives on their social media pages. The success of this campaign has led to increased success and productivity at the College Student Staff Liaison Committee. Fizzy hopes to expand the Rep Awareness campaign to other colleges and has started to explore ways that we, at The Students' Association, can increase the exposure and awareness of the School Reps this Semester. She is optimistic that, as this semester continues so will the awareness of School Representatives.

42. Fizzy has been working to reassure students of the Students' Association's efforts to represent them at a University level and ensure the impact on their academic experiences in Semester 2 are eased. Fizzy has been involved in the

creation and approval of the '[package of measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on assessments](#)'. Fizzy was able to hold a focus group of School Representatives to consult throughout her involvement with the creation of the measures, she was able to pass on student feedback on the proposed measures, thus enabling students to have a voice through their elected representatives. Fizzy continues to seek feedback on the measures, now that they have been published, through our extensive network of Academic Representatives.

43. Fizzy has also received positive feedback around her [video](#) explaining what the 'package of measures' means for our students.

44. Finally, as the Semester continues Fizzy hopes to build awareness of academic integrity amongst students, as well as educate students on the rise of essay mills. In her efforts to do so, Fizzy has joined an NUS task force aiming to bring awareness of essay mills to a national level, with a campaign to for the government to create legislation around the existence and creation of essay mills. This task force also provides opportunities to discuss projects and identify areas of collaboration between Students' Unions.

*Niamh McCrossan, Vice President Welfare*

45. Before the winter break, Niamh successfully delivered the #16DaysOfActivism against gender-based violence campaign; this involved a miniseries of 16 videos focussing on the intersectional challenges of gender-based violence. The Students' Association saw an increase of reports of incidents of sexual violence and harassment during this time, showing the importance of awareness campaigns that reflect the student body. Mental Health and Wellbeing Weeks delivered many workshops including: self-care for survivors of sexual violence; drugs & mental health and Black wellbeing in the ivory tower. We also created self-care hampers for Black and Minority Ethnic students. The Students' Association also collaborated with Widening Participation to mark Estranged Students' Solidarity Week. We held a panel discussion with students, external experts and Peter Mathieson, to discuss the 'Stand Alone' Pledge and the University commitments regarding the corporate parenting strategy.

46. Following a racially motivated attack on University campus, Niamh is liaising with student activists and senior University staff to create change in order to ensure our campus is safe. She is working to mandate 'first responder' training for campus security. This ties in with the new 'Report and Support' platform launching to report incidents of sexual violence; it is imperative that security staff signposted on this platform can respond appropriately to any incident of harassment or discrimination. She is working with the Wellbeing Services to develop a tool kit for Student Support Officers so they are equipped to respond to disclosures of harassment and discrimination, and to familiarise SSOs with the various reporting structures in the University. Another aspect of safety Niamh wants to pursue is better infrastructure on campus, including additional lighting.

47. Along with Fizzy, Niamh also sat on the new working group for introducing a 'package of measures' to reflect the struggles students have faced in receiving learning and teaching. She is liaising with underrepresented student reps in order to

ensure all possible provisions are appropriate for them (student parents, student carers, Widening Participation students).

### **Resource implications**

48. This is a regular update report, there are no resource implications outlined.

### **Risk Management**

49. Financial risks are highlighted in the report.

### **Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

50. There is no specific initiative outlined in relation to these, although several of the activities outlined do support a wide variety of the SDGs.

### **Equality & Diversity**

51. Equality and Diversity considerations are implicitly included in this paper. EUSA represents the interests of a diversity of student groups and exists to maintain the equal representation of students and student groups.

### **Next steps/implications**

32. There are no next steps to be taken as a result of this paper.

### **Consultation**

53. Consultation on this paper was not required.

### **Further information**

54. Author & Presenter  
Ellen MacRae  
President  
February 2021

### **Freedom of Information**

55. Open paper.

## Edinburgh University Sports Union Report

Despite the continuing government restrictions cancelling the 2020-21 British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) season, Edinburgh University Sports Union rounded off a very successful Semester 1, as demonstrated in the infographic below.

Our clubs were nationally recognised for their efforts in the 2019-20 season by winning three BUCS awards - former staff member Michael Webster was awarded 'Unsung Hero', former Women's football Vice President Ellie Wolfe was recognised with the 'Dan Porter Award' for overcoming adversity and the Hare and Hounds Club scooped 'Club of the Year'. This went alongside a shortlist for the Ladies' Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV in the 'Team of the Year' category.

Taking into account our Clubs' Movember efforts, we have raised over £35,000 for charity since March 2020, ranging from the NHS, AgeScotland, Show Racism the Red Card and more. An incredibly impressive achievement, demonstrating our students' resilience in the most challenging of times.



We have continued to offer funding support for our members, with our 'COVID Fund', for any club who has experienced financial distress due to COVID-19, continuing to award funds. Moreover, in recognition of the lack of Intramural Sport activity that was able to go ahead, we have begun the process of refunding all team entries, so as to support those students who were negatively impacted by restrictions.

Clubs such as golf and tennis are still facilitating activity through one-on-one coaching opportunities, meanwhile clubs such as Gymnastics, Women's Football, Parkour and Orienteering continue to offer Zoom circuits or High Intensity Interval Training. As a staff team we are continuing to support all of our students in leadership positions, keeping student wellbeing as our number one priority. We also remain very hopeful for some in-person sport over the summer period, particularly for

our Postgraduate Taught or Postgraduate Research students who will remain in Edinburgh throughout.

Our Coaching and Volunteering Academy has continued to operate online throughout the pandemic, creating a new British Sign Language collaboration through Alison Hendry. We are offering two sessions in February for students to become more proficient and aware, with 75% of these spaces already filled.

The Inclusion Committee are also working hard behind the scenes, creating inclusivity and wellbeing resources, as well as signposting documents across a variety of areas which our clubs might need support in. Our Women in Sport Officers are planning a Building On Sporting Skills Event (BOSS-E) event for International Women's Day in March. Meanwhile, our LGBT+ and Trans and Non Binary Officers recently gave an extremely eye opening presentation to committee members at a General Meeting and are now collaborating with the staff team at Sport and Exercise to deliver similar training, ensuring all our spaces and policies are as inclusive as possible.

As we near election time, our focus has shifted to empowering students to run for committee positions in 2021-2022, alongside trialling a completely online election campaign and voting process this year. Club Committee handovers will require more hands on support from our staff team than in a typical year, but we are already preparing for how we will fill the potential knowledge gap which might exist amongst our new committees, to ensure a successful 2021-2022 season.

Sport remains a fundamental part of the student experience at Edinburgh. A huge amount of thanks must go to our student volunteers who have been absolutely incredible throughout the pandemic and all the changes it has brought, as well as to our close-knit staff team, who go absolutely above and beyond every single day. We remain immensely proud of all that has been achieved so far this year, despite the difficult circumstances.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

Director of Finance Report

**Description of paper**

1. This paper provides an update regarding the University Group's forecast financial position between 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a detailed analysis provided in Appendix 1. Also covered is the outlook for Accommodation, Catering and Events for 2020/21 and a further update on the progress of discussions relating to the Students' Association's financial position.

2. This paper supports all of the outcomes set out in Strategy 2030 by supporting the University's continued drive towards financial sustainability.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

3. Court are asked to review and comment on the latest update.

*Paragraphs 4-29 – Closed Section*

**Resource implications**

30. There are no specific requests for resource in the paper.

**Risk Management**

31. The University manages its financial risk by not breaching the Group risk appetite as described in its financial metrics. The current Finance Strategy provides a target surplus range of 3% - 5% to remain sustainable.

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

32. This Director of Finance and the Finance Team fully supports the outcomes of Strategy 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by working to secure the ongoing financial sustainability of the University.

**Equality & Diversity**

33. Specific issues of equality and diversity are not relevant to this paper as the content focusses primarily on financial strategy and/or financial project considerations.

**Next steps/implications**

34. We would welcome feedback as outlined in the discussion above.

**Consultation**

35. The paper has been reviewed by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance.

**Further information**

36. Authors

Rachael Robertson  
Deputy Director of Finance

Stuart Graham

Presenter

Lee Hamill  
Director of Finance



Head of FIRST (Financial Information,  
Reporting & Strategy Team)

8 February 2021

**Freedom of Information**

37. This paper should not be included in open business as its disclosure could substantially prejudice the commercial interests of the University.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Covid-19 Short and Medium-term Financial Funding Update**

*Paragraphs 1-23 – Closed Section*

**Equality & Diversity**

24. Specific issues of equality and diversity are not relevant to this paper as the content focusses primarily on financial strategy and/or financial project considerations.

**Next steps/implications**

25. We would welcome feedback on all the points covered in the discussion section above.

**Consultation**

26. The paper has been reviewed by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance and an earlier version was reviewed and recommended to Court for approval by Policy & Resources Committee.

**Further information**

27. Authors

Terry Fox  
Director Specialist Services

Andy Slater  
Finance Business Partner

16 February 2021

Presenter

Lee Hamill  
Director of Finance

**Freedom of Information**

28. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Communications and Marketing Update Report**

**Description of paper**

1. The purpose of the main report – Managing and enhancing the University's reputation - is to outline the professional services provided by the Department of Communications and Marketing (CAM), to articulate their contribution to the achievement of Strategy 2030 and to provide a progress update.
2. Progress in each of the areas of CAM (Communications, Marketing and Stakeholder Relations), is detailed in the main report, along with some highlights and data from a range of engagement channels.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

3. Court is asked to note the report and comment on the approach and focus of CAM in support of Strategy 2030, to recognise progress and future development goals.

*Paragraphs 4-6 – Closed Section*

**Resource implications**

7. Resources will be met from within existing budgets.

**Risk Management**

8. The progress and steps outlined in this paper serve to mitigate against the risks of a highly competitive sector.

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

9. This is a regular report covering a range of communications, marketing and stakeholder relations activity. In itself it is not designed to contribute to UN SDGs though it all reflects agreed University Executive approved activity.

**Equality & Diversity**

11. Equality issues will be considered on a case by case basis for each individual project/piece of work. In addition, Equality and Diversity will be incorporated into each area of reputation management. Furthermore, opportunities exist with this our brand management to build assets and practical resources which are fully cognisant of issues and compliant with equality and diversity standards. This refers both to language and imagery as well as recognised accessibility standards.

**Next steps/implications**

12. If requested, an annual update report can be submitted to Court.

**Consultation**

13. While no formal consultation was carried out in the preparation of this paper, it reflects a great deal of collaborative working with colleagues from across the University.

### **Further information**

14. Authors

Rob Tomlinson, Deputy Director –  
Communications, CAM  
Niall Bradley, Deputy Director –  
Marketing, CAM  
Gavin Donoghue, Deputy Director –  
Stakeholder Relations, CAM  
Theresa Merrick, Director of  
Communications and Marketing

Presenter

Theresa Merrick, Director of  
Communications and Marketing

### **Freedom of Information**

15. Closed, due to commercial confidentiality.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Strategic Partnership with Edinburgh International Book Festival**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper reports on the development of a long-term strategic partnership between the University and Edinburgh International Book Festival (EIBF) initially from Summer 2021 to Summer 2025. This is fully aligned to Strategy 2030 vision, purpose and values.

*Paragraphs 2-11 – Closed Section*

**Risk Management**

12. Risk management will be considered as discussions progress.

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

13. It is agreed that the partnership will discuss how it can contribute to the University's Zero by 2040 carbon promise.

**Equality & Diversity**

14. Specific issues of equality and diversity are not relevant to this paper at this time but will be considered as discussions progress.

*Paragraph 15 – Closed Section*

**Consultation**

16. This paper has been prepared in collaboration with Legal Services, Accommodation, Catering and Events, Estates, Communications & Marketing, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the University's Senior Leadership Team.

**Further information**

17. Authors

Gary Jebb

Director of Place

Fiona Campbell

Deputy Director, Legal Services

Presenter

Gary Jebb

Director of Place

**Freedom of Information**

18. This paper is closed as disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of the University.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

Exception Committee Report

**Committee Name**

1. Exception Committee

**Date of Meeting**

2. The Committee considered business by correspondence from 10 to 12 February 2021.

**Action Required**

3. To note the matter approved on behalf of Court by Exception Committee.

*Paragraphs 4-7 – Closed Section*

**Equality & Diversity**

8. Issues related to equality and diversity were considered within the paper.

**Further information**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 9. <u>Author</u><br>Lewis Allan<br>Head of Court Services | <u>Presenter</u><br>Janet Legrand<br>Convener, Exception Committee |
|---|--|

**Freedom of Information**

10. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Policy & Resources Committee Report**

**Committee Name**

1. Policy & Resources Committee

**Date of Meeting**

2. 1 February 2021 (by videoconference).

**Action Required**

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

*Paragraphs 4-16 – Closed Section*

**Equality & Diversity**

17. Issues related to equality and diversity were considered within each paper.

**Further information**

18. Author

Lewis Allan  
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Alan Johnston  
Convener, Policy & Resources Committee

**Freedom of Information**

19. Closed paper.



## UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

### Nominations Committee Report

#### Committee Name

1. Nominations Committee

#### Date of Meeting

2. 1 February 2021 (by videoconference)

#### Action Required

3. To note the key points and to approve the appointment of Doreen Davidson as an external member of the Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme for a three year term of office with effect from 1 August 2021.

#### *Court Recruitment*

4. Proposed procedures to recruit new Co-opted members and a new General Council Assessor were reviewed. Potentially suitable search agencies were discussed and it was agreed to delegate to the Convener and the University Secretary authority to: identify three search agencies to seek quotes from; the evaluation of these quotes; and, the subsequent appointment of an agency. The proposed compositions of a Co-opted Member Selection Panel and a General Council Assessor Selection Panel were agreed as set out in the paper. A draft advertisement was reviewed. With consideration of the skills register of the current Court membership and any skills gaps anticipated given members departing, the skills and experience to be highlighted in the advertisement were agreed as: Board level experience in large, complex organisations with senior executive skills and experience in one or more of the following: estates and property, human resources, information technology, commercialisation/industry research and the international environment. Subject to consultation with the appointed search agency and a minor amendment, the advertisement was agreed.

#### *Paragraph 5 – Closed Section*

#### *Committee memberships*

6. The committee gave initial consideration to succession planning for the wide range of committee memberships and other roles undertaken by the three lay members with terms of office concluding on 31 July 2021. It was agreed to:

- recommend to Court that Doreen Davidson be appointed as an external member of the Trustees of the Staff Benefits Scheme for a three year term of office with effect from 1 August 2021; and,
- reappoint Richard Terry as an external member of Estates Committee for a second term of office with effect from 6 March 2021 until 31 July 2024.

#### Full minute

7. The draft minute can be accessed at:

<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/UCC/Nominations+Committee>



### **Equality & Diversity**

8. Issues related to equality and diversity were considered within each paper as appropriate.

### **Further information**

9. Author

Lewis Allan

Head of Court Services

Presenter

Alan Johnston

Convener, Nominations Committee

### **Freedom of Information**

10. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Knowledge Strategy Committee Report**

**Committee Name**

1. Knowledge Strategy Committee

**Date of Meeting**

2. 26 January 2021 (by videoconference).

**Action Required**

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

*Paragraphs 4-15 – Closed Section*

**Equality & Diversity**

16. Issues related to equality and diversity were considered within each paper as appropriate.

**Further information**

17. Author

Lewis Allan  
Head of Court Services  
15 February 2021

Presenter

Doreen Davidson  
Convener of Knowledge Strategy  
Committee

**Freedom of Information**

18. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Development Trust Update**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper updates Court on progress in implementing previously agreed changes to the future management of gift income across the University, with particular reference to the future role of the Development Trust.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to note the update.

*Paragraphs 3-13 – Closed Section*

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

14. There are no relevant factors.

**Equality & Diversity**

15. There are no relevant factors.

**Next steps/implications**

16. Court will be kept informed of further progress, as outlined above.

**Consultation**

17. The paper has been reviewed by colleagues in Legal Services.

**Further information**

18. Author  
Chris Cox  
Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement

**Freedom of Information**

19. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Donations and Legacies; Alumni Events**

**Description of paper**

1. A report on legacies and donations received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust or directly by the University from 1 November 2020 to 17 January 2021. The paper also includes an update on current alumni relations activities.

2. All gifts contribute to different aspects of the University's goals under Strategy 2030 and due diligence procedures ensure there is no conflict with the values summarised in the strategy.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

3. Court is invited to note the legacies and donations received and the update on current alumni relations activities.

*Paragraphs 4-6 – Closed Section*

*Alumni Events*

7. As we continue to navigate the ongoing impact of the pandemic, in-person alumni events remain postponed for the foreseeable future across most of the world, with the health and safety of our community remaining our priority. The exception is China where a number of in-person events have been able to resume. Meanwhile, our online engagement programmes continue to enable ongoing connection to and amongst the global alumni community.

*Events in China*

8. A number of in-person alumni events were able to take place in China towards the end of 2020. A special ceilidh in Shanghai brought together current students, particularly those unable to be in Edinburgh at this time, and alumni to celebrate St Andrews Day. At the beginning of December the University of Edinburgh Alumni Club of Beijing collaborated with their counterparts from the universities of Glasgow, St Andrews, Dundee, Aberdeen and Strathclyde, and the Scottish Government China Office, to organise an alumni ceilidh gala with over 200 guests. At the end of December the new University of Edinburgh Alumni Association of Zhejiang held a Christmas party in Hangzhou which was their first in-person event.

*Sharing things, the podcast*

9. Following a successful third season, a two part [Sharing things](#) end of year special was released in December. Rather than the usual conversation between two members of our University community, past guests were asked about their most memorable objects of 2020. A fourth season is now moving into production and will again be recorded remotely. Season four will feature one of our 2020/21 intake of students in each episode, as we introduce our University community to a new generation of Edinburgh people.

### *Being Edinburgh 2021*

10. We launched a new annual alumni award last year, focused on shared values rather than an absolute measure of success. If 2020 showed us anything it is that we can find our strength, talent and resilience in even the most challenging times. Recognising former students who display these attributes in their life and work, the 2021 [Being Edinburgh award](#) opened for nominations in January. Nominations closed on 5 February and the online vote to select the winner from the shortlisted finalists is due to take place in mid-March.

### *The Fennell Forum*

11. Taking place on 20 January after President Biden's inauguration, this well received virtual forum brought together some of the leading historians in the field of American history for a discussion of the recent US presidential election and its consequences. Introduced by Professor Peter Mathieson, hosted by Allan Little, alumnus and BBC News special correspondent, and generously supported by alumnus Simon Fennell, the event reached capacity and 400 people watched it live.

### *Burns Night*

12. Burns Night is often a highlight in the year for our alumni community, with in-person celebrations taking place across the world. While most were be unable to get-together in the same way this year, some were able to hold a virtual celebration instead including some of our alumni clubs in North America and London.

13. In North America clubs in Washington DC, Toronto, New York, Boston, Chicago, Georgia and Colorado joined forces to host an online Burns Supper featuring live alumni contributions of Burns toasts, poetry, Scottish songs and musical performances. A welcome message from the Principal and a special Immortal Memory by Professor Frank Cogliano, Dean International (North America) were also featured.

### *Alumni sharing insights and experience*

14. A panel of graduates from across the Caribbean will take part in an alumni event as part of the student-led Caribbean Week in February. The panellists will talk about what it was like being a Caribbean student at the University of Edinburgh, their experience living and learning in the city and the path they took after graduation.

15. A number of our alumni from India will take part in two tailored student recruitment events later this month aimed at attracting a growing postgraduate cohort for the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences. We are also facilitating alumni engagement in upcoming offer holder days and postgraduate virtual open days.

16. In collaboration with the Careers Service, we are expanding the 2020 Career Mentoring Programme which matched eligible graduates from the Class of 2020 with mentors, to help them navigate life after graduation. The expanded programme will look to support Schools and specific cohorts, with our MasterCard Scholars being an initial focus.

### *Insights Programme*

17. As previously reported, we now aim to embed the [Insights](#) online activities as part of our ongoing offer to further widen access to these opportunities and offer career exploration, skills development and experience in networking with global alumni to students who may have faced barriers accessing university or those from under-represented groups. The Careers Service and Development & Alumni have put a number of developments in place for the second Insights Online Week, taking place 15-19 February 2021, with 276 students having confirmed their registration. A team of twelve PhD facilitators has been recruited to provide support to the student groups. Academic input has also been introduced through working with alumna Dr Lani Watson. Lani's research, in the philosophy of questions, focuses on the role that questions and questioning play in everyday life.

18. The team has offers of support from over forty alumni volunteers to date, across all Insights regions, UK and global. Four alumni volunteers will take part in a panel discussion "Being Curious – Alumni Experiences" and over forty alumni volunteers have offered to participate in a newly developed networking event model, comprising a series of scheduled coffee conversations, in which alumni will host their own video calls with small groups of students. Further alumni involvement will come via integrated Platform One activities, designed specifically for the Insights student audience.

### *Edinburgh Futures Conversations*

19. Some of the world's most respected public health figures, including Dr Anthony Fauci, leading infectious disease expert and chief medical advisor to the Biden Administration, and Dr Zhong Nanshan, China's top respiratory diseases expert (and last year's Being Edinburgh alumni award winner), are to join a [series of University debates](#) analysing the future implications of Covid-19 on 2 March. Alumni have been invited to join this ground breaking online event and, at the time of writing, over 1,000 people have registered.

### **Resource implications**

20. There are no specific resource implications associated with this paper. The funds received will be appropriately managed in line with the donors' wishes.

### **Risk Management**

21. There are policies and procedures in place to mitigate risks associated with funding activities including the procedure for the ethical screening of donations.

### **Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

22. The preference of many donors to make a difference in the world through their support of our teaching and research ensures that a number of specific gifts tie in directly with the University's work across climate mitigation and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Equality & Diversity**

23. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the paper. Cognisance is however taken of the wishes of donors' to ensure these reflect the University's approach to equality and diversity and that these comply with legal requirements.

**Next steps/implications**

24. The University is grateful for the support provided to enable it to continue to provide high quality learning and research.

**Consultation**

25. This paper has been reviewed and approved by Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement and Executive Director of Development & Alumni.

**Further information**26. Authors

Gregor Hall

Finance Manager

Natalie Fergusson

Global Alumni Clubs and Groups Manager

Development & Alumni

**Freedom of Information**

27. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

**Staff Benefits Scheme Contingent Asset Address Amendment**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper requests approval of the proposal to amend the address details for one of the properties identified in the agreed switch to one of the University's existing standard securities granted to the Staff Benefits Scheme (the "SBS", the University's in-house pension scheme for professional services staff in Grades 1-5).

2. This paper does not contribute to the outcomes set out in Strategy 2030.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

3. Court is asked to agree and note the paper.

*Paragraphs 4-12 – Closed Section*

**Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals**

13. Not applicable.

**Equality & Diversity**

14. None identified.

**Next steps/implications**

15. If agreed, the asset switch will take place as this has already been endorsed by the SBS Trustees.

**Consultation**

16. This paper has been initially reviewed by the Director of Finance and the Director of Legal Services and subsequently reviewed and recommended for approval by Policy & Resources Committee..

**Further information**

17. Authors

Terry Fox and Ann Fraser  
Finance Department  
16 February 2021

Presenter

Lee Hamill  
Director of Finance

**Freedom of Information**

18. Closed paper – commercially confidential





## UNIVERSITY COURT

22 February 2021

### Resolutions

#### Description of paper

1. This paper invites Court to approve a Resolution to establish a Chair in accordance with agreed arrangements and the requirements set out in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966. This paper contributes to the Strategy 2030 outcome 'We will be a destination of choice, based on our clear "Edinburgh Offer". All of our staff and students will develop here, whether they are from Leith, Lisbon, Lahore or Lilongwe'.

#### Action requested/Recommendation

2. Court is invited to approve Resolution No. 1/2021 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Security Engineering presented in final format.

#### Background and context

3. The Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled the University Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation of Chairs. The Act sets out the procedure for making Resolutions and stipulates that Senatus Academicus, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest require to be consulted on draft Resolutions throughout the period of one month, with the months of August and September not taken into account when calculating the consultation period.

#### Discussion

4. With no observations having been received from Senate, the General Council or any other body or person having an interest, Court is invited to approve Resolution No. 1/2021 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Security Engineering presented in final format, attached as an Appendix.

#### Resource implications

5. Part of the approval process for new Chairs involved confirmation of the funding in place to support the post.

#### Risk Management

6. There are reputational considerations, which are considered as part of the University's approval processes..

#### Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

7. This paper does not directly contribute to the climate emergency or SDGs as it is fulfilling a legislative requirement.

#### Equality & Diversity

8. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with this paper. However equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to Chairs.

**Next steps/implications**

9. Senate and the General Council will be informed of the approval of the final Resolutions. The list of approved Resolutions is annually reviewed and published on the University's website.

**Consultation**

10. Senate and the General Council are asked for observations on Resolutions and a notice is published online to enable observation from any other body or person having an interest to express observations.

**Further information**

11. Author

Kirstie Graham  
Court Services Office  
February 2021

**Freedom of Information**

12. Open paper.

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

**Resolution of the University Court No. 1/2021**

**Foundation of a Personal Chair of Security Engineering**

At Edinburgh, the Twenty second day of February, Two thousand and twenty one.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Security Engineering:

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 Personal Chair of Security Engineering 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. 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 Security Engineering 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 February Two thousand and twenty one.

For and on behalf of the University Court

SARAH SMITH

University Secretary