



University Court
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls
Monday, 27 February 2023

AGENDA

OPENING ITEMS

- 1 **Minute** A1
To approve the minute of the meeting held on 5 December 2022.
- 2 **Matters Arising & Review of Action Log** A2
To raise any other matters arising and review the Action Log
- 3 **Principal's Report** B
To note a report from Peter Mathieson, Principal
- 4 **Committee Business**
 - Senior Lay Member's Overview Verbal
 - Policy & Resources Committee C1
 - Nominations Committee C2
 - Knowledge Strategy Committee C3

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

- 5 **People and Money**
 - **People and Money Systems Update** D1
To consider a paper presented by Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services and Co-Chair, Enactment Group
 - **People and Money External Review** D2
To consider a paper presented by Paul McGinty, Chief Internal Auditor
- 6 **Students' Association and Sports Union Reports**
To consider the reports presented by Niamh Roberts, EUSA President
 - **Students' Association Report** E1
 - **Sports Union Report** E2
- 7 **Director of Finance's Report** F
To consider a report presented by Lee Hamill, Director of Finance
- 8 **Engineering Hub** G
To approve a paper presented by Gary Jebb, Director of Place, and Iain Gordon, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Science & Engineering
- 9 **Update on Research Excellence Framework Planning** H
To consider a paper presented by Christina Boswell, Vice-Principal Research and Enterprise

- 10 Development & Alumni Annual Report; Donations and Legacies; Alumni Activities** I
To consider a paper presented by Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

- 11 Student Pulse Survey** J
To note
- 12 Update on arrangements for Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections, and proposed amendment to Senate Election Regulations** K
To approve
- 13 Laigh Year Regulations** L
To approve
- 14 Resolutions** M
To approve
- 15 Court Meeting Dates 2023/24** N
To approve
- 16 Any Other Business**
To consider any other matters
- 17 Date of Next Meeting**
Monday, 17 April 2023, 2-5pm



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 December 2022, John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls

Web Version

[DRAFT] Minute

- Members Present:** Debora Kayembe, Rector
Joyce Anderson, Trade Union Professional Services Staff Member
Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member
Shereen Benjamin, Senatus Assessor
Richard Blythe, Senatus Assessor
Alastair Dunlop, Chancellor's Assessor
Perdita Fraser, Co-opted Member
Ruth Girardet, Co-opted Member
Tobias Kelly, Academic Staff Member
Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member
Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor
Sarah McAllister, Professional Services Staff Member
Douglas Millican, Co-opted Member
Jock Millican, General Council Assessor
Hugh Mitchell, Co-opted Member
Kathryn Nash, Trade Union Academic Staff Member
Niamh Roberts, Students' Association President
Alistair Smith, Co-opted Member
Isi Williams, Students' Association Vice-President Community
Sarah Wolffe, General Council Assessor
- Member Apologies:** Robert Aldridge, City of Edinburgh Council Assessor
Douglas Alexander, General Council Assessor
- In Attendance:** Leigh Chalmers, Vice-Principal & University Secretary
Kate Huang, Governance Apprentice
Sophia Lycouris, Rector's Assessor
- Presenters & Observers:** Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
David Argyle, Interim Head of College
Christina Boswell, Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise
Lucy Evans, Deputy Secretary Students
Iain Gordon, Vice-Principal & Head of College
Kim Graham, Provost
Lee Hamill, Director of Finance
Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students
Gary Jebb, Director of Place
Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services
Gavin McLachlan, Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University
Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing
Sarah Prescott, Vice-Principal & Head of College
James Saville, Director of Human Resources
Rona Smith, Deputy Secretary Governance & Strategic Planning
Barry Nielson, Director of Strategic Change (for Paper F1)

OPENING ITEMS

1 Senior Lay Member Extension of Term

Paper A

The Senior Lay Member and all attendees, presenters and observers aside from the Vice Principal & University Secretary and the Head of Court Services absented the meeting for this item.

Debora Kayembe, Rector, reminded all present of the confidentiality of discussions at Court meetings.

Noting that Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member, is serving the final year of a first term of office and that the relevant legislation and regulations allow for an extension of this term, a proposed extension for a second and final period of three years from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2026 was considered. It was noted that Frank Armstrong, in his capacity as Intermediary Member of Court, had sought feedback from all Court members, held a review meeting with the Senior Lay Member and then updated Nominations Committee, who were unanimous in recommending that an extension be made. On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Court approved an extension of the Senior Lay Member's term of office to 31 July 2026.

2 Senior Leadership Team Remuneration Review 2023 – Proposed Approach

Paper B

All attendees, presenters and observers aside from the Vice Principal & University Secretary, the Director of Human Resources and the Head of Court Services absented the meeting for this item.

Court reviewed the proposed approach of the Remuneration Committee to the annual review of the remuneration of the Senior Leadership Team, to be presented for approval by the Remuneration Committee in January 2023. The proposed general framework was supported. It was noted that Paper F2 (Senate Letter to Court on People and Money System Implementation) includes a recommendation relevant to the Senior Leadership Team Remuneration Review and this would be considered under that item.

3 Minute

Papers C1-C2

The minute of the meeting and the note of the seminar both held on 4 October 2022 were approved.

4 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log

Paper C3

There were no matters arising and the action log was noted.

A summary of the Principal's main activities since the last meeting was noted, with the Principal commenting on the following:

- The implementation of the finance component of the People & Money system has been a key area of activity and will be considered in more detail later in the agenda. This has been challenging and has affected many in the University. It has also generated much public commentary, some of which has been inaccurate, impacting the University's reputation;
- An internal recruitment process is underway for the appointment of a new Head of College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine as Professor Moira Whyte will conclude her first term in March 2023 and will not seek a second term;
- The 2022 Principal's Medals have been awarded to the following staff and students in recognition of their exceptional support to the University and/or wider community:
 - Lianne Henry - Head of Student Allocations, Accommodation, Catering and Events;
 - Lesley Penny - Director of Bioresearch & Veterinary Services;
 - Stav Salpeter - recent graduate from the School of Social and Political Sciences and the Law School;
 - Karen Riddell and Rebecca Whitefield, Protocol Team; and,
 - Student Counselling Service - accepted by Ronnie Millar, Director, Student Counselling Service on behalf of the team.
- The Universities and Colleges Employers' Association intend to bring forward the 2023-24 annual pay negotiations and could make a pay award six months earlier than usual;
- The King's Buildings Nucleus has opened and members are very welcome to visit and tour the building – a future meeting will also be held there if suitable; and,
- The University's partnership with the Mastercard Foundation has been renewed and will enable hundreds of fully-funded scholarships to be offered to students from largely sub-Saharan African countries.

Following on from comments at a recent all staff Town Hall meeting, it was queried whether consideration is being given to recalibrating University grades across the pay scale and enabling a pay uplift for all staff. It was confirmed that, while there are no plans to recalibrate all pay scales, an uplift has been made at Grade 3 level given pay compression resulting from increases in the National Living Wage and that a wider review is underway to consider certain job categories where difficulties are being experienced in attracting and retaining staff.

6 Committee Business

• Senior Lay Member's Overview

Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member, noted that the annual Court stakeholder update event had been held on 1 November and had been well attended, with over 500 people participating. An updated draft version of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance is in development and should be finalised shortly. Members were thanked for their participation in the internal effectiveness review meetings held

over the summer and summarised in the paper to be considered within Item 16 below.

- **Policy & Resources Committee** **Paper E1**

The report was noted, with the Committee having concentrated on the People & Money system at the most recent meeting, as well as considering the Strategy 2030 Key Performance Indicators and the Size and Shape update amongst other items.

- **Nominations Committee** **Paper E2**

The report was noted.

- **Audit & Risk Committee** **Paper E3**

The report was noted, including the Committee's consideration of the People & Money system and the Annual Report and Accounts and its encouragement to management to reduce the number of overdue actions resulting from Internal Audit reports, with the Provost to set up a working group to oversee this. The Committee is initiating an appointment process for new External Auditors and aim to submit a recommendation to the June 2023 Court meeting for approval.

- **Remuneration Committee Annual Report** **Paper E4**

The report was noted, including the significant amount of senior staff recruitment over the past year, as well the Committee's support for a doubling of staff who could be considered for a salary award, a 50% increase in the number who could be recognised for a lump sum award and the exceptional payment of £500 made to all staff in recognition of the contributions made over the past two challenging years.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee** **Paper E5**

The report was noted, including the update on the development of a University Digital Strategy.

- **Senate** **Paper E6**

The report was noted, including Senate's discussion of the Sustainable Travel Policy and associated travel provider, with Senate's views conveyed to the University Executive.

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

- 7 People and Money** **Paper F1**
 - **People and Money Implementation and Strategic Change**

An update on the implementation of the People and Money system and wider work on the future provision of strategic change and continuous improvement support was

reviewed. It was reiterated that the rationale for the People and Money system is to replace outdated systems for HR, Finance, Payroll and Procurement, with a new system and processes to support the HR and Finance Transformation programmes. The implementation of Phase 3, a new finance system and processes, from 31 August, has led to significant disruption across a range of areas, including payments due to students and suppliers, research grants processes, budgeting and forecasting, as well as concerns over how the system operates in terms of user autonomy and functionality. Urgent work is underway to make overdue payments, improve research grant processes and budgeting and forecasting, as well as to communicate with those affected and improve training provision for users and improve resourcing in the Finance Operations team. An external review of the system implementation will be commissioned, with the scope to be considered by Court, and recognition that lessons should be learned for managing future change projects in the University more generally.

Members raised the following points:

- Recognising the challenges for staff involved in operating the new system and ensuring that they are able to take leave over the Christmas and New Year period – the Finance Operations team are making early payments where possible ahead of the closure period in preparation and a rota system has been prepared to enable staff involved to take leave over the period;
- Progress in stabilising and improving the system and processes has been made in recent weeks and there was support expressed for continuing with the implementation in order to realise in due course the benefits the system can offer, noting that it is not uncommon for major new systems of this type to encounter disruption in their early stages. It was cautioned against initiating an external review before the system has been sufficiently embedded;
- Whether there are indications of improvements at a local level and how this can be assessed – implementation groups are well-established and are resolving or escalating issues in local areas where appropriate;
- The open meetings on the new system that had been held in November across the campuses were welcomed;
- An opportunity for Court members to meet key staff such as Directors of Professional Services and Heads of School to discuss the new system was suggested;
- There are a number of other strategic change projects progressing at present and lessons should be learned and applied in these projects as rapidly as possible;
- Ensuring that the full costs of change management projects, including costs at a local level, are integrated into resource planning – this is being worked on through Strategic Change, linking to the Planning Round process;
- The external review could be broadened to look at decision making more broadly; and,
- Whether the need for greater risk mitigation and resource for this could have been anticipated and put in place at an earlier stage – while a payments backlog was anticipated with the changeover in systems, and plans for resolving this made, the eventual scale of the backlog was much larger than anticipated.

- **Senate Letter to Court on People and Money System Implementation**

Paper F2

All attendees, presenters and observers aside from the Vice-Principal & University Secretary and the Head of Court Services absented the meeting for this item.

The Senate Assessors presented a paper and an associated open letter from many elected members of Senate and co-signatories on the impact of the implementation of the finance processes of the People and Money system on the University's core business, strategic agenda and reputation and proposed actions in response. It was commented that it is known that implementing systems of this type can be difficult and disruptive and that anticipated issues had been raised by staff in advance but the level of risk mitigation taken in response had been inadequate. Court was asked to consider and respond to the letter and to the proposed actions in the paper.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- The scope and timing of an external review was debated, including potentially incorporating relevant academic expertise and whether the review should be broadened to include wider decision-making and its relation to other strategic change projects – it was proposed that the scope of an external review focused on People and Money and including relevant academic expertise be drafted by the Head of Internal Audit and reviewed and approved by Court at its next meeting. It was noted that the University Executive is also actively considering the approach to the future provision of strategic change and continuous improvement support and Court's next external effectiveness review will consider wider governance oversight;
- A need to improve institutional learning from change projects had been raised by staff prior to the People and Money system and there are wider issues with a sense of overload and low morale, which has been exacerbated by the difficulties with the system's implementation;
- The importance of learning lessons for other change projects, while recognising that some are very different in nature, such as the Curriculum Transformation Programme;
- The extent of Court's involvement to date in oversight of the system's development and implementation, noting that Court and its committees have received regular updates and agreed to proceed with the development of the system at the outset of the pandemic given the need to replace outdated systems in place at the time;
- Court should continue to receive regular updates, including an update prior to the next meeting and reporting on the resolution of implementation issues;
- The implementation of the HR component of the People and Money system should also be considered; and,
- Whether to issue a public statement from the Court and the timing and clearance of this.

It was agreed that:

- The Senior Lay Member would authorise a public statement on behalf of Court to issue the following day;

- A timely and rigorous external review should be instigated with a proposal on commissioning, scope, and timescale of the review to be submitted to Court for approval, recognising that this needs to be balanced against completion of the stabilisation work currently underway;
- The outcomes of the external review should help to inform future decision-making and oversight for major change projects and system procurement and implementation;
- Consideration will be given by the Remuneration Committee to the People and Money planning and crisis response when assessing performance as part of its annual review of remuneration of members of the Senior Leadership Team.

8 Student Experience Update

Paper G

An update on student experience work covering the first quarter of the academic year was reviewed. The first phase of the new student support model has been implemented and has been well received to date, with work underway to prepare for implementation across all Schools at the start of the next academic year. The University Executive will consider student experience and curriculum transformation at an away day later this week and an additional briefing session covering student experience and curriculum transformation will be offered to Court members early in 2023. Whether all students receive digital skills training and learning from curriculum change programmes in other institutions were raised as topics of interest for the next update.

9 Students' Association and Sports Union Reports

Papers H1-H2

The regular reports from the Students' Association and Sports Union were noted.

10 Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report

Paper I

The Convener of Audit & Risk Committee presented an annual report to support approval of the University's financial statements. It was noted that the Committee has reviewed the draft financial statements and received sufficient assurances from the Head of Internal Audit and the external auditors. The Committee was content with the adequacy of internal controls, compliance with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and the assessment and management of risk and will also look to undertake more work on risk management in the coming year. The Senior Lay Member thanked Committee members and staff supporting the work of the Committee for their work in reviewing and preparing the financial statements and associated documents.

11 Risk Management Post Year End Assurance Statement

Paper J

The Risk Management Post Year End Assurance Statement in support of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22 was noted.

12 Finance

• Director of Finance's Report

Paper K1

The Director of Finance's Report was reviewed, including a proposed new contract for merchant acquiring services. The award of the contract for merchant acquiring services to Lloyds Bank (Cardnet) was approved.

• Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22

Paper K2

The Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22 was approved.

• Letter of Representation

Paper K3

The Letter of Representation and its signing by the Principal and Senior Lay Member was approved subject to minor amendment.

• Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22 – US GAAP

Paper K4

The restatement of the figures within the Annual Report and Accounts according to the United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (US GAAP) was approved.

13 Performance Measures to Support Strategy 2030: 2021-22 Year-End Report

Paper L

The 2021-22 year-end report for the Strategy 2030 Key Performance Indicators was reviewed. Members discussed potential enhancements and complementary reporting information that would be useful to Court, including data on the physical estate in relation to staff and student numbers, developing a measure for KPI 4 "Efficient systems", including more benchmarking/milestone data in future iterations and including information on research culture within the research indicators or within the research strategy currently under development.

14 Size and Shape: Update

Paper M

An update on work to determine a framework for size and shape planning for the student population was considered. It was requested that future updates include on and off campus numbers and weighted space per student/staff. It was noted that the University has the largest number of Scottish and Rest of UK undergraduates in the Scottish sector.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

15 Outcome Agreement 2022-23

Paper N

The Outcome Agreement 2022-23 and associated annexes were reviewed and approved, with authority delegated to the Deputy Secretary Governance & Strategic Planning to make any final amendments prior to submission to the Scottish Funding Council. It was queried whether there is a long term institutional strategy for

researchers on fixed term contracts, noting that this is currently being considered within the development of a research cultures action plan, with an intention to move towards open ended contracts.

16 Court Internal Effectiveness Review 2021-22 **Paper O**

Court considered and approved the annual internal effectiveness review for 2021-22.

17 Donations and Legacies; Alumni Activities **Paper P**

Court noted legacies and donations received since the last meeting and an update on alumni relations activities.

18 Resolutions

- **Resolution: Code of Student Conduct** **Paper Q1**

The following Resolution was approved:

- No. 117/2022: Code of Student Conduct.

- **Resolutions: Chairs** **Paper Q2**

The following Resolutions were approved:

- No. 118/2022: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Computational Medicine
- No. 119/2022: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Data Arts and Society
- No. 120/2022: Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Data Science

19 Any Other Business

It was requested that impact case studies developed for the Research Excellence Framework 2021 be circulated.

20 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 27 February 2023



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

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.
2. The activity noted supports our commitment to deliver on our vision and ambitions including all four key areas of focus highlighted in Strategy 2030: People, Research, Learning and Teaching and Social and Civic Responsibility.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. In general Court is asked to note the information presented, members' observations or comment on any of the items would be welcome.
With specific reference to paragraph 14, the recommendation to appoint Assistant Principal Professor Tina Harrison as Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement), Court is asked to approve the recommendation.

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. Since Court last met in December much time has continued to be devoted to matters related to People and Money. I am conscious that this is true throughout the organisation as staff across all teams and areas continue to grapple with the new system. The senior leadership team has had weekly sessions where Vice-Principal Martin, providing the link with the Enactment Group, has advised on the priority areas in both the immediate and medium term. Preceding the winter break this consisted largely of addressing the significant backlog to reach a more stable position. I do believe that we have greater stabilisation and a downward direction for helpdesk queues with the additional increase in people at the Helpdesk and within key finance teams being crucial to that.
6. Other positives include: payroll continues to be paid with low error rates; student stipend payments are being paid in a timely fashion; the £300 one-off payment to our postgraduate research students who did not get their stipends on time was processed in January; supplier payments in general and also "one off" payments are now in a better position.
7. That said there are still many issues to address including payments to global partners and the veracity of their migrated data. This and other aspects of Research functionality remain under significant focus including how costs and salaries are allocated to project budgets and the visibility of reports and data required by research project teams. Wider reporting and the visibility of financial information in management reports are also areas where improvements are being prioritised.

Paragraph 8: Closed section

9. I will be speaking, along with other senior staff leading on People and Money, to College leadership Groups on Monday 20th February at a series of in person meetings. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an update on progress and priorities for the coming months but also to listen to staff about their concerns and experiences.

10. Discussions took place with ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) in mid-February after all of the Trade Unions rejected the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA) 2023/24 third and final pay offer of a range of 5%-8%. At time of writing the outcome is not known. Negotiations were initially brought forward to allow a percentage of the settlement to be paid as an early uplift to staff with effect from February, recognising the cost of living challenges. This is now delayed due to the unions' rejection of the offer and the resultant dispute process commencing. Both parties have agreed to accept ACAS's offer to act in replacement to the normal dispute processes.

11. The following is an excerpt from a [joint statement](#) released on 17 January confirming that both parties have agreed that 2023/24 pay negotiations have concluded in an impasse but discussions on other points continue:

“In recognition of the above and to allow for a period of calm to facilitate further ACAS discussions, UCU [University & College Union] will pause industrial action and not call any new industrial action in weeks commencing 20 and 27 February on the basis that no pay award will be imposed/implemented by HEIs [Higher Education Institutions] during that period.”

12. A second [joint statement](#) between UCU and Universities UK (UUK) was released on 17 February recognising the significantly improved position of the latest funding information from the Trustee regarding the USS pension fund has led to potential to improve benefits and reduce contributions. The statement confirms a number of points of agreement regarding future investment direction, risk and costs. These are of course subject to the caveats on the volatility of the funding position.

13. Strike action by UCU members started on 1 February with a level of turnout consistent with other periods of action. Contingency plans remain in place to mitigate disruption as much as possible to the delivery of learning and teaching and the student experience whilst maintaining academic standards. In the event strike action is recalled after the negotiations conclude, it is expected the remaining already announced dates (16-22 March) will go ahead. As a reminder, this action relates to the ongoing UCU four fights and pensions dispute – specifically the pay offer from 2022/23 which was paid out to staff in August 2022. UCEA have been very clear from the outset that they consider this pay offer closed and are not entering into any discussions on 2022/23 decisions.

14. We have had the great pleasure of welcoming the Chancellor to a number of recent events with the presentation of the Chancellor's Awards being a key activity where we were pleased to acknowledge the winners:

- Outstanding Contribution Award - Dr Lisa Kendall, Director of Academic & Student Administration in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- Research Award - Professor Kenneth Baillie, holds a Personal Chair in Experimental Medicine, Baillie Gifford Pandemic Science Hub in the Centre for Inflammation Research
- Rising Star Award - Dr Georgia Cole, Chancellor's Fellow in Social Work, School of Social and Political Science
- Teaching Award - Dr Ross Galloway, Director of Teaching, and a Senior Lecturer in the School of Physics and Astronomy

15. I also awarded the Principal's Medals last November where the very well-deserving winners from a highly competitive field of nominations were:

- Lianne Henry - Head of Student Allocations, Accommodation, Catering and Events
- Lesley Penny - Director of Bioresearch & Veterinary Services
- Stav Salpeter - recent graduate from the School of Social and Political Sciences & the Law School
- Karen Riddell and Rebecca Whitefield, Protocol Team - joint winners
- Student Counselling Service - accepted by Ronnie Millar, Director, Student Counselling Service on behalf of the team

16. I wish to recommend to Court that Assistant Principal Professor Tina Harrison be formally designated as Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement). This will see Professor Harrison as the formal Deputy to Vice-Principal Harmon and leading on matters related to assuring and enhancing the quality of teaching and the student experience; oversight of policy and regulations for academic standards, including assessment strategy and policy; leadership of specific projects or work packages as required in support of enhancing the learning, teaching and wider student experience. There are no resource implications to this change.

17. Regarding the admissions cycle we are, along with the rest of the sector, seeing a return to pre-pandemic levels. Our response rate to applications has improved with an increase in speed of processing against last year. The postgraduate cycle is at a very early stage but it is looking positive.

18. The unexpected news of the First Minister's resignation reached us on February 15th. Coincidentally, the First Minister was on campus the following Monday visiting the Roslin Innovation Centre as part of the launch of the Scotland's Women in Entrepreneurship Review led by Ana Stewart and I attended the formal launch event at Bute House the same evening. We will await further news on the leadership race in due course meanwhile our interaction with a wide range of Scottish Government representatives and MSPs will continue as normal.

19. Elsewhere the UK Government undertook a reshuffle which brings the former Education Secretary and Higher Education Minister Rt Hon. Michelle Donelan back to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for the new Department of Science, Innovation and Technology. As part of this move the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is split into four new departments. The changes will also see business and trade merged into one department headed by the Rt Hon. Kemi Badenoch MP. The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP has been appointed Secretary of State for the newly formed Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and the Rt Hon. Lucy Frazer MP leads the streamlined Department for Culture, Media, and Sport. George Freeman MP has

moved into the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) as Minister of State.

20. Universities UK continue to lobby in relation to international student visas following media coverage that an internal commission is seeking to amend government policy on international student visas in order to reduce net migration.

Selected meetings and events from to start of December 2022 to end February 2023

21. University

- The Chancellor participated in three events in January: visiting Fastblade, participating in a celebration of nursing and healthcare event, and hosting her Chancellor's Dinner at Holyroodhouse Palace, during which she presented the 2022 Chancellor's Award winners with their awards.
- Participated in several Head of Schools evening events which rounded-off development programme sessions organised by Provost, Professor Kim Graham.
- The Senior Leadership Team participated in an away day focussing on transition development.
- Delivered my annual lecture to second year MBChB students on, 'The importance of proteinuria', this time in a 'flipped classroom' format which sort-of (!) worked.
- Welcomed attendees of the University Secretary's Group Townhall and reflected on the last academic year and People and Money issues.
- Provided a review of the year 2021-22 to General Council members at their Half-yearly meeting.
- Along with the Lord Lieutenant Robert Aldridge and Professor John Connaghan CBE, Chairman of NHS Lothian, I participated in the planting of 2 Rowan Trees in the Memorial Garden at Little France, awarded by the Queen's Green Canopy and which were gifted to the city in honour of NHS Lothian and the University of Edinburgh's respective contributions during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Participated in a reception to mark 100 years since the installation of the war memorial in Old College.
- Participated in the presentation reception for the Robertson Medal for Science, Engineering and Technology to one of our students, Adrián Doña Mateo.

22. Edinburgh and Scotland

- The Principals of Edinburgh's four universities continue to meet monthly to share progress on various activities.
- Participated in a Newbattle Trustees meeting.
- Participated in the Edinburgh Chinese Consulate-General's Chinese New Year concert and drinks event at the Usher Hall.
- Participated in a meeting with Edinburgh City Council Leader, Cllr Cammy Day.
- Chaired a meeting of Higher Education - Further Education Strategy Group, which feeds into the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal meetings.

23. Sector and Public Affairs

- Participated in a Universities Scotland Main Committee meeting, and a Scottish Funding Council Liaison meeting.

- Participated in a Universities Scotland hosted Parliamentary Reception at the Scottish Parliament.
- Participated in a Scottish Funding Council Board.
- Participated in various meetings on Security as part of my role as Lead for security issues in higher education for the Russell Group and Universities UK.
- Participated in Scottish Health and Industry Partnership Oversight Group meetings.
- Continue to co-chair with Dame Julia Goodfellow a working group for the Academy of Medical Sciences which will produce a report on the Sustainability of the UK Health Research ecosystem. Met with the Council of the Academy (online) on 16th February and received very positive endorsement of the draft report.
- Participated in Universities UK meetings and events including the regular Vice-Chancellor's USS pension discussion;
- Welcomed attendees of the UK Higher Education and Refugees Forum to a meeting held in the Playfair Library Hall.
- Met with Ian Murray MP for an update on the University's current activities and future plans.
- Participated in a Burns Supper hosted by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP.
- Participated in an introductory breakfast meeting with the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Nicholas Lyons.
- Participated in a reception celebrating Scottish Culture, hosted by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak MP at 10 Downing Street.
- Spoke at a UK Research and Innovation working dinner at the Royal Society to discuss coordinated action on environmental sustainability and the establishment of joint working to reach our Net Zero targets between universities, independent research institutions and funders.
- Participated in a Roundtable discussion on research security with the Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation, George Freeman MP.

24. *International*

- Travelled to Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore to speak at a conference and to meet with various donors and potential donors, collaborators, partners and alumni. Including (a) in Tokyo, delivering a keynote speech at the Times Higher Education Campus live event on 'The future of universities: How universities can help societies respond to the global challenges' and taking part in a panel discussion chaired by Jo Johnson on 'Universities roles and resilience in times of international crisis and security risks'; Outward Bound gala dinner; (b) meeting with the Hong Kong Alumni Association Committee and other senior alumni there; politicians; key colleagues at the University of Hong Kong; donor families and other influential contacts; (c) in Singapore, meeting with donors and alumni, collaborators at the National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University.
- Travelled to Santiago, participated in a meeting with President Sanchez; delivered the keynote speech on the 'Fundamental mission and challenges in Higher Education' at the Conference on Higher Education Management, organized by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
- Participated online in the UNICA Extraordinary General Assembly meeting.

- Participated in a one day visit to the University of Copenhagen, along with colleagues to discuss the framework for strategic collaboration.
- Participated online in a Global Collaborative for the Liberal Arts webinar, hosted by the Vassar Institute for the Liberal Arts.

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

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

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

27. As the paper represents a summary of recent news and general activity, it does not directly relate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Equality & Diversity

28. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

Next steps/implications

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

Consultation

30. As the content is a summary of recent news no consultation is required.

Further information

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

32. Author & Presenter

Professor Sir Peter Mathieson
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
February 2023

Freedom of Information

33. Open version



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Policy & Resources Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Policy & Resources Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 6 February 2023.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

Key points

People and Money System Update

4. An update on the implementation of the People & Money system was presented. It was noted that, as the half-year point since the implementation of the finance component approaches, while the system is stable it is not in the position it was envisaged as being at this stage, with a greater level of manual checks being undertaken. The backlog of overdue payments has reduced, excepting an anticipated small increase over the Christmas closure period, with a present focus on reducing overdue one-off payments (e.g. to those providing exam invigilation services), research grant administration and in responding to helpdesk queries. Additional staff have been recruited to assist with various elements of the system.

5. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Developing indicators of success as mentioned at the previous meeting and whether these can include School level information – indicators of success include reducing the number of overdue payments and the impact of these for all involved;
- Providing further information and reports from the Committee's People & Money Sub-Group and making information on People & Money developments more widely available, including updating Senate;
- Whether staff are becoming more comfortable using the system over time – staff are becoming more familiar with the system but more training is required and recruiting those who can provide training has also been challenging;
- It was confirmed that utilising the current external auditors will not affect the current tender exercise to appoint new external auditors;
- Communications with trade suppliers and communications overall – trade suppliers were contacted prior to the switch-over period and communications have continued on an individual basis since then. Internally, in-person open meetings with staff and postgraduate research students were held in November and present feedback is that staff are seeking more detail on specific aspects and when certain changes will be made and the team is working with the Communications & Marketing department on this;
- The software purchased is a variant of similar software used by many other large organisations and is well established;

- Encouragement was given to achieve the functionality intended and the long term aims of the overall programme – the benefits need to be realised over the longer term on what is a major programme with significant expense both financially and in staff time and resources more broadly;
- The reference to developing a new chart of accounts in the new system – this is the complete list of financial accounts for an organisation, which had previously developed organically at the University. The new system will modernise this approach to what is now standard practice;
- Work to improve the position as set out in the paper was welcomed and it was noted that a further update would be submitted to Court.

Director of Finance's Report

6. The Director of Finance's Report was reviewed, including updates on: the full year forecast for 2022-23; the ongoing external audit tender process; and, the summary financial performance of Russell Group institutions in 2021-22, ahead of a more detailed benchmarking exercise to be submitted to the next meeting.

Annual TRAC Return 2021-22

7. The University's Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) return for 2021-22 and full Economic Cost rates to be applied to research grants from 1 February 2023 was presented.

Engineering Hub

8. A revised funding request and Full Business Case for the Engineering Hub was considered. It was noted that funding for the project had originally been approved by Court in September 2019 but was deferred in 2020 alongside other capital projects that were not contractually committed given the financial uncertainties in the early stages of the pandemic. Subsequently, Court approved in February 2022 a new capital plan that included the Engineering Hub, subject to approval by Estates Committee of a revised business case and subsequent approval by Court of the associated funding request. The following points were raised in discussion:

- The project and the benefits it can bring to the School, College and wider University was welcomed;
- Using the project to enhance student experience and noting the importance, in this respect, of recruiting students in line with the levels envisaged in the business case, which were aligned with student number plans; and,
- Funding sources for capital project and prioritisation of projects more generally – capital projects are funded through a mixture of funds generated internally (operating surplus/EBITDA), external borrowing and philanthropic donations.

9. The project was supported and it was agreed to recommend to Court approval for funding to progress the project to completion.

Advanced Computing Facility and Mary Somerville Data Centre Expansion

10. The Estates Committee approved a capital investment to create additional capacity in the Mary Somerville Data Centre at the King's Buildings campus that can accommodate the equipment to be relocated and also to provide additional data centre capacity to support further growth in central and School hosted IT services and support the Green Data Centre initiative by creating additional space to relocate

other equipment to the Mary Somerville Data Centre from less efficient spaces across the University.

11. Key issues for the migration to the Mary Somerville Data Centre were discussed, including when to commit the funding. Ensuring that disruption to researchers using the equipment is minimised with a short two week shutdown that is well notified in advance was also discussed. Clear communications with affected researchers was encouraged, along with considering particular impacts on PhD students or researchers on fixed term contracts and whether any extensions or other support in mitigation can be offered, noting that an interim service is planned for the shutdown period, with access to be prioritised according to need.

People Report

12. The regular update on staff-related matters was presented. It was noted that the first day of planned strike action by the University & College Union had taken place on 1 February and, while full details are not yet available, initial indications are that this followed a similar pattern to previous industrial action at the University. The two other recognised trade unions at the University are not currently taking action, although one is re-balloting its members. While there is sector-wide industrial action ongoing, positive local activity is taking place with trade unions to consider fixed term contracts and review sections of the pay scales where there are particular recruitment and retention issues. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Progress on reviewing the use of fixed term contracts – work is concentrating on areas where the use of fixed term contracts can be reduced while acknowledging that there will not be a single approach that covers all situations where fixed term contracts are used across a large and devolved University;
- The impact on students of the industrial action – this will be highly variable across the University depending on the number of staff taking action. As in previous years, a Learning Opportunity Fund has been established to help affected students using pay foregone by staff taking industrial action.

Other items

13. Regular reports from the Estates Committee, Investment Committee and the Commercialisation Sub-Group were noted. An update on research and commercialisation statistics at the mid-point of the academic and financial year was noted.

Further information

14. Author

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand
Convener, Policy & Resources Committee

Freedom of Information

15. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Nominations Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Nominations Committee

Dates of Meeting

2. 30 January 2023.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting and to approve the appointment of Professor David Argyle as a Curator of Patronage from 1 April 2023 for an initial term of three years.

Key points

Court and Committee Membership Update

4. It was noted that:

- Search agencies have submitted tenders for the upcoming Court member recruitment exercise. The tenders will be reviewed later today by the Senior Lay Member and by the University Secretary. The agency that is appointed will review the draft advertisement before it is finalised and published [*Update: Korn Ferry have since been appointed. The advertisement was finalised and circulated to Court members and attendees on 15 February*]; and,
- The Chancellor has been contacted regarding the potential reappointment of Alastair Dunlop as the Chancellor's Assessor and a response is awaited [*Update: The Chancellor has reappointed Alastair Dunlop for a second term of office for four years with effect from 1 August 2023*].

5. Noting that there will be a vacancy for a Court appointment to the Curators of Patronage (a largely ceremonial body with a primary function of formally making appointments, on the recommendation of a selection panel, to a small number of Chairs that pre-date the establishment of the University Court in 1858) when Professor Moira Whyte's term as Curator of Patronage concludes on 31 March 2023, it was agreed to recommend to Court the appointment of David Argyle, Acting Vice-Principal and Head of College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, as a Curator of Patronage from 1 April 2023 for an initial three year term.

External Effectiveness Review

6. Noting that an externally facilitated review of the effectiveness of Court and its committees is expected to be undertaken in the next academic year as part of compliance with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance, the Committee gave early consideration to the potential format, focus and procurement of the review and its external facilitator. It was agreed that a proposal would be developed for the Committee's next meeting and then submitted to Court.

Equality & Diversity

7. Increasing the diversity of the Court membership is a key consideration in the current recruitment round for new members and the search agency have been briefed accordingly.

Further information

8. Author

Lewis Allan

Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand

Convener, Nominations Committee

Freedom of Information

9. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Knowledge Strategy Committee

Date of Meetings

2. 30 November – 6 December 2022 (by correspondence); 30 January 2023

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meetings.

Key points

30 November – 6 December 2022 (by correspondence)

Extension to the “Tursa” High Performance Computer Service

4. A proposed externally funded extension to the existing High Performance Computing facility known as Tursa was reviewed. It was noted that:

- The Tursa system is funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council and is hosted at the University of Edinburgh’s Advanced Computing Facility to serve Particle Physics Theory researchers across the UK;
- As anticipated when the initial funding for the current system was granted, a funding award has now been made for a mid-life upgrade of the system and associated running costs; and,
- Given the requirement for the new funding to be spent by 31 March 2023 and the accelerated procurement timetable needed to enable this, it has been agreed to consider the matter by correspondence.

5. Further information was requested on procurement details and operational matters, and having received this information, the Committee agreed to recommend to Estates Committee that the proposed upgrade be approved, to be fully funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council along with a research grant for operational costs, with signing authority for the procurement to be delegated to Professor Iain Gordon, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Science & Engineering. *[Secretary’s note: the upgrade was subsequently approved by Estates Committee.]*

30 January 2023

Information Services Group Planning 2023-24 (2022 – 2027)

6. An Information Services Group (ISG) planning update was presented, noting that the period covered years 2-5 of the 2022-27 plan, along with a new 5-year plan, 2023-2028. The presentation covered key strategies, a reflection on 2022-23, the challenges ahead and a look forward to 2023-2028. It was noted that ISG are seeking input into the planning process, and had already met with two of the three Colleges to consider prioritisation of resources.

7. A steep upward trend in software costs was highlighted. It was also reported that the University Digital Strategy is expected to launch in October 2023.

Chief Information Officer Update

8. Key activities and updates since the last meeting were reported, including:

- Recruitment and retention issues, especially amongst technical staff.
- Supply chain delays. Global issues are continuing, including the closure of some Chinese factories.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI). The recent reports of ChatGTP were noted, which appeared to present a step forward in AI that could potentially help with programming. It was noted that potential academic misconduct concerns for universities had been raised in the media.
- Digital Estates plan. The Chief Information Officer is working with the Provost ahead of the first meeting of the Digital Estates Prioritisations Group, a short life working group, which will report to the Estates Committee.
- Technicians' Commitment. The commitment is being updated with input from the University's Staff Experience Committee and from Christina Boswell, Vice-Principal Research & Enterprise to broaden the definition of technicians, including anyone supporting research.

9. The Committee noted both the risks and the potential of AI. It was reported that the Digital Strategy includes methodology for AI, including the requirement for an AI ethics policy.

University Digital Strategy

10. An update on the development of a Digital Strategy to support the overall University Strategy 2030 was presented. It was noted that feedback from the consultation is being analysed and the paper provides a high-level overview of emerging points. A Town Hall meeting is planned for spring 2023 to provide feedback on the consultation, with the Strategy likely to be launched in late summer/early autumn, following consideration of the prioritisation of investment in the digital estate by the Digital Estates Prioritisations Group.

11. The Committee discussed how those unfamiliar with the Strategy would know and understand its aims and objectives. The following key themes were noted: core services should be user-friendly and easy to find; it will provide a focus for where the University takes digital in the future; increased physical and digital accessibility is key; it puts in place a number of key procurement and operational standards and principles; and, includes where future investment will be focussed. The [Digital Strategy Hub](#) was highlighted, a SharePoint site open to both staff and students, that contains the draft Strategy along with summary presentations. Finally, it was noted that the digital estate prioritisation was critical to planning and resources decisions.

NHS Framework Agreement

12. A presentation on the University of Edinburgh and Lothian Health Board Framework Agreement was received.

People and Money System Update

13. An update on the implementation of the People and Money systems and processes was reviewed. Finance processes associated with research were reported as a key area of focus from an operational perspective, with Professor Dave

Robertson chairing a group established to focus on research finance processes. It was noted that Court have asked for an external review of the People and Money implementation to be undertaken and this will be discussed at the Court's next meeting, 27 February 2023.

14. Graphs on trade invoices in the paper were discussed, and whether comparative data from previous years is available. It was noted that it would be difficult to make comparisons due to the significant process changes made, and that tracking spend against budget might be more instructive, albeit with the caveat that the last two financial years have been heavily impacted by Covid. It was also commented that the x axis should specify the value in millions.

15. The challenges that remain were acknowledged alongside the huge amount of work on the system that continues to be undertaken by colleagues across the University recognised.

Recommendations for future provision of strategic change and continuous improvement support

16. A paper setting out proposed actions to refine and enhance the provision of strategic change and continuous improvement capabilities and capacity was considered. It was noted that the paper had been developed in November 2022 for the University Executive, which had supported its recommendations and next steps.

17. The following points were raised in discussion:

- The need to understand how the work is scoped and what is a manageable volume of change;
- Change management training should include staff more broadly and not solely managers;
- The need to build trust and communicate the purpose of, and progress with, change projects better;
- The relationship between change projects and continuous improvement, with the perception that change projects can impede improving business as usual activities (akin to 'planning blight');
- The importance of consulting with Heads of School and Directors of Professional Services in future iterations of this work;
- The importance of linking outputs of the external review of People and Money; and,
- Learning from sectors with well-established approaches to strategic change and continuous improvement could help feed into this work.

Information Governance Working Group

18. A paper setting out the planned approach for a review of information governance was considered. The membership of the short life review group was discussed, and it was suggested that it would be helpful to include a colleague from the Web Governance Group as well as a nominee from the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine.

Learn Ultra Upgrade and Early Adopter Programme – Update on Progress

19. Progress on the Learn Ultra Upgrade and the Early Adopter Programme was discussed. The roll-out is scheduled to begin in May 2023 to allow staff time over the

summer to prepare for a go-live date of the start of Semester 1. Discussions have begun with all Schools and Deaneries to map out implementation plans and resource requirements to see where extra support is required. Lessons learned from the Early Adopter Programme are being incorporated into the approach to training and support, which will be available from June. It was noted that twenty student interns will be working on the project over the summer, providing additional support.

Information Security Update

20. The regular Information Security update paper, providing a summary of the current external threat environment, together with details of ongoing centrally managed technical control improvements, was noted.

Other items

21. The Committee approved minor amendments to the IT Committee's Terms of Reference and noted: a progress report against the objectives set in the Library and University Collections Strategy 2020 – 2025; a summary report on the 2022/23 Library Materials Budget position at the end of Quarter 1; a paper summarising plans to create additional University data centre capacity; an update on the network replacement programme; an update on progress on the replacement of the University's Enterprise Infrastructure; and, received regular reports from the IT Committee, Library Committee, University Collections Advisory Committee, Estates Committee and Digital Research Services Steering Group.

Further information

22. Authors

Jamie Tait
Governance Manager & Clerk
to Knowledge Strategy
Committee

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Colm Harmon
Interim Convener, Knowledge Strategy
Committee & Vice-Principal Students

Freedom of Information

23. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

People and Money Systems Update

Description of paper

1. This paper provides an update on the implementation of the People and Money systems and processes which underpin our HR and Finance Transformation Programmes.

Action requested/recommendation

2. To comment on and note the paper.

Paragraphs 3-25: Closed section

Communication and Engagement

26. Throughout the years we have been preparing for and launching each phase of the People and Money implementation, we have provided regular briefing calls for leaders and emailed staff and directly with updates. We established Implementation Groups in each of the six budget areas plus Finance to plan for and deliver changes in their areas and provide updates, and updated, guidance material and demo videos have been provided via a dedicated pre-launch SharePoint site which our communications directed people to for more information.

27. Meetings have taken place with all three College Senior Leadership teams to review the post implementation plan and post implementation priorities and People and Money will feature in any upcoming all-staff communication events.

28. Senior colleagues from Communications and Marketing attend the Enactment Group and are supporting the development and implementation of the communication plan and the tactics to support it.

Further information

29. Author

Barry Neilson
Director of Strategic Change

Presenter

Catherine Martin
Co-Chair of People & Money Enactment Group

Freedom of Information

30. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

People & Money – External Review

Description of paper

1. Following the Court meeting on 5 December 2022, Court issued a statement which noted that:

- *'A timely and rigorous External Review of the implementation of the People & Money system should be instigated with a proposal on commissioning, scope, and timescale of the review being brought back to Court for approval, recognising that this needs to be balanced against completion of the stabilisation work currently underway'.*
- *'The outcomes of the external review should help to inform future decision-making and oversight for major change projects and system procurement and implementation. It was noted that the University Executive is actively considering the approach to the future provision of strategic change and continuous improvement support'.*
- *'Consideration will be given by the Remuneration Committee (a Committee of Court) to the People & Money planning and crisis response when assessing performance as part of its annual review of remuneration of members of the Senior Leadership Team'.*

2. The University Internal Audit service was requested to assist with the development of the proposal for the External Review which is outlined in this paper.

Action Requested/Recommendation

3. Court is requested to:

- Consider this proposal
- Make and agree any amendments as considered appropriate
- Make a decision on whether to approve / proceed with the proposal as outlined.

Paragraphs 4-5: Closed section

Consultation

6. This paper has been discussed with the Vice-Principal and University Secretary and the Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee prior to sharing with University Court.

Further information

7. Author & Presenter

Paul McGinty

Head of Internal Audit

Freedom of Information

8. This paper is closed.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

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.
2. The Students' Association's activities contribute to the following aspects of Strategy 2030: '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. 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, notes current issues for students being worked on by our student representatives, and also outlines the organisation's financial and strategic developments. It is a regular standing item on the Court agenda.

Discussion

Sabbatical Officer Overview

5. We at the Students' Association are warming up to our Student Elections, where we engage thousands of students in democracy and change-making opportunities. Each Sabbatical Officer has met with multiple candidates who are impassioned about many of their personal and general issues at the University of Edinburgh, and look forward to joining senior University spaces. I see this as a reminder that students really do engage when we create an environment where they have efficacy. This is a call to action for University colleagues to create more spaces for collaboration, not only consultation, with students, and ensure that there is an open attitude to listening to students despite their inherent disconnection from the University's strategic work. We also observed the recent protest in Bristo Square where students voiced their distress regarding the current response to sexual violence and other harassment cases. While we are aware that work is being undertaken, it was a stark reminder that the University has a duty of care for its members and that this duty has unfortunately not been fulfilled in many students' experiences.

Sabbatical Officer Updates

President – Niamh Roberts

6. It was a privilege to speak at a roundtable for housing and cost-of-living at the Scottish Parliament and my speech can be viewed [here](#). I have also made notable comments at Senate, where I contributed to a presentation to members about the

Curriculum Transformation Programme and responded to staff feedback. In conversation with the Accommodation team, I have been consulted on the Residential and Rent strategies which, while a great opportunity to have student input in strategic work, unfortunately has shown me that students will be even worse off this coming year. This will have inevitable impact on many other areas of University work and reduce students' time and energy reserves to contribute to University projects or engage in outreach activities.

7. Having attended two Scottish Sabbatical Officer away days since last meeting, I have learnt that many students' unions are providing free breakfasts (as are we), and some have negotiated one-off payments to students and staff. I am in the process of organising meetings with Presidents at various student unions to discuss this and other methods to tackle Cost of Living. Additionally, I have been thoroughly enjoying engaging with prospective students at our Open Days throughout October and November, learning about the concerns facing future students, such as accommodation.

8. Conducting some outreach around hidden course costs, I have been disappointed to learn the extent of the issue, and the inconsistency in material support between Schools and Colleges. I hope to meet with relevant Heads of School to challenge these, though recognise difficulties given that the planning round is underway. Though the typical forum discussions between the University and Association were not organised ahead of the planning round this year, I especially requested time with senior colleagues and look forward to a forum meeting.

9. I am very pleased that two 'Town Hall' events have been agreed and organisation is underway. While this will be student-focused, staff are welcome to attend if they contact me in advance. The first of these events will take place on 16th March. A highlight of the semester so far was presenting to new students during Give It A Go week, sharing some highlights of student life, and hear a little about their university's support services and make the Students' Association more known to them.

Vice President Activities and Services – Natalia Ellingham

10. Natalia has been working with University colleagues on a new Art and Curation Student Interest Group for the Nucleus, which will provide opportunities for student involvement. Through outreach and a survey, she identified a group of students who are interested in producing art and/or curating the space and so now is working with the team on forming a brief for permanent and temporary displays. She is finalising the process for students getting involved ahead of the next meeting of the Nucleus Strategic Oversight Group.

11. As for event planning, Natalia has been involved in planning key annual events including Give it a Go, Student Elections and Welcome Week, and has helped in the behind-the-scenes preparation for several events including the collection for Ukrainian refugees in December and the Breakfast Club. While Natalia is continuing to advocate for a central events platform to improve accessibility of events, this is turning into a longer-term project than she originally envisioned; she is now working on pushing the What's On page on the Students' Association website as a key place for student groups to promote their events.

12. Natalia continues to feed into the peer support strand of the new student support model and is now developing a survey to go out to students. As a separate but linked project, she has been liaising with the student opportunities team to review our peer support offering, including postgraduate peer support and training for Peer Learning & Support leaders. All of this will inform the next phase of the student support model rollout in September.

13. In terms of connecting with students, she has also met with, and will continue to meet, students on a wide range of topics including sustainable kit for clubs and societies, supporting Bedlam Theatre, Edinburgh College of Art's Student-Staff Liaison Committee and motions passed at Student Council to help them achieve their aims. She is continuing to proactively seek students' views and advocate on their behalf for a wide range of issues including study spaces and experience at King's Buildings. The Sabbatical Officers as a group are also working on larger campaigns such as cost of living support, ensuring that concerns are heard and acted upon.

Vice President Community – Isi Williams

14. As Cost of Living lead, Isi has continued to lobby the University Senior Leadership Team on her four Cost of Living requests:

- No increase in rent for those staying in student accommodation next year.
- Free transport cards for all students not covered by the under 22 bus passes.
- Free lunches on campus.
- Library fines and accommodation conduct fines to be eliminated.

15. You can see the whole letter, sent in November, [here](#).

16. While encouraging the University to establish an initiative to tackle food poverty on campus, Isi started the Breakfast Club last semester at the Student's Association, which has now fed thousands of students. It runs every Friday between the hours of 8.30am and 10am.

17. Isi sits on the Coordination Committee for the Russell Group Student Union (RGSU) as Research and Insights Facilitator, of which I am also a member. Their mission statement reads: *We represent over 700,000 students at the universities that form the Russell Group. The RGSU will work to ensure the student experience reflects our universities' world-class reputation.* Recently the group put together a survey to collect data about students' experience in the Cost of Living Crisis, which has gathered over 6000 responses. At the RGSU conference, Isi and myself met with Tim Bradshaw, Chief Executive of the Russell Group, to speak about collaboration on the maintenance loan work conducted by both groups. A joint statement is underway from the Russell Group and the RGSU.

18. Isi has been in consultations with the Accommodation team and the Senior Leadership Team about both their rent strategy and their residential strategy. She is lobbying to ensure that rent in our student accommodations are kept low and don't increase significantly next academic year – which would create barriers on who can attend our institution and access our halls of residence.

19. Following on from her work around housing, she spoke at a Parliamentary Roundtable arranged by Foysol Choudhury about housing and cost of living. She emphasised the need for the Scottish Government to take action to tackle student homelessness and escalating rents. Her speech can be read [here](#).

20. Isi organised the Student Sustainability Forum for mid-February. This will allow the University to report on the work they're doing, while giving students and student groups the opportunity to present their projects to the University, and find ways to collaborate.

Vice President Education – Sam Maccallum

21. Sam has been continuing their work around assessment and recovery after the pandemic. In December, senior colleagues circulated Sam's paper about student concerns regarding in-person exams, alongside recommendations agreed at Senate Education Committee, to the Heads of College and Schools. This included assurances that communications with students about their examinations were improved and that appropriate academic support is given. Following this, the University has agreed to review the effectiveness of the December diet, with the creation of a new group to oversee enhancement of assessment and feedback practices across the University. They are continuing to work towards the April/May diet, and are lobbying the University for financial support for students having to travel or pay accommodation costs during the August resit diets.

22. Sam has also been focusing on student voice and academic support. They are planning the next round of College Student-Staff Liaison Committees and facilitating agenda setting meetings with School representatives and college staff. The first in the College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences has now taken place for the postgraduate research (PGR) students, with common themes including sense of community in postgraduate students, and balancing teaching requirements with research responsibilities. This feeds well into Sam's work to enhance PGR student voice; including the creation of more opportunities for PGR issues to be included in University discussions of student experience. They have also been tasked with recruiting members of one of the Student Lifecycle Management Group's Task and Finish groups, and is using their strong student links to inform this.

23. Sam also continues to work with strategic change projects within the University, including the Curriculum Transformation Programme. Sam has secured more student involvement within the Curriculum Transformation Programme, with one of its subcommittees creating three Students as Change Agents questions that will facilitate students' direct input. Sam presented the Student Engagement Strategy group's paper to the Curriculum Transformation Programme board in January, and was invited to speak at University Senate in early February though was unable to attend. They have also been attending board meetings for the Student Support Model and have continued to work with the Extensions and Special Circumstances task group with Lauren.

Vice President Welfare – Lauren Byrne

24. Lauren has been involved in the relaunch of the #Let'sTalk campaign by getting student input and scheduling monthly themes, to promote having open conversations about student mental health and wellbeing. This works in conjunction with the

Student Mental Health Agreement project, for which she facilitated a thematic discussion at Student Council to better understand students' experiences of mental health services at university. She also wrote for an article in The Student Newspaper about the Student Counselling Service, to raise awareness of developments to the service and to emphasise the importance of commitment to funding the service.

25. Lauren and Sam have been working on the Extensions and Special Circumstances Task Group, where they have been working to advocate for minority student groups, and to discuss how extensions play a critical role to make assessments accessible for everyone.

26. Lauren organised a community and solidarity event for trans and non-binary students and staff in collaboration with the Staff Pride Network, and released a statement to show our support for this community. She has also been in contact with University staff to discuss the recent challenges with freedom of expression impinging on the Dignity and Respect Policy.

27. The Sabbatical Officer team, and other staff and representatives took antisemitism awareness training, to deepen our understanding of this topic and better prepare us for work such as the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition task and finish group. Lauren and Isi also met with the President of the Islamic society to discuss how we can support students during Ramadan, particularly those at Pollock Halls.

28. Lauren hosted the Widening Participation Student Forum and Social, for students often underrepresented in higher education to have an opportunity to raise issues and questions to University senior leadership. She has also pushed for the reopening of the Participation Grant for second semester as an essential resource for students, especially during the Cost of Living crisis. She has also been working with various colleagues and reps to explore progression of our support for student parents.

29. She is also consulting different students and staff to explore how we can refresh and reemphasise the #NoExcuse campaign, prioritising how we target potential perpetrators of gender-based violence while keeping our work trauma-informed, and how we can diversify the range of experiences we represent.

Give it a Go and January Arrivals

30. 'Give it a Go' week took place in week 1 of semester 2. This provides an opportunity for new visiting students to easily connect with student groups, as well as letting existing students re-connect or explore new opportunities. This follows immediately after the January arrival period, with the Association contributing some key information and induction activity prior to the semester starting, alongside University colleagues. Over 80 groups participated and showcased their activity in our Student Opportunities Fair, and there were also 80 events provided during the week both by the Association and our student groups. Give it a Go also incorporated our 'Cultural Festival', which saw a well-attended international ceilidh, a cultural fair showcasing international and cultural groups and providing tasters of their activity, our volunteer-led language cafes, and our popular Tandem Speed Lingua event.

Student Elections

31. Nominations for our elections have been open since Christmas and closed on 15th February. Campaigning and voting will be taking place in March, with results announced at an elections celebration on Friday 11th March. We have almost 50 positions available, including School representatives, Liberation officers, Section representatives (who represent and support cohorts like student parents, carers, and mature students, for example). We are currently focussing on engaging as many students as possible to encourage them to run, noting that good candidate numbers is a critical factor in engaging more students in the voting phase and getting good turnout. We work closely with colleagues in Schools to help spread the word and encourage students to take up the opportunity to represent their peers at School level. These elections include the 5 full time sabbatical officer positions, who will join the organisation full time from Monday 29th May for handover, followed by a residential induction with the senior management team, prior to taking up their roles formally when the current team step down on Friday 9th June.

Recognising and Celebrating Students, and Staff

32. Our two annual recognition schemes – Teaching Awards, and Student Awards – are both currently live.

33. The Teaching Awards are now in their 15th year! These enable students to share insights and recognise academic and support staff who have demonstrated great practice in a variety of categories. So far we've received over 1300 nominations. We contact every staff member nominated with the feedback students have given, which staff tell us is incredibly positive and motivating for them. All nominees are published in our [Roll of Honour](#) as nominations come in, and we'll be announcing the shortlist in the spring, and will celebrate the winners at a special reception.

34. Our Student Awards enable students or staff to nominate individuals or groups of students who've made a difference within the student community or beyond. This always generates an amazing and inspiring set of insights into just how much our members and student groups do to support each other and also the local community. We also partner with Development and Alumni to promote the Being Edinburgh Award to recognise alumni achievements. We'll be announcing the shortlist in the spring and will celebrate our students at a special reception.

35. You can read more about the Teaching Awards [here](#) and more about the Student Awards [here](#).

Finance Update: High Level Summary: January 2023 (Period 10)

£ 000's	YTD			Current Month		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Commercial net income	341	165	176	(53)	(68)	15
Block Grant	2,686	2,714	(28)	279	283	(5)
Total net income	3,027	2,879	149	226	215	10
Membership Engagement & People Development	(932)	(1,034)	102	(94)	(110)	16
Corporate Services	(1,127)	(1,030)	(97)	(137)	(115)	(22)
Marketing & Member Communication	(300)	(326)	26	(26)	(31)	5
Central Overheads	(571)	(447)	(125)	(40)	(47)	8
Total non-commercial expenditure	(2,930)	(2,836)	(94)	(296)	(303)	7
Surplus / (deficit)	97	42	55	(70)	(88)	17

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

Commentary & analysis

36. The January overall result is a deficit of £70k which is £17k better than the budget. This deficit reduces our year to date surplus to £97k. January is always a quiet month as it includes nearly all of the holiday closures and most of our trading outlets have only been open for part of the month. As has been the case for most of this year, some continued staff vacancies and lower expenditure on overheads is helping to improve the overall bottom line.

37. Utility costs continue to be a specific, and ongoing challenge, January sees similar levels to December and we are now expecting utility costs to be around £460k for the year, which is £210k over budget (85%) and nearly £300k over previous years. For context this is double our full year budgeted surplus, and equates to almost 15% of our University grant income, compared to just 5% only 2 years ago. We are currently working through our proposed budget for 2023-24 and having to absorb these increasing utility costs, which are both beyond our control and are unlikely to reduce, is likely to mean reconsidering current and future levels of operations and services to students although clearly this is undesirable.

Full Year Forecast

38. The latest forecast based on the actuals to January and a forecast for February and March are still indicating a full year surplus in the region of £80-£100k. This compares to our budgeted surplus of £156k. We have absorbed a significant amount of inflationary cost, as noted particularly in utilities, which is impacting our full year forecast. The forecast is being monitored closely as we approach our year end.

39. We continue to work on our longer term financial recovery, looking beyond the immediacy of the coming year. Our Trustee Board has agreed a defined 'financial recovery' post pandemic and set a base forecast to achieve that recovery. This definition would be to reach a balance sheet position of £400k net assets, by year 6 of our 10 year forecast - we currently have c£700k net liabilities. We are also setting stretch targets which if achieved would enable us to achieve that position earlier. We do have some challenging years ahead of us – particularly the next two years as a result of implementing and achieving the intended outcomes of two staff-facing workstrands: our Real Living Wage strategy – which sees us move to the Real Living Wage by 2025 – and of our Pay and Reward Review, which we are implementing on

a phased basis during 2023. In short, that review creates a new pay framework of bands and increments for our staff, as well as achieving an enhanced 'base' rate of pay for that framework which also supports engagement and retention of our frontline service staff, many of whom are our students. Both of these workstrands are strategic commitments to support staff recruitment, motivation and retention (in an increasingly challenging and competitive environment for many of our operations), and support great service delivery

Events and Festival

40. It is perhaps worth highlighting that we have now finalised our year end expectation and finances from Festival, and these have improved from the initial forecast in September's report, we expect the year end to deliver a contribution of circa £250k, which is an improvement over the £224k initially reported.

41. Court members may also be interested to know the scale of our operations, and the link with our own members and term time operations.

- We welcomed over 1.9 million people through our venues during the Festivals period and sold over 250,000 pints in 27 days.
- Of our 300 Festival staff, all newly recruited for August 2022 65% of them were Edinburgh University students with a further 25% being other students across other Universities in Scotland or the UK, 'home' for the summer or in Edinburgh specifically to take up Festival opportunities.
- We retained 130 staff on our books from the Festival that transitioned into term time work with us showing that we are a Fringe employer who not only provides Festival work but year round work opportunities.
- Work was done in 2022 to open up opportunities for students within the Festival. One of those ways was through collaborating with our onsite Festival Partners. Three student groups performed with Pleasance Theatre Trust this August, selling £4,700 worth of ticket sales and Pleasance managing to underwrite over £3,000 of these to support our groups.

42. This year planning has already commenced for the 2023 Festival with positive signs that all of our spaces will be used to full capacity again this year by our partners. Recruitment planning has also begun, and we are seeking to retain as many existing Association staff as possible from our existing pool, which grew considerably post 2022 Festival. We now have very effective mechanisms to support recruitment at scale including video interviewing, online training for some core induction and compliance pieces, and group onsite induction with a focus on building a strong sense of belonging and motivation, and focus on customer experience.

43. In other trading news, whilst generally positive; our core nightclub event had a challenging end to the year with attendance numbers in steady decline following our Halloween event, average numbers up to Christmas dropped from our Year To Date average of 1,000 to 650 a 35% drop off in attendees which is significant given the high financial contribution from this event. With no material change to the content or concept we can only attribute this to the cost of living impact being felt by our core customer base. We will continue to monitor the situation and promote as effectively as possible throughout Semester 2 (numbers for the first events of 2023 returned to capacity which offers a degree of optimism). That said, our daytime core catering

trade remains strong and in growth across all sites. In-house refurbishments of some spaces, such as the Teviot Dining Room are supporting students looking for informal study space. We have also refurbished the Magnet café at King's Buildings.

44. Our new Shop and Wrap bar located in King's Buildings Nucleus continues to go from strength to strength and is outperforming budget. More teaching is being planned for the Nucleus site in the coming months so we are already considering how we might develop the outlet further to maximise the opportunities. The implementation of the new self-scan till system has aided throughout and is helping to maintain costs under budget. We will reassess the results of this new till system at Easter with a view to exploring the opportunities to roll this out across our other outlets.

Teviot Refurbishment Scheme

45. The previous scheme to renovate and extend Teviot was cancelled under the capital prioritisation plan as Court members will know. A new scheme of work being developed focuses on some important compliance work, transforming the accessibility of the building which is undoubtedly a long-standing issue for our members. We are seeking some additional support to include some limited betterment – improvements to the layout and refurbishments – to ensure the building can be fit for current and future student needs, and also support our financial sustainability into the future. The finance and business impacts on the Association, and service/relationship impacts for us with our students during the work are very significant and we are working through mitigations for these.

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

47. Financial risks are highlighted in the report.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

48. Several of the activities outlined do support a wide variety of the SDGs.

Equality & Diversity

49. 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

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

Consultation

51. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

52. Author & Presenter

Niamh Roberts

President 22-23

February 2023

Freedom of Information

53. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Edinburgh University Sports Union Report

Description of paper

1. This paper is to note developments at Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) since the last Court meeting, providing updates on current work and strategic progress.
2. The Sports Union's activity and direction clearly contributes to the following aspects of Strategy 2030:
 - i) The undergraduate curriculum will support breadth and choice, preparing students, graduates and alumni to make a difference in whatever they do, wherever they do it.
 - ii) We will be leading Scotland's commitment to widening participation.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) We will have created opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts.
 - v) We will be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To note the report, recognising the wider benefit of sport and physical activity to the University community, and consider its contents as supporting other initiatives and projects designed to improve student satisfaction and enhancing the student experience.

Background and context

4. This paper outlines current activity and achievements of EUSU, alongside strategic developments for the future.

Discussion

Semester 2 Engagement

5. At the start of semester 2, we challenged ourselves and our clubs to engage new and returning students and make this the biggest January Welcome yet. Our clubs delivered, running around 50 Give it a Go sessions in week 1, and we also attended University and Students' Association Fairs to promote the sport and physical activity offering at Edinburgh. Since the start of the semester, we have gained 519 new student Sports Union members, bringing our Sports Union membership count past 7,000. We estimate that with Intramural and recreational sport included, we currently engage around 8,500 students in physical activity, with more reached via livestreaming games (an average 669 views per stream) and physical spectating.
6. We have utilised our own participation funds to support a small number of students who have reached out directly, primarily international students, postgraduates, or those who had concerns about being able to continue a sport they had enjoyed in semester one. The role the University's Student Participation Fund

played in supporting students' participation in sport and other extracurricular activities last semester was welcomed, and it would be further impactful if we could explore options to support more students facing financial hardship through this beyond the three categories of students the fund currently targets.

Edinburgh Winter Run

7. The Edinburgh Winter Run took place on 21st January in Holyrood Park and was a great success, with the University community represented by 600 participants all wearing distinctive forest green University of Edinburgh t-shirts. It was great to witness the camaraderie between the University runners and there was a real sense of community as University runners were clapped across the finish line. We were particularly encouraged by the number of international students who took part in the run, and it was great to involve staff in an event alongside students. We would like to thank Lucy Evans, Deputy Secretary Students, in particular for the support she gave towards this event. The feedback from the event organisers was extremely positive, with next year's event already scheduled for the 20th January 2024. Next year we hope to build on this and involve even more University of Edinburgh students and staff in the run.

Sport Participation Activator

8. In the last planning round we secured funding for a new full-time member of staff to support the development of recreational sport. We have recruited a recent University of Edinburgh graduate into this role, known as the Sport Participation Activator, who started in February. The role is offering support to the staff team in the delivery of Intramural and recreational programmes. The role is designed to increase engagement, develop opportunities for students and engage with Schools across the University.

9. Whilst the primary purpose of this role is to increase activity in recreational and intramural sport settings, we also see this a way to give a recent graduate a route into sports administration, giving the opportunity for individual to lead on projects and gain valuable experience in a professional sporting environment. We are looking forward to seeing how the role will facilitate growth and development of our programmes, and offer further support to clubs delivering their own recreational sport sessions.

10. Recent analysis from Sport & Exercise showed that the highest demand spaces within their facilities are at above 95% usage at off-peak times and over 99% at peak times during the semester, which continues to pose challenges for expanding the offering of our most popular sports and for developing new participation programmes. Over the last few years, we have made adaptations to maximise the facility resources on offer, such as Intramural Netball moving outdoors and a number of clubs training in public parks, but we recognise that these spaces do not always offer the same high quality experience that Sport & Exercise facilities do, particularly in the winter months (see point 23).

Constitution Changes

11. As part of ongoing work on our governance structure in line with our 2020-24 strategy, our membership approved the addition of Friends of EUSU at a Special General Meeting on 17th November 2022.

12. Through this group, we hope to engage alumni and other supporters with a strong connection to the Sports Union, and leverage their potential to support with industry knowledge, student development, and other ad-hoc advice or support we might find helpful. The Executive Committee will invite members to join this group on an annual basis. We currently hope to launch the group at the start of the next academic year around the Scottish Varsity Rugby match.

13. This constitution change was accompanied by other minor edits and clarifications around requirements for office bearer candidates and Associate member clubs. An updated copy of our Constitution can be found on the Sports Union website or requested by contacting the Sports Union President.

Concussion Awareness Training Pilot

14. In collaboration with FASIC (Fitness Assessment and Sports Injuries Centre) and the Sports Union, ConcussED have launched a pilot programme within our Coaching and Volunteering Academy offering 250 coaches and club members the opportunity to take part in concussion awareness training. We hope to build on this this next year to reach even more members and educate them around this important sport science topic. Sports Union staff representatives have also joined a Scottish Student Sport working group on concussion education, where we hope to expand this to a national scale.

Elections

15. With the election cycle approaching, we have worked with Information Services and our website providers MSL to move the Sports Union Presidential election voting from MyEd to our own website. This has been made possible by implementing Single Sign-On (SSO) to our website, which has also made the log in process a lot smoother for students. We will continue to explore other ways in which data sharing can be used to improve the experience of students using our services.

16. Alongside this, we have been working with the Students' Association to see how we can cross-promote our elections and encourage more students to vote, as having a greater proportion of students voting is important for both organisations.

Volunteer Zambia

17. This summer, three students (all studying sport-related courses) and a member of staff will be heading out to Zambia as part of Volunteer Zambia, the sports development programme we are involved with through the Wallace Group. This time students will be in Zambia for a longer period of time, eight weeks, based on feedback from the community in Zambia. The students going are currently undertaking a strong training and development programme leading up to the project, in order to maximise the impact they can have in Zambia.

18. To ensure the sustainability and longevity of the project, the universities that run the project are have hired a part-time Sport Development Manager (International) who will be based in Zambia for most of the year. This position is a joint venture between all seven Wallace Group universities and will be employed by the Sports Union here at Edinburgh, strengthening the position of the University of Edinburgh within the group and this project.

Looking Ahead – Intramural Sport

19. We have identified intramural sport as one of our biggest potential growth areas over the next three years, in participants, breadth of sports offered, and quality of offering. Intramural currently covers nine sports and has approximately 1,500 participants, with students representing their School, society, halls, or entering as a group of friends. This low-cost option creates a sense of belonging at a local level, fits easily around academic and extracurricular commitments, and allows students to take part in regular competitive sport regardless of their ability.

20. With the new Sport Participation Activator role created providing additional staffing resource to intramural, there will be capacity to implement new sports that we have trialled previously, such as Volleyball and Table Tennis, and experiment with new competition formats such as cup matches. We also hope to increase engagement with Schools, societies, and halls of residence, facilitated by this new role and leveraging already engaged students within these areas. Facility capacity remains a concern, but we are confident that there is enough scope for innovation in how we deliver the programme to make a noticeable impact within our current accommodation (see point 24).

Resource implications

21. This is a regular update report from the Sports Union; therefore, no resource implications are outlined.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

By the very nature of the Sports Union, we work to promote healthy living and ensure our members are well. In particular, the Edinburgh Winter Run, the International Sports Club, and the Brit Challenge promote this and reach a wide range of students and staff. Club Wellbeing Officers receive training to support them with promoting positive wellbeing within their clubs.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

By providing free personal development opportunities and workshops through the Coaching and Volunteering Academy such as ConcussED, we upskill our coaches, volunteers, staff, and other students who engage in sport.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

By livestreaming sport matches, we are able to showcase the talented women who participate in sport at the University and introduce new audiences to women's sport. Our Inclusion committee continues to work to increase participation and ensure that underrepresented groups are included in sport at Edinburgh.

SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

By closely monitoring trends in student engagement in sport and the current financial climate, we are able to adapt our activity to include more students whilst ensuring we have the financial means to continue to grow and develop our offering. By encouraging staff, students, and coaches to engage with our Coaching and

Volunteering Academy (alongside other University programmes) we can increase their employability and improve their experience at work and in University.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Our International Sports Club actively seeks to increase participation in physical activity in International students, a group who traditionally have lower rates of engagement in sport at the University. Our work with the Volunteer Zambia project promotes the development of sport in Zambia. By working to increase participation in recreational sport, we ensure that students have the opportunity to take part in physical activity regardless of their financial circumstances.

Equality & Diversity

22. Equality and Diversity considerations are implicitly included in this paper. EUSU are committed to offering opportunities to students regardless of their background, working alongside our Inclusion Committee to break down barriers to sport and physical activity for underrepresented groups. EUSU represents the interests of a diversity of student groups and must ensure we maintain the equal representation of students and student groups.

Next steps/implications

23. An implication of this paper that Court are asked to consider are the current plans for Peffermill Sports Campus, and how these can be progressed to a workable solution soon. A new indoor sports facility and additional artificial surfaces would be transformational for both the quality and scale of our sporting offer, and allow for step-changes in our recreational and intramural sport offering that there is currently not the capacity to do.

24. The new role of Sport Participation Activator remains an exciting prospect, and we would encourage readers to consider how this role could engage the wider university community in sport, in its broadest sense, and if there are any staff within the university that could tap into this resource.

25. If any Court members would be interested in hearing more about the work of the Sports Union and meeting some of our incredible volunteers, please do not hesitate to get in touch on sports.president@ed.ac.uk.

Consultation

26. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

27. *Author*
Heather Gault
Sports Union President
February 2023

Freedom of Information

28. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Director of Finance's Report

Description of paper

Paragraph 1: Closed section

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. To review and comment on the latest update.

Background and context

4. The paper provides a regular update on finance related issues for Court.

Paragraphs 5-17: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

18. 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

19. 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

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

Consultation

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

Further information

22. Authors

Rachael Robertson
Deputy Director of Finance

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

14 February 2023

Presenter

Lee Hamill
Director of Finance

Freedom of Information

23. Closed paper – commercially confidential.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Engineering Hub

Description of paper

1. This paper includes a revised Full Business Case for the Engineering Hub and seeks approval of funding to progress the project to completion.
2. The proposals in the paper will contribute to the following outcomes set out in Strategy 2030:
 - I. We will see our research having a greater impact as a result of partnership, international outreach and investment in emergent disciplines.
 - II. The undergraduate curriculum will support breadth and choice, preparing students, graduates and alumni to make a difference in whatever they do, wherever they do it.
 - III. Our estate will be fit for purpose, sustainable and accessible. We will support learning, research and collaboration with our neighbours, businesses and partners.
 - IV. We will be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To:
 - Note the revised Full Business Case, which has been approved by Estates Committee.
 - Approve funding to progress the project to completion.
 - Note that this funding request is in addition to previously approved funding for Design Team fees and enabling works.

Background and context

4. The new Engineering Hub is designed to accelerate the delivery of parts of the University Strategy, unlocking new opportunities by creating a location for research in renewable energy and future electronics, integrating facilities for experiential learning which will support the implementation of Curriculum Transformation, and introducing innovation space that will support local and global impacts.
5. In providing co-located blended spaces for researchers and students, student and staff experience will both improve. Combined with opportunities for innovation and collaboration with external partners, the building will be able to support a key plank of the University's Curriculum Transformation ambitions in experiential learning, as well as provide a pipeline of talent for companies in critical sectors areas of local, national and global need.
6. The building shall sit adjacent to the existing FloWave facility and Scottish Microelectronics Centre that are also occupied by Engineering, and will create a new focal point for the School at the western end of the campus.

7. The Hub being located next to the FloWave facility, School of Geosciences and to a part of the School of Biological Sciences as well as the King's Buildings premises of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), provides a geographic centre for the University's work on Climate & Sustainability at King's Buildings. This geography is enhanced by the design of the new building which encourages and has specific space for collaboration.



Image 1: King's Buildings Campus Plan with new Engineering Hub

8. As home to leaders in the University strategic sustainability agenda, the Engineering Hub building will embrace low carbon technology in its material choices and construction methods whilst delivering facilities which directly support active research into renewable systems, acting as a 'living lab' for emerging technologies in the fields of energy and electronics.

Paragraphs 9-29: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

30. The Engineering Hub project aligns to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG4 - Quality Education to empower women and girls and ensure their equal rights.
- SDG8 - Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

- SDG9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

31. A sustainability strategy for the project has been developed in conjunction with the draft version of the University's bespoke sustainability strategy v3. Sustainability proposals, adopted within the building design, focus primarily on passive energy reduction measures, such as reduced glazing and solar control and high levels of air tightness and thermal insulation to the building envelope. Active energy reduction measures are also proposed, including 300m² of photovoltaic cells, mixed mode ventilation and connection to the campus Combined Heat and Power plant. The Engineering Hub design complies with all aspects of good practice, University guidelines and energy targets.

Equality & Diversity

32. Full disabled access is planned for the project and consultations have taken place with the University Disability Office, Estates Disability Access and Equality Manager and the School of Engineering Equalities and Disabilities co-ordinator to inform the design. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out.

Paragraph 33: Closed section

Consultation

34. The Full Business Case has been prepared in conjunction with the College, School of Engineering and Finance Business Partners. Estates Committee has reviewed and approved the business case and recommended the funding request to Policy & Resources Committee, which in turn has reviewed the funding request and recommended this to University Court for approval. The paper has been reviewed by the Head of Estates Planning, College Registrar and the Director of Estate Development.

Further information

Paragraph 35: Closed section

36. Authors

Jo White
Estates Development Manager

Iain Gordon
Head of College
College of Science and Engineering

Presenters

Gary Jebb
Director of Place

Iain Gordon
Head of College
College of Science and Engineering

Freedom of Information

37. Closed paper – commercially confidential.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Update on Research Excellence Framework (REF) Planning

Description of paper

1. Nine months on from publication of the REF2021 results, this paper provides an update on plans and progress in preparing for the next REF.
2. This paper contributes to the following elements of Strategy 2030:
 - We will see our research having a greater impact as a result of partnership, international reach and investment in emergent disciplines.
 - We will have created opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To consider and note this update.

Paragraphs 4-22: Closed section

Consultation

23. This paper has been reviewed by the Provost and the University Secretary and is scheduled for the discussion at the University Executive's meeting on 21 February – relevant points from this will be covered within the paper's presentation at Court

Further information

24. Authors

Christina Boswell
Vice-Principal Research and
Enterprise

Susan Cooper, Strategic Research
Executive, Edinburgh Research
Office

Presenter

Christina Boswell
Vice-Principal Research and Enterprise

Freedom of Information

25. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Development & Alumni Annual Report; Donations and Legacies; Alumni Activities

Description of paper

1. The paper provides: a brief overview of the work led by Development & Alumni (D&A) during 2021/22; a report on legacies and donations received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust or directly by the University of Edinburgh from 5 November 2022 to 31 January 2023; and, 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. To note the legacies and donations received, the overview of 2021/22 D&A work and the current alumni relations activities.

Paragraphs 4-23: Closed section

Global Alumni Events

24. Upcoming global alumni events are:

Toronto, Canada Edinburgh University Club of Toronto virtual talk featuring Professor Jamie Cross, Director of the Edinburgh Earth Initiative	February 2023
Boston, USA Edinburgh University Club of Boston tailored committee volunteer recruitment event	February 2023
Accra, Ghana Alumni reception as part of a University delegation visit to Ghana	March 2023
Hong Kong Focussed alumni and supporter event including showcase of the Martin Lee Doctoral Scholarship programme	March 2023
New York, USA Scotland Week 2023 and the 25th Anniversary New York City Tartan Day Parade, followed by alumni reception	April 2023

Alumni Burns Supper Events

25. We were delighted to see the return of a number of in-person alumni Burns Night events across the globe in January. The alumni clubs of Washington DC, Toronto, New York and Chicago hosted their first Burns Suppers since the start of the

pandemic, and all saw great turnouts and received wonderful feedback. Alumni based in Delhi also gathered for an informal Burns celebration.

Student Engagement

26. Alumni volunteers supported a number of important activities for current and prospective students towards the end of last semester, including Postgraduate Online Open Days where potential future students could put their questions directly to our panellists to help inform their decision-making. Alumni also took part in a cross-College event for undergraduate students in Biological Sciences and Biomedical Sciences, where they offered a flavour of their working life, what they have learned in their early career, how they have developed their skillsets and constructive advice on how to overcome challenges.

27. As mentioned previously, over £161,000 was awarded across 46 successful grant applications in the autumn 2022 round of Student Experience Grants. These funds will support an array of innovative projects and initiatives that will enhance student development and experience. Funded projects include support for HYPED to design, manufacture and test a scalable Hyperloop pod prototype for competition and a student nurse led project that aims to deliver CPR training to staff and students across the University community. You can see the full list of awards [here](#).

Being Edinburgh Award 2023

28. Nominations for the Being Edinburgh Award 2023 closed at the end of January. Being Edinburgh focuses on shared values and impact, recognising alumni who are making a difference in ways that are not always visible, but whose actions positively affect others. Shortlisting of our finalists is currently taking place and an online vote open to alumni, students and staff to select the winner will go live on Monday 27 February.

Alumni Communications

29. A refreshed version of the [Multi Story Edinburgh handbook](#), tailored to our winter graduating class of 2022, was handed out during the winter graduation ceremonies. It features stories, experiences and wisdom from alumni, along with information and support for career planning, continued learning and remaining a part of the Edinburgh community. The handbook was also posted out to students who could not attend their graduation ceremony in person. Close collaboration with Student Administration enabled the handbooks to be mailed to graduates along with their degree certificates.

30. The third edition of the reinvigorated Enlightened digital magazine was issued in December, featuring more stories from the Edinburgh alumni community. This time we highlight how the Galápagos Islands are helping researchers fight the energy crisis, take a look at how Scotland's ethnic minority citizens really feel, and hear from a lawyer and a doctor who share their personal stories of transformation and discovery. You can read Issue 03 [here](#).

Resource implications

31. 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

32. 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

33. 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 SDGs.

Equality & Diversity

34. 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

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

Consultation

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

Further information

37. Authors

Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement

Gregor Hall, Finance Manager

Natalie Fergusson, Global Alumni Manager
Development & Alumni Office

Presenter

Chris Cox

Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement

Freedom of Information

38. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Student Pulse Survey

Description of paper

1. This paper provides a report on the University's Student Pulse Survey for December 2022.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To note the update.

Background and context

3. We have completed our first temperature check of student satisfaction this year through our Pulse Survey of all students in December. There are learnings from the responses that we need to respond to our students to let them know we are listening and taking action.

4. The National Student Survey (NSS) has opened for completion, with results due in July.

Paragraphs 5-25: Closed section

Further information

26. Authors

Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary Students

Presenter

Professor Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students

Professor Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students

Freedom of Information

27. Closed paper – contains confidential internal survey data.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Update on arrangements for Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections, and proposed amendment to Senate Election Regulations

Description of paper

1. The paper updates Court on the arrangements, approved by Senate at its 8 February 2023 meeting, for the operation of the 2023 elections for academic staff to Senate, and for election of elected Senate academic staff members to Senate Standing Committees.

2. The paper also notifies Court of a proposed amendment to the [Senatus Academicus \(Senate\) Election Regulations](#) to change the status of Senate Assessors on Court when determining the number of vacancies available for elected academic staff members on Senate. The paper summarises Legal Services' advice to Academic Services, which is that such an amendment would be in breach of [University Ordinance 212 \(Composition of the Senatus Academicus\)](#).

Action requested/Recommendation

3. Court is invited to note the arrangements for the conduct of Senate and Senate Standing Committee elections (see paragraphs 8 to 12, and 13 to 14).

4. Court is also invited to decide whether or not to approve the proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations (see paragraphs 16 to 19) taking account of the legal advice.

Background and context

5. Under Ordinance 212, academic staff elect "from their own number" a total of 200 members of Senate – 100 Professors and 100 non-Professorial academic staff. Senate holds annual elections for these positions. Paragraphs 8 to 12 set out the arrangements that Senate approved for these elections at its meeting in February 2023.

6. At its 12 October 2022 meeting, Senate agreed to add three elected academic staff members of Senate to each of the three [Senate Standing Committees](#). Senate agreed that, from 2023-24, it would fill these positions via an annual electoral process. When it approved this change to Committee membership in October 2022, it did so on the understanding that it would firm up the detailed electoral arrangements at its meeting in February 2023. Paragraphs 13 to 14 set out the arrangements it has subsequently agreed.

7. Senate elects from its membership two Senate Assessors to Court. At its 8 February 2023 meeting, Senate agreed to support a proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations, to change the status of Senate Assessors on Court when determining the number of vacancies available for elected academic staff members on Senate. See paragraphs 15 to 19.

Discussion

Election of academic staff members to Senate – Returning Officer, process, allocation of terms and timelines

8. Senate appointed Lisa Dawson, Academic Registrar as the Returning Officer of the Senate Elections and Olivia Hayes, Academic Policy Officer, as the Deputy Returning Officer.

9. Senate approved a revised process for conducting elections, allowing for one, two and three year terms to be allocated to successful candidates, in order that a similar number of vacancies are available for election each year. Under these new arrangements, terms will be allocated based on the number of nominees and voter preferences. Court Services confirmed that the process for allocating terms is compatible with the Senate Election Regulations as they stand.

10. Senate approved the following process for conducting elections:

- In the event there are more than 11 nominees in a cohort with more than 11 vacancies, a method of Staged-Weighted Inclusive Gregory Method (WIGM) is utilised to conduct the election.
- An election would take place even if there are enough vacancies for all eligible candidates, to allow the terms of office (1, 2 or 3 years) to be determined for each candidate.

11. Senate approved the following timeline for the nomination and election period:

Wednesday 1 March 2023	Nominations open
Wednesday 29 March 2023 (12 noon)	Nominations close
Wednesday 19 April 2023 (9am) to Wednesday 26 April 2023 (12 noon)	Voting open online

12. These timescales are later in the year than has been the case in previous years - in order to avoid the period for nominations being disrupted by the planned University & College Union (UCU) industrial action.

Election to a Senate Standing Committees – Returning Officers, process and timelines

13. Senate appointed Lisa Dawson, Academic Registrar as the Returning Officer of the Senate Elections and Olivia Hayes, Academic Policy Officer, as the Deputy Returning Officer.

14. Senate approved the following timeline for the nomination and election of elected Senate members to Senate Standing Committees:

Wednesday 8 February 2023	Nominations open
Wednesday 8 March 2023 (12 noon)	Nominations close
Wednesday 22 March 2023 (9am) to Wednesday 29 March 2023 (12 noon)	Voting open online

Proposed amendment to Senate Election Regulations – status of Senate Assessors when determining the number of elected academic staff vacancies

15. Under current regulations for the election of Senate Assessors (following changes made by Senate in 2022), only elected academic staff members on Senate can stand for nomination and election as Senate Assessors. Assessors are elected for a four-year term on Court. This term exceeds the three-year maximum single term of election to Senate. Therefore, in order to ensure that Senate Assessors retain Senate membership during their full term on Court, the Senate Election Regulations state that “Senate Assessors retain Senate membership as ex officio members for the duration of their term as Court members”. However, the final sentence in Regulation 22 of the Senate Election Regulations stipulates that “Senate Assessors will be included in the count of College elected members throughout their term of office as a Senate Assessor”. This means that there would remain no more than 200 elected members of academic staff on Senate.

16. At its 8 February 2023 meeting, Senate supported a proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations to amend paragraph 22 to remove Senate Assessors from the overall count of elected Senate staff members. Appendix 3 of [Paper 3C](#) of the February 2023 Senate meeting sets out the full proposal for this change. The paper states the following rationale for this change:

“...it seems more in the spirit of the Ordinance not to count the Assessors toward the total number of elected members, respecting the clear separation of ex officio and elected members in Senate and the different functions served by each in governance. When other elected members move to ex officio status, e.g. by appointment as Dean or Head of School, they are likewise removed from the elected member count.”

17. The proposed amendment would mean that the positions previously filled by Senate Assessors would become vacant on their election to Court and become available for election in the next available round of Senate elections.

18. In order to implement this change, Court would need to approve a change to the Senate Election Regulations – in particular, to delete the final sentence of Regulation 22 (see above). Academic Services advised Senate that it would seek legal advice on the proposed change before seeking Court approval. Legal Services have provided advice on this amendment. They advise that the proposed change is in breach of Ordinance 212 because it would result in more elected members serving on Senate that is permitted by Ordinance 212 (the Ordinance only permits 200 elected members, and the proposal does not address the fact that Senate Assessors continue in their posts as elected members for all, or the majority, of their Senate Assessor term, which would increase this 200 number if additional elected spaces were added to take account of the Senate Assessor roles). External public law legal experts have confirmed they are in full agreement with the internal advice given by Legal Services. Accordingly, the advice from Legal Services and external solicitors is that approving the proposed amendment would result in a breach of Ordinance 212.

19. On the basis of this advice, Academic Services advise that Court does not approve the proposed change to the Election Regulations.

Resource implications

20. The revised process for electing academic staff to Senate, and the new arrangements for electing Senate members to the Senate Standing Committees, are anticipated to have greater resourcing requirements associated due to the likelihood of having a greater number of elections to manage. Information Services Group have commissioned Civica Election Services to run the University's elections on its behalf, including Senate-related elections. The cost of Civica running the Senate elections and the Senate Standing Committee elections will be met from within existing Information Services Group budgets. The coordination and communication of those elections will also have implications for Academic Services' Senate Support team.

Risk Management

21. The University's Risk Policy and Risk Appetite statement refers to the University holding 'no appetite for any breaches in statute, regulation.' Senate elections are mandated by University Ordinance 212, and the University would be exposed to potential legal risk if it acts contrary to the Ordinance.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

22. Not applicable

Equality & Diversity

23. An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted on the overall approach to Senate elections and is available on the [Equality and Diversity webpages](#). This assessment assumes a regular rotation/refreshment of members and the filling of most elected vacancies. Senate election advertising materials highlight the University's commitment to improving the diversity of key University committees, and encourage all academic staff to consider standing. The Senate elections will be advertised widely through multiple channels.

Next steps/implications

24. Senate and Senate Standing Committee elections will be coordinated by staff within the Academic Services team and run by Civica. Information on the elections will be published on Senate webpages and communications through multiple channels including the Senate website, all-staff email, and social media.

Consultation

25. Senate approved the Returning Officers, process and timelines for Senate and Senate Standing Committee elections.

26. Senate supported the proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations. Legal Services have provided legal advice on the proposed amendment, and this advice is provided within the paper

Further information

27. Authors

Olivia Hayes

Academic Policy Officer & Clerk to Senate

Tom Ward

Director of Academic Services

With legal advice provided by Legal
Services and external solicitors

20 February 2023

Presenter

Lucy Evans

Deputy Secretary, Students

Freedom of Information

28. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Laigh Year Regulations

Description of paper

1. This paper is presented to Court for approval. Court and Senate are jointly responsible for approving the Laigh Year Regulations.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To approve the Laigh Year Regulations, provided in Appendix 1.

3. Senate received the Laigh Year Regulations at its 8 February meeting, however the meeting was adjourned prior to the paper being considered. Senate will consider the Laigh Year Regulations for approval when it reconvenes on 15 March 2023.

Background and context

4. The Laigh Year Regulations are University Regulations which allow student sabbatical officers in the Edinburgh University Students' Association and the Edinburgh University Sports Union to matriculate as students of the University without (during the academic year concerned) having to fulfil the normal academic requirement of their programme of study. This allows them to continue to be regarded as students while they undertake their full time sabbatical officer duties in the Students' Association and the Sports Union.

Discussion

6. The Laigh Year Regulations are reviewed and approved by both Court and Senate every five years and are due for review this year, having been last reviewed and approved in the 2017/18 academic year.

7. Academic Services have reviewed the Regulations and consulted with the Students' Association, the Sports Union, and Court Services. No changes to the Regulations are being recommended.

8. The annual uprating of stipend payments increase in line with the UK Research & Innovation Doctoral stipend. In 2022/23 an exceptional increase in the UK Research & Innovation stipend was made out of cycle and this increase was agreed to be paid to students in receipt of a stipend. The annual rate of Laigh Year payments was increased in-year and is reflected in paragraph 3.1 of the Regulation. Thereafter payments will be increased annually by the percentage increase in the UK Research & Innovation National Minimum Doctoral Stipend.

Resource implications

9. There are no direct resource implications.

Risk Management

10. No risks identified

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

11. N/A

Equality & Diversity

12. No equality and diversity impacts are anticipated.

Next steps/implications

13. The Regulations will be submitted to Senate for approval when it reconvenes on 15 March 2023.

Consultation

14. Academic Services have consulted with the Students' Association, Sports Union, and Court Services on amendments to the Laigh Year Regulations.

Further information

15. <u>Author</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Olivia Hayes	Lucy Evans
Academic Policy Officer & Clerk to Senate	Deputy Secretary, Students
Academic Services	
16 February 2023	

Freedom of Information

16. Open Paper



Laigh Year Regulations

Purpose of Policy

The document sets out the regulations under which student sabbatical officers may be granted a Laigh Year.

Overview

The Laigh Year Regulations are University Regulations which allow student sabbatical officers in the Edinburgh University Students' Association and the Edinburgh University Sports Union to matriculate as students of the University without (during the academic year concerned) having to fulfil the normal academic requirement of their programme of study.

Scope: Mandatory Policy

The regulations apply to all students intending to apply for a Laigh Year.

Contact Officer Kathryn Nicol Academic Policy Officer Kathryn.Nicol@ed.ac.uk

Document control

Dates	Approved: <u>07.02.18TB</u> <u>C</u>	Starts: <u>07.02.18TB</u> <u>C</u>	Equality impact assessment: 30.07.15	Amendments: N/A	Next Review: 202 <u>6</u> 2/202 <u>7</u> 3
Approving authority	Court and Senate				
Consultation undertaken	Students' Association Chief Executive and EUSU Head of Sports Development.				
Section responsible for policy maintenance & review	Academic Services and Court Services				
Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations	Code of Practice relating to the Edinburgh University Students' Association https://assets-cdn.sums.su/ED/Your%20Students%20Association_YSA/YSA_TrusteMinutes/Code-of-Practice.pdf www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/pageassets/about/structure/Code-of-Practice.pdf				
UK Quality Code	UK Quality Code Chapter B5: Student Engagement				
Policies superseded by this policy	N/A				
Alternative format	If you require this document in an alternative format please email Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131 651 4490.				
Keywords	Laigh, sabbatical, regulations				

Laigh Year Regulations

1. Definition and Conditions

- 1.1 The Laws of the Students' Association and of the Sports Union require that all office-bearers must be matriculated students throughout their year of office. The Senatus Academicus has agreed that certain of these office-bearers may be granted Laigh Years, i.e. the office-bearer may matriculate as a student of the University without (during the session concerned) having to fulfil the normal academic requirements of his or her programme of study.
- 1.2 The Senatus and Court will from time to time, and after considering recommendations from the Students' Association or the Sports Union as appropriate, determine the offices whose holders are eligible to apply for a Laigh Year (the "approved offices").
- 1.3 In order to be eligible for the award of a Laigh Year a student must, in addition to having been elected to an approved office, be in good academic standing, that is either:
 - (a) the student must be a matriculated student in attendance of the final year of a programme of study, and satisfactorily complete the requirements for the award of a degree or diploma of the University, during the session¹ in which the application for the Laigh Year is made; or
 - (b) the student's academic standing must be such that the student would be allowed to continue with their programme of study in the following session if no Laigh Year were awarded.
- 1.4 The academic concessions associated with the Laigh Year relate strictly to the academic year beginning on 1 August following the assumption of office. No student may be granted more than two Laigh Years under these regulations.
- 1.5 A Laigh Year office-bearer must remain the holder of an approved office throughout the period of the Laigh Year.

2. Application

- 2.1 An application for each Laigh Year must be made to the University Secretary, in writing, by the student concerned not later than 3 June following election to an approved office, and must be accompanied by a report from the Personal Tutor/Student Adviser or Supervisor on the student's academic standing.
- 2.2 The Student Adviser/Personal Tutor or Supervisor may be unable to confirm whether or not the student is in good academic standing by 3 June, for example because confirmation is dependent on the successful completion of assessments, including resit assessments, in August. In that event a further report from the Student Adviser/Personal Tutor or Supervisor shall be lodged by the student with the University Secretary by 13 September or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 2.3 Where a student applies for a second Laigh Year which involves a continuation of the interruption of their programme of study, the application must also demonstrate that a break of that length would be compatible with successful reintegration into the programme, and that no professional body rules or impediments will apply. In that event,

¹ The session is considered to be the academic year in question and its associated resit examination diet.



Laigh Year Regulations

a report from the Student Adviser/Personal Tutor or Supervisor shall be lodged on whether a further break from study will be appropriate. Students are advised to seek this confirmation from their Student Adviser/Personal Tutor or Supervisor before putting themselves forward for re-election for a second term.

- 2.4 The award of a Laigh Year may be approved firmly or provisionally. The award will be firmly approved when the holder of an approved office is confirmed to be in good academic standing. The award will be provisionally approved if a student is not able to meet the academic requirements for the award of a Laigh Year by 3 June following election but may still be able to meet these requirements by 13 September following election.
- 2.5 When the University Secretary, on behalf of the Court, formally approves an application (firmly or provisionally), they will notify the student by letter (with a copy to the Chief Executive of the Students' Association or the Senior Treasurer of the Sports Union as appropriate). They will also provide a copy to Student Administration and Student Administration will matriculate the student for the next academic session on this basis.

3. **Payments to Laigh Year Office-Bearers**

- 3.1 Laigh Year office-bearers are paid a stipend monthly from University funds made available to the Students' Association or the Sports Union. The annual rate of the Laigh Year payments shall be £25,927 in 2022/23 and thereafter will be increased annually by the percentage increase in the UKRI National Minimum Doctoral Stipend.
- 3.2 Should a Laigh Year office-bearer be in receipt of an award for Disabled students allowance from the SAAS, or would be eligible for such an award if domiciled in Scotland, then an equivalent payment may be made upon agreement between the Students' Association/EUSU as applicable and the Secretary to the University Court
- 3.3 The Laigh Year payments commence from the date on which the student takes up office. Where the Laigh Year has been firmly approved, the payments will end on 30 June following, or when the student demits office, whichever is earlier. Where the Laigh Year has been approved only provisionally, the payments will cease on 30 September or when the student demits office, whichever is earlier, unless the Laigh Year is subsequently approved firmly.
- 3.4 No Laigh Year payment may be made to an office bearer until they receive notification from the University Secretary that the Laigh Year has been approved.

4. **Obligations of the Students' Association and the Sports Union**

- 4.1 The Chief Executive of the Students' Association or the Senior Treasurer of the Sports Union as appropriate shall provide a copy of these regulations to each student who accepts nomination for election to one of the approved Laigh Year offices immediately after the nomination papers are lodged.
- 4.2 The Chief Executive of the Students' Association or the Senior Treasurer of the Sports Union as appropriate shall provide a further copy of these regulations to those elected to approved Laigh Year offices within 3 days of their election.



Laigh Year Regulations

- 4.3 No payments shall be made to the holder of an approved office other than those provided for in these regulations.

Approved by University Court, 4 December 2017

Approved by Senate Academicus, 7 February 2018

Minor clerical amendment to 3.1 to update the annual stipend level and update associated terminology, 25 March 2020

Minor clerical amendments made to include reference to the new position of 'Student Adviser' with effect from 1 August 2022



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Resolutions

Description of paper

1. This paper invites Court to approve Resolutions to establish Chairs (i.e. professorial positions) and to make an alteration to the title of 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"'.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. Court is invited to approve the following Resolutions presented in final format:
- No. 1/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Hepatobiliary Cancer
 - No. 2/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Digital Health and Data Science
 - No. 3/2023: Foundation of a Chair of Robot Systems
 - No. 4/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Engineering Biology
 - No. 5/2023: Alteration of the Title of the Chair of Health in Social Science
 - No. 6/2023: Foundation of a Chair of Statistical Learning
 - No. 7/2023: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Plant Engineering Biology

Background and context

3. The Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enabled Court to exercise by Resolution a wide range of powers, including the creation of Chairs. The Act sets out the procedure for making Resolutions. This includes a period of consultation with the Senate, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest.

4. The circumstances leading to the creation of a Chair are typically either:
- i. the creation of a Personal Chair as a result of an individual's promotion, which has been approved by the Central Academic Promotions Committee; or,
 - ii. the creation of a Personal Chair as a result of an approved recruitment exercise at a professorial level, where the new appointment will have input into their appropriate Chair title;
 - iii. the creation of a substantive Chair, where the Chair title is not linked to an individual. This requires support from the relevant Head of College and the University Executive before the draft Resolution is circulated for formal consultation and approval.

Discussion

5. No comments have been received from a Senate, the General Council or any other person or body.

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

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

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

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

Equality & Diversity

9. 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

10. 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

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

Further information

12. Author
Kirstie Graham
Court Services Office
February 2023

Freedom of Information

13. Open paper.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 1/2023

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Hepatobiliary Cancer

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Hepatobiliary Cancer:

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 Hepatobiliary Cancer 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 Hepatobiliary Cancer 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 October Two thousand and twenty two.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 2/2023

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Digital Health and Data Science

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Personal Chair of Digital Health and Data Science:

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

1. There shall be a Personal Chair of Digital Health and Data Science in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. 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 Digital Health and Data Science 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 October Two thousand and twenty two.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 3/2023

Foundation of a Chair of Robot Systems

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Chair of Robot Systems.

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

1. There shall be a Chair of Robot Systems in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 March Two thousand and twenty three.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 4/2023

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Engineering Biology

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

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

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 Engineering Biology 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 Engineering Biology 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 November Two thousand and twenty two.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 5/2023

Alteration of the title of the Chair of Health in Social Science

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to alter the title of the Chair of Health in Social Science founded by Resolution 59/2010;

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

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

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

1. The Chair of Health in Social Science shall hereafter be designated the Chair of Inclusion Health
2. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 February Two thousand and twenty three.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 6/2023

Foundation of a Chair of Statistical Learning

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

WHEREAS the University Court deems it expedient to found a Chair of Statistical Learning.

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

1. There shall be a Chair of Statistical Learning in the University of Edinburgh.
2. The patronage of the Chair shall be vested in and exercised by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh.
3. This Resolution shall come into force with effect from 1 February Two thousand and twenty three.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Draft Resolution of the University Court No. 7/2023

Foundation of a Personal Chair of Plant Engineering Biology

At Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of February, Two thousand and twenty three.

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

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 Plant Engineering Biology 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 Plant Engineering Biology 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 January Two thousand and twenty three.

For and on behalf of the University Court

LEIGH CHALMERS

University Secretary



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023

Court Meeting Dates 2023/24

Description of paper

1. This paper proposes Court meeting dates for the 2023/24 academic year.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. Court is invited to approve the dates.

Background and context

3. The proposed meeting dates follow a similar pattern to those scheduled in recent years. These are two meetings in Semester 1 and three meetings in Semester 2.

Discussion

4. The proposed meeting dates are as follows:

2023/24

Monday 9 October 2023 (Seminar and Meeting)

Monday 4 December 2023 (Meeting)

Monday 26 February 2024 (Seminar and Meeting)

Monday 22 April 2024 (Meeting)

Monday 17 June 2024 (Meeting)

Resource implications

5. Court's servicing costs are met from existing budgets.

Risk Management

6. Regular scheduling of Court meetings contributes to the good governance of the University.

Equality & Diversity

7. No equality and diversity issues are anticipated.

Next steps/implications

8. If agreed, calendar invitations will be issued to Court members and attendees.

Consultation

9. Senior Lay Member, Principal's Office, the Conveners of Audit & Risk Committee and Remuneration Committee on suitable dates for presenting papers from their committees

Further information

10. Author

Lewis Allan

Head of Court Services

Freedom of Information

11. Open paper.