



University Court
Yew Lecture Theatre, Nucleus Building, King's Buildings
Monday, 17 April 2023

AGENDA

OPENING ITEMS

- 1 **Minute** A1, A2
To approve the minute of the meeting and note of the seminar held on 27 February 2023
- 2 **Matters Arising & Review of Action Log** A3
 - Academic Freedom/Freedom of Expression Working Group UpdateTo 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
 - Audit & Risk Committee C2
 - Knowledge Strategy Committee C3
 - Senate C4

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

- 5 **Curriculum Transformation Project Update** D
To consider a paper presented by Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students
- 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 **Estates**
To approve the papers presented by Gary Jebb, Director of Place and Leigh Chalmers, Vice-Principal & University Secretary:
 - **Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030** (Gary Jebb) G1
 - **Edinburgh College of Art** (Gary Jebb) G2
 - **Teviot Row House** (Leigh Chalmers) G3

- 9 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**
To *consider* the reports presented by Sarah Cunningham-Burley, University Lead for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:
- **Public Sector Equality Duties Mainstreaming and Outcomes Review Report** H1
 - **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Data Report 2023** H2
- 10 People & Money**
- **People & Money Systems Update** I1
To *consider* a paper presented by Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services and Co-Chair, Enactment Group
 - **People & Money External Review** I2
To *consider* a paper from Paul McGinty, Chief Internal Auditor
- 11 Managing Security Related Risks in Internationalisation - Annual Update** J
To *review* the update from Alan Mackay, Deputy Vice-Principal International
- 12 Performance Measures to Support Strategy 2030 – 2022-23 Mid-Year Report** K
To *review* the report presented by Rona Smith, Deputy Secretary Governance & Strategic Planning

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

- 13 Small Works Capital Plan Allocation** L
To *approve*
- 14 Awards of University Benefactors** M
To *approve*
- 15 Donations and Legacies; Alumni Relations Activities** N
To *note*
- 16 Draft Resolutions: Degree Programme Regulations** O
To *review* and *refer*
- 17 Any Other Business**
To *consider* any other matters
- 18 Date of Next Meeting**
Monday, 19 June 2023, 2-5pm



UNIVERSITY COURT

27 February 2023, John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls

Web Version

[DRAFT] Minute

- Members Present:** Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member
Robert Aldridge, City of Edinburgh Council Assessor
Douglas Alexander, General Council Assessor
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
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
Isi Williams, Students' Association Vice-President Community
Sarah Wolffe, General Council Assessor
- Member Apologies:** Debora Kayembe, Rector
Alistair Smith, Co-opted Member
- 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
James Saville, Director of Human Resources
Rona Smith, Deputy Secretary Governance & Strategic Planning
Paul McGinty, Head of Internal Audit (for Paper D2)
Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement (for Paper I)

1 Minute

Paper A1

Janet Legrand, Senior Lay Member, welcomed members and attendees to the meeting and recorded Court's congratulations to all staff and visiting staff members recognised in the 2023 New Year Honours:

- Peter Mathieson, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, Knighthood, for services to higher education;
- Ewen Harrison, Professor of Surgery and Data Science, OBE for services to the Covid-19 response; and,
- Gillian Wright, Visiting Professor at the Institute for Astronomy, CBE for services to Astronomy through International Missions.

The minute of the meeting held on 5 December 2022 was approved.

2 Matters Arising & Review of Action Log

Paper A2

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

3 Principal's Report

Paper B

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

- People & Money System – the appointment of a Special Advisor to the Principal on People & Money, who will provide an initial assessment of the new system to the Principal in the next month. It was confirmed that this is separate to the external review of the People & Money System's implementation to be commissioned by Court (see Agenda item 5, Paper D2);
- The recommendation that Professor Tina Harrison be appointed as Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement), in a change of title from Professor Harrison's current appointment as Assistant Principal for Academic Standards and Quality Assurance;
- The UK Government's appointment of George Freeman MP as Minister of State in the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has been welcomed by the sector. It is hoped that the recent Windsor Framework regarding trade in Northern Ireland can help enable the UK to re-join the EU's Horizon Europe research funding scheme and that the return of £1.6bn to HM Treasury from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of unspent funds earmarked for EU collaborations can be reversed; and,
- A reception held earlier this month to celebrate and recognise staff members with 25 or 40 years or more of service. Those invited had achieved a cumulative 1,920 years of service to date, including a staff member with 60 years of service and two partners each with 40 years of service.

Members raised the following points:

- The recent announcement that a pay award would be made and whether this is a breach of sector-wide negotiations – the Director of Human Resources clarified that sector-wide talks held with Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) had concluded, with an impasse reached. The Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA) subsequently advised that

institutions implement the pay award for 2023-24, which includes a partial uplift for the remainder of the current year, which the University will do in March, ahead of the new financial year; and,

- The cancellation of the planned screening of the film 'Adult Human Female', plans for a future screening, the Code of Student Conduct in relation to behaviours displayed by attendees/protestors at the event and more widely, the University's commitment to freedom of expression, the views of the Students' Association, comparison with other events and the experiences of some of those present. The University Secretary confirmed the intention to reschedule the screening, reiterated the University's commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression and noted the establishment of a working group on this topic, which Court will be updated upon, and that a Resolution containing an updated version of the Code of Student Conduct was approved by Court at its last meeting but as with all similar documents can be reviewed and further updated as appropriate.

The appointment of Professor Tina Harrison as Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement) was approved.

4 Committee Business

- **Senior Lay Member's Overview**

Given the meeting timings, the Senior Lay Member moved discussion to the committee reports below.

- **Policy & Resources Committee**

Paper C1

It was noted that key topics considered by the Committee which feature later in the Court agenda include People & Money, the Director of Finance's Report and the Engineering Hub funding request.

- **Nominations Committee**

Paper C2

The report was noted and the recommended appointment of Professor David Argyle as a Curator of Patronage from 1 April 2023 for an initial term of three years was approved. Congratulations were recorded on the appointment of Professor David Argyle as Vice-Principal and Head of College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine and the Chancellor's reappointment of Alastair Dunlop KC as Chancellor's Assessor for a second term of four years from 1 August 2023. It was noted that executive search agency Korn Ferry has been appointed to assist with upcoming recruitment exercise for new Court members.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

Paper C3

The report was noted and recent developments in artificial intelligence and potential implications for the University arising from these were discussed, including in student assessments and use by software developers. It was agreed to make available emerging guidance for student use of generative artificial intelligence (such as ChatGPT) when finalised.

KEY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

5 People and Money

• People and Money Systems Update

Paper D1

An update on the implementation of the People and Money systems and processes was reviewed. Work since the previous meeting has concentrated on operational improvements, including reducing the volume of outstanding payments and bolstering resources in central Finance and Information Services areas to allow College finance leads to resume usual duties. Meetings have been held with College leadership teams to help inform areas of future focus, with comments on: improving the visibility of information in the system; a sense from regular users of a dilution of autonomy and difficulty in being able to complete tasks; and, a need to support resourcing at a local level. Near term priorities for further improvement work include research finance elements and reviewing purchase to pay processes, to be informed by the work of the Special Advisor to the Principal on People & Money.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- School-level experience of the new system continuing to impact on time and resources available for other activities – it was acknowledged that some staff continue to be diverted from their usual roles and will return to these as soon as possible but timing will vary. There has been a budgetary impact in many local areas and this can be considered within the Planning Round process;
- Training on the new system for relevant staff – this was a key issue raised in feedback as an area to improve and has been challenging given the need to follow system and process improvements that continue to be made, as well as difficulties in recruiting staff who can lead training on the system;
- The role of the Special Advisor to the Principal on People & Money and the Special Advisor's interaction with stakeholders – the Special Advisor has been encouraged to meet any individuals or groups that may assist in providing an initial assessment of the new system. Findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Principal, who will share these as appropriate with the Senior Leadership Team and Enactment Group;
- Resourcing any permanent changes made and assessing workload implications of the new system before other strategic change projects are progressed – changes will continue to be made over the coming months so it is not yet possible to finalise the number of permanent changes and any workload implications but this will be considered and will inform other projects, as shown in the 'Recommendations for Future Provision of Strategic Change and Continuous Improvement Support' University Executive paper shared at the previous meeting. Resourcing needs will continue to be monitored and can be considered within the Planning Round;
- Process changes should be in order to optimise the working and benefits of the new system rather than a return to previous processes that will not realise benefits from the new system;
- What an improved position would look like – a successful system will be one that is not regularly raised as an issue of concern and provides staff with the agency and capacity to complete necessary system tasks; and,
- Colleagues involved in progressing work in this area were recognised and thanked.

A proposal for an external review of the implementation of the People & Money System was considered. It was noted that this has been developed by the Head of Internal Audit following agreement at the previous meeting that a proposal covering the commissioning, scope and timescale of an external review should be submitted for approval to this meeting. The outcomes of the external review should help inform future decision-making and oversight for major change projects and system procurement and implementation.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Scope and coverage: the scope as drafted is broad and could be tightened to focus predominantly on the implementation of the finance aspects; the review could compare examples of the implementation of similar systems in other organisations to identify issues that are generic and those that are specific to this implementation; considering the escalation of any concerns raised during the implementation, responses to these and stakeholder engagement was suggested – noting that these can be encompassed within the existing text included within the aims and objectives section; consultation with Senate – it was noted that the Head of Internal Audit will update Senate and seek input at the next meeting; how lessons learned can be applied to ongoing strategic change projects – the Provost and Vice-Principal Corporate Services are presently considering the approach to strategic change projects and lessons from the external review can be incorporated within this, while continuing to progress change projects and other continuous improvement work to help achieve the University's ambitions;
- Selection panel: options for the Court membership of the selection panel involved in final interviews/presentations from bidders along with procurement and Internal Audit staff and the University Secretary or delegate – noting that this is to conduct a technical review of bids and not a review of the scope or other aspects, which is being agreed at this juncture;
- Timing: the timeframe for the review will influence the costs given that costs will accrue on a daily rate basis; the timing should be balanced against the current priority of completing stabilisation work on the system; a deadline of producing a report to the December 2023 Court meeting was proposed;
- Reporting: it was noted that most advisory/consultancy firms work on the premise that their reports are for internal management and organisational purposes and not for broader dissemination and any alternative approach should be reflected in the procurement process from the outset;

It was agreed that:

- The review's scope and coverage is with the intention of learning lessons to inform future projects of this ilk and should focus predominantly on the implementation of the finance aspects;
- The selection panel should include the Senior Lay Member and the Convener of Audit & Risk Committee given relevant experience, with the option of a Senate Assessor;
- The review should produce a final report for the December 2023 Court meeting; and,

- It should be specified within the procurement process that the report is for the use of the Court and management in the first instance but that Court will likely wish to share the key findings, recommendations or actions arising (or a summary of these) more widely as it considers appropriate.

The proposal was approved with the incorporation of the four points agreed above.

6 Students' Association and Sports Union Reports

Papers E1-E2

Regular reports from the Students' Association and Sports Union were presented. The extension of the student participation fund into the second semester was welcomed, noting the continuing difficulties faced by many students given increased costs of living and that this remains a key campaigning priority for the Association, particularly accommodation costs. Engagement levels in student elections was discussed, noting that the upcoming elections will be well contested, with the current sabbatical officers focused on communications to improve turnout. It was commented that being able to demonstrate ways in which the Association has helped deliver improvements for students would be beneficial in building engagement. It was noted that, unlike some other institutions, the Association continues to have an active Student Council, demonstrating a continued level of student engagement.

7 Director of Finance's Report

Paper F

The Director of Finance's Report was reviewed, including updates on the full year financial forecast and the external audit tender process. The forecast information was welcomed and a request made for future iterations to also include in-year income and expenditure figures to date. It was confirmed that summary University-only monthly management accounts can be provided in future reports, with financial information on subsidiaries recorded quarterly.

8 Engineering Hub

Paper G

A revised funding request for the Engineering Hub project was considered. It was noted that the project's funding had been previously approved by Court in September 2019 but had been deferred in 2020 along with other non-contractually committed capital projects as part of the initial response to the pandemic. The project has now been updated to reflect recent cost increases in the construction sector and seeks funding approval. Construction sector inflation was discussed and its likely impact on the capital plan more widely and whether the contingency allocated in the project budget is sufficient – noting that this will be more accurately forecasted when the tender is finalised shortly. It was noted that the building design remains unchanged and that the urgency and importance of the project has led to its prioritisation. The Hub's focus on interdisciplinary research in climate and sustainability, particularly in energy, was highlighted.

Court:

- Noted the revised Full Business Case, approved by Estates Committee;
- Approved funding to progress the project to completion; and,
- Noted that this is in addition to previously approved funding for Design Team fees and enabling works.

9 Update on Research Excellence Framework (REF) Planning

Paper H

An update on planning for the next Research Excellence Framework exercise was presented. More information on the shape and timing of the next exercise should be known from June 2023, when the Future Research Assessment Programme is expected to report. Research output quality was discussed, including ensuring consistent messaging on its importance, including in appointment and promotion assessments – acknowledging variances by discipline, seniority and in different research cultures in different countries in the weighting of quality and volume of research. Other peer institutions with strong performances in the previous exercise were discussed, with work to analyse these in greater depth to identify points of comparison and learning.

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

Paper I

An overview of work led by the Development & Alumni Office in the 2021/22 academic year was presented along with a regular update on donations and legacies and alumni activities. It was noted that philanthropic giving continued during the pandemic period owing to strong relationships with existing donors who made repeat donations. As restrictions have receded new donor relationships have been able to be established in addition to existing relationships. Donors have been attracted by areas within the University's Strategy 2030 relating to inclusive excellence and the research themes of climate, health and data/Artificial Intelligence and it was noted that these are expected to be growth areas for future philanthropic giving.

ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL

11 Student Pulse Survey Update

Paper J

A report on the recent Student Pulse Survey undertaken in December 2022 was considered. Improving the response rate was discussed and difficulties in making year on year comparisons. It was noted that the survey has moved from a classroom-based evaluation to an online survey, which has reduced the response rate. A response to the survey has now been circulated to students and may aid future engagement. An alternative approach of following a selected cohort over time was also suggested.

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

Paper K

Arrangements for forthcoming Senate and Senate Standing Committee Elections were noted and a proposed amendment to the Senate Election Regulations relating to the treatment of Senate Assessor positions within the overall count of elected Senate staff members considered. Advice from the University's Legal Services department and from external solicitors that the proposed amendment would be in breach of University Ordinance 212 (Composition of the Senatus Academicus) was reviewed. It was noted that further commentary from the author of the proposed amendment had been circulated and that the legal advice had been reviewed in light

of this and remained unchanged. Recording the abstention of the Senate Assessors from voting on this item, Court resolved that the proposed amendment should not be approved and agreed that the treatment of the Senate Assessor positions within the Senate Election Regulations should be considered further to identify any alternative approaches to improve upon the current drafting.

13 Laigh Year Regulations

Paper L

It was noted that the Laigh Year Regulations (which allow student sabbatical officers 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 in order to undertake their full-time sabbatical officer duties) are reviewed on a quinquennial basis, with no changes proposed following the current review, then submitted to Senate and Court for dual approval. Recording the abstention of the Students' Association President and Students' Association Vice-President Community on this item, Court approved the Laigh Year Regulations as presented.

14 Resolutions

Paper M

The following Resolutions were approved:

- 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

15 Court Meeting Dates 2023/24

Paper N

Meeting dates for the 2023/24 academic year were approved as follows:

- 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)

16 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

17 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 17 April 2023, 2-5pm



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 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.

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. I start my report with People and Money as it continues to dominate much thought of the Senior Team and many others across the University.

Remainder of paragraph: Closed section

6. Our Students' Association organised a "Student Voice Forum" earlier this month which I was pleased to attend with three members of my Senior Team, Vice-Principals Colm Harmon, Catherine Martin and Gavin McLachlan. The event, ably chaired by our Student President Niamh Roberts, covered important topics such as cost of living issues, inclusivity and the wider student experience.
7. As previously reported to Court on admissions, we continue to see a return to pre-pandemic levels, which is in line with the sector.
8. Since Court last met, Scotland has a new First Minister and Cabinet. I have written to Mr Yousaf MSP, and the following members of his Cabinet to introduce the University and offer to host visits: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance Shona Robison MSP; Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care Michael Matheson MSP; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills Jenny Gilruth MSP; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans Graeme Dey MSP; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition Màiri McAllan MSP; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Angus Robertson MSP; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development Christina McKelvie MSP.
9. Court may be aware of the recent distressing media coverage questioning the approach the University has taken with regard to supporting students who are the victims of gender based violence (GBV). While not wishing to question the perceptions of the people in the article, we do not recognise their experience in how we support our

students who are survivors of GBV. The University would never discourage students from contacting the police in such instances and we would always provide them with support should they wish to do so. I have also written to the First Minister to offer assurance around this matter as it was discussed at First Minister's Questions.

10. In mid-March I had the pleasure of meeting with the Leader of the Opposition the Rt Hon. Sir Keir Starmer MP and Shadow Secretary for Health Jackie Baillie MSP at a visit to Roslin Cell Therapies. Sir Keir was interested to hear about our activity at the BioQuarter and beyond.

11. Positively, the UK Budget in mid-March confirmed a £900 million commitment to Exascale supercomputing and Artificial Intelligence research. Additionally twelve "investment zones" were announced for parts of England and one each in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The process and location for the Scottish one is to be decided in partnership with the Scottish Government. The English ones will be around partnerships between city partners including universities, in key sectors such as life sciences.

12. Despite recent glimmers of hope, we still await concrete news on the UK's association with Horizon Europe. The Times recently published an opinion piece on this that I co-authored with Sandy Begbie, Chief Executive of Scottish Financial Enterprise. We noted the continued negative implications and called for an urgent positive resolution.

13. We have had the recent honour of a dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, hosted by our Chancellor, to celebrate our student entrepreneurs and thank staff from Edinburgh Innovations. I was also very pleased to lead a diverse delegation, including several of our students, staff and Court members plus a recent graduate who is now a successful entrepreneur, to Buckingham Palace to offer a Loyal Address to His Majesty King Charles III as part of a centuries-old recognition of the University as one of the 27 "privileged bodies" in the UK, six of which are universities. Our contribution acknowledged the dedication and long service of the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and offered congratulations on the Accession of King Charles. I also recently represented the University at a dinner hosted at St James' Palace by the Queen's Anniversary Trust to recognise the late Queen's steadfast support for higher education.

14. We hosted a number of celebratory graduation events in McEwan Hall during March for graduates whose ceremonies were cancelled due to Covid. They served as a great reminder of why we are all here. Vice-Principal and Head of College Professor David Argyle hosted a lovely dinner to celebrate Professor Moira Whyte's tenure as Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

15. Six days of University & College Union (UCU) strike action took place from 15-22 March on the August 2022 pay offer, pension and "four fights". Turnout was roughly in line with previous strike periods and the impact on students was on a similar scale, having been mitigated and limited where possible.

16. The next planned collective action will be continuous Action Short of a Strike and a marking and assessment boycott, which has been called from the 20th April following the results of the most recent ballot.

17. The Academic Contingency Group and the University Contingency Group have met regularly and discussed impact on students and staff, mitigation matters and the learning opportunities fund.

18. The 2023/24 Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) pay offer has now been finalised with the first phase implemented in the March payroll.

Selected meetings and events from the beginning of March to mid-April

19. University

- Participated in regular meetings with the Edinburgh University Students Association sabbatical officers.
- Participated in a thank you reception for those involved in securing phase 2 of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.
- Hosted a roundtable dinner for alumna Gina Fyffe, Chief Executive Officer/Founder of Integra Petrochemicals Pte Ltd, to discuss the University's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and what more can be done in terms of effectiveness and to speed up progress.
- Participated in the Childlight launch event and a Steering Board meeting. Court members might remember that this concerns the work that we lead for the Human Dignity Foundation with close association with senior officials from Interpol, aimed at the identification, eradication and prevention of online child sexual abuse all over the world.
- Participated in an Academic Strategy Group, core membership of which are the Heads of Schools.
- Welcomed guests attending an Ocean Leaders Programme Dinner.
- Participated in celebration event for the Usher Institute, currently under construction at the BioQuarter.
- Participated in the unveiling of the Edinburgh Runestone, embedded between 40 and 50 George Square.
- Welcomed Joachim Nagel, President of the Deutsche Bundesbank, to the University prior to him giving a lecture on inflation and the labour market in Germany.
- Welcomed attendees of the Students Records Officers Conference, which was being hosted by the University.
- Participated in the launch event for the UK Collaborating Centre on Injury and Illness Prevention in Sport.
- Participated in a meeting with the Commissioner for Fair Access, Professor John McKendrick, to discuss widening participation.
- Welcomed guests to the Scholarships Reception for students and staff.
- Led a MSc Clinical Education Leadership tutorial.
- Participated in a Leaders' Forum meeting.

20. Edinburgh and Scotland

- The Principals of Edinburgh's four universities and Edinburgh College continue to meet frequently to share progress on various activities.
- Participated in an introductory meeting with Veronica Ferrucci, Consul General of Italy to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- Participated in an introductory meeting with Jerry O'Donovan, Consul General of Ireland to Scotland.
- Participated in a meeting with Hannah Schlesinger, Director of Development and Marketing for Edinburgh Science, and a tour of some of the Science Festival events at the National Museum of Scotland and the City Arts Centre.
- Participated in the Edinburgh Medal Ceremony and address at Edinburgh City Chambers, this year Professor Marion Nestle is recognised for her work in the study of food politics, nutrition and public health.

21. *Sector and Public Affairs*

- Participated in a Universities Scotland Corporate Governance meeting.
- Participated in a Russell Group Away Day at the University of Birmingham.
- 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.
- Participated in Universities UK meetings and events including the regular Vice-Chancellor's USS pension discussions.
- Participated in a British Council led discussion on responsible research collaboration with China.
- Participated in an introductory meeting with Melanie Lee, Chief Executive Officer of the medical research charity Lifearc.
- Participated in a meeting with various colleagues at the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure.
- Participated in an invited meeting with Minister John Lamont MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland.
- Participated in a Scottish Taskforce for Green & Sustainable Financial Services meeting.
- Participated in a meeting to discuss the new industrial strategy in Scotland, hosted by Ian Blackford MP.

22. *International*

- Travelled to Ghana with a small delegation from the University, at the invitation of Professor Felix Dapare Dakora, President of the African Academy of Sciences, to visit current and prospective collaborators and hold discussions to inform the development of the University of Edinburgh-Africa Commitment which will be co-created with African partners. We met with: Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chancellor, and Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice-Chancellor, of the University of Ghana, and most of their senior executive team; Professor Samuel Ntewusu, Director of the Institute of African Studies, and colleagues; Professor Ellis Owusu-Dabo, Pro Vice-Chancellor, from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology; Adelaide Asantewaa Asante, Chief Operating Officer at AIMS Ghana; Araba Botchway, Executive Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at Ashesi University; Nii Dodo Doodoo, Director (Ghana, Cameroon and Sierra Leone) at the British Council; representatives from the Mastercard Foundation. Held a reception for alumni, current and prospective University of Edinburgh students, key contacts and partners including: Professor Olusola B. Oyewole, Secretary General of the Association of African Universities; Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Secretary General of the African Research Universities

Alliance; Dr. Prince K. Osei, Centre President of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences; His Excellency Keith McMahon, Deputy High Commissioner of the UK High Commission; Felicia E. Arthur, Senior Programs Coordinator, Christabel Dadzie and Patrick Moore, Founders and Co-Chairs of Ahaspora.

- Welcomed Board members and staff of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education to their first Board event to be held outside the USA, which took place at the University of Edinburgh.
- Participated in a meeting with colleagues from Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine to discuss the partnership.
- Hosted a lunch and participated in a roundtable meeting with Professor Mark Scott, Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Sydney during his visit to the University.
- Welcomed the Rektor of Charles University, Professor Milena Králíčková, and colleagues, and participated in a roundtable discussion during their visit to the University of Edinburgh.
- Participated in a meeting with Professor Tien Wong, Head, Tsinghua Medicine, Tsinghua University, during his visit to Edinburgh.
- Participated in a meeting with Professor Tawana Kupe, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, and Professor Tivani Mashamba-Thompson, the current Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies at the Faculty of Health Sciences, during their visit to the University.
- Hosted a lunch for His Excellency Johnston Busingye, High Commissioner of Rwanda to the Court of Saint James, during his visit to the University.
- Participated in an online European Universities Roundtable Series discussing, “A Recipe for Transformative Change for Higher Education Providers”.

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

24. 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

25. 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

26. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

Next steps/implications

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

Consultation

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

Further information

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

30. Author & Presenter

Professor Sir Peter Mathieson
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
April 2023

Freedom of Information

31. Open version



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Policy & Resources Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Policy & Resources Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 27 March 2023.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

Key points

Director of Finance's Report

4. The Director of Finance's Report was reviewed.

People & Money Systems Update

5. An update on the implementation of the People & Money system was presented. Work since the previous meeting has centred on addressing priorities such as improving the administration of research finance in the new system, staff recruitment and training and enhancing reporting. The volume of calls to the helpdesk was discussed, noting that whilst the number of new calls is reducing, totals included some historic calls still logged on the system, and staff perceptions at present, with improvements in areas such as student payments but concerns remaining in others, notably research finances. Once the plan for the period beyond the next few months has been agreed this will be communicated with an aim of building staff confidence.

Estates: Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030

6. A draft Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030 was reviewed. The strategy has been developed drawing upon work on size and shape, sustainability, transport, financial support and intends to enable a continued accommodation of all students eligible under the current accommodation guarantee and provide 20% of stock for returning students or other categories. Current turbulence in the student accommodation market was noted. The focus on inclusion in the strategy was welcomed and adaptations for neuro-divergent students discussed, such as considering colour and fabric patterns in furnishings and potential noise issues. The extent to which the strategy marked a short-term adaptation to external pressures or longer-term change was discussed, noting that the planned level of provision for returning students has increased compared to previous plans in response to external pressures but this may remain into the longer term. The action within the strategy to create a model of financial support to assist residents in need has been welcomed by the Students' Association, who are keen to engage with the next steps and wish to ensure accessible and affordable accommodation for all. It was agreed to recommend the Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030 to Court for approval, noting the intention to review and update the strategy on an annual basis given present market volatility.

Estates: Edinburgh College of Art

7. A funding request for the redevelopment of the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) site at Lauriston Place was presented. It was noted that the intention to redevelop the site can be traced to the merger with ECA in 2011 and a desire to achieve benefits from co-locating more of the enlarged School's activities on one site. ECA has performed strongly since the merger and a robust case has been made for funding for the redevelopment – this was initially agreed by Court prior to the pandemic, deferred during the pandemic and has now been updated. Estates Committee's review of the updated business case was discussed, noting that it had been first reviewed at the December Estates Committee meeting and further updated following feedback and considered in revised form at the subsequent March meeting and given full support. Noting that the proposed funding is included in the prioritised Court-approved Capital Plan, it was agreed to recommend to Court that approval for capital funding be granted to progress the project to completion.

Estates: Teviot Row House

8. A funding request for refurbishment and improvement work on the Teviot Row House building was presented. It was noted that this encompasses modernisation, compliance and student experience enhancement works but will necessitate the closure of the building for the duration of the works, requiring a decant strategy to mitigate disruption during this period. Discussion at Estates Committee had highlighted the strong case for upgrading what is a well-used and historic building, the importance of the construction work timetable in minimising disruption and that, while an historic building, it is one that the University is familiar with from an estates perspective. Support from the Students' Association for the project was highlighted and the importance of an effective decant strategy, particularly for study spaces and collaborative working spaces, emphasised. Potential financial impacts on the Students' Association during and after construction was discussed, particularly mitigating impact from the closure period during the Festivals. It was agreed to recommend to Court approval of capital funding to progress the Teviot Row House project to completion, noting that funding is included in the prioritised Court-approved Capital Plan for the modernisation and compliance elements and an additional sum is sought for student experience enhancement work.

Edinburgh BioQuarter – Update on Procurement of a Private Sector Partner

9. An update on the procurement of a Private Sector Partner to join the existing partnership between the University, Scottish Enterprise and the City of Edinburgh Council to create a health innovation district at the Edinburgh BioQuarter site was reviewed.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:

- *Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2023*

- *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Data Report 2023*

10. The Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2023 and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Data Report 2023 were considered. It was noted that the mainstreaming report highlights success in embedding equality, diversity and inclusion principles and responsibilities, while recognising that more progress is needed in a range of areas, including improving the experience of students and staff with disabilities, accelerating anti-racist work and addressing variances in student outcomes. It was noted that the data report provides University-level data for

publication, with School-level data to be made available internally. Corresponding with the equality outcomes report, the data report shows encouraging progress in some areas and highlights other areas where more progress is needed, such as inequalities in representation at higher staff grades and encouraging greater declaration levels for those with disabilities.

11. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Progress made was welcomed and all colleagues involved thanked for their contributions enabling this;
- The intention to mainstream equality, diversity and inclusion within the Planning Round with the involvement of the EDI Committee was supported, noting that this is key to achieving long-term momentum;
- Recognising and resourcing work by those undertaking equality, diversity and inclusion service and scholarship in addition to their usual duties, e.g. recognising this work within promotion panels, and other citizenship work that benefits the University more widely, e.g. contributing to governance, and could be considered by the Staff Experience Committee in the first instance;
- Communicating the reports and key messages from these in an accessible way was encouraged, along with considering other means of highlighting progress and generating support for future work, such as submitting nominations for awards or other forms of external recognition that would be valued by the University community;
- The equality outcomes report includes a section responding to reporting requirements under Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 – this is a timely reminder with a Court member recruitment exercise currently underway and is being considered as part of the recruitment, alongside other aspects of diversity;
- Separately, an invitation to attend an Edinburgh Race Equality Network Senior Leaders Meeting will be circulated to Court members by a committee member in contact with the network.

Performance Measures to Support Strategy 2030 – 2022-23 Mid-Year Report

12. The 2022-23 mid-year report on the performance measures to support Strategy 2030 was reviewed, noting that comments are sought on the measure for Key Performance Indicator 5: Staff Engagement, proposed as an aggregation of equally weighted responses across five questions in the recent staff survey. Support was expressed for the weighted aggregated measure based on experience in other organisations and likely volatility in responses to some questions over time, with the recommendation to be submitted to Court.

People Report

13. The regular update on people-related matters was considered, noting that work is progressing on reviewing some elements on the pay grade scales and other areas, such as fixed term contracts, with good working relations with local unions evident and contributing to progress in these areas.

Small Works Programme and Statutory Compliance Budget Allocation

14. It was agreed to recommend to Court approval of the Small Works Programme and Statutory Compliance Capital allocation included within the Capital Plan and the means of apportioning funds.

Other items

15. A regular verbal update from the Principal was received, along with regular reports from the Investment Committee, Estates Committee and the Commercialisation Sub-Group.

Further information

16. Author

Lewis Allan
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Janet Legrand
Convener, Policy & Resources Committee

Freedom of Information

17. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Audit & Risk Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Audit & Risk Committee.

Date of Meeting

2. 30 March 2023.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meeting.

Paragraphs 4-21: Closed section

Equality & Diversity

22. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

Further information

23. Author

Kirstie Graham
Court Services

Presenter

Douglas Millican
Convener of Audit & Risk Committee

Freedom of Information

24. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Committee Name

1. Knowledge Strategy Committee

Date of Meeting

2. 21 March 2023

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the meetings.

Key points

Chief Information Officer Update

4. Key activities and updates since the last meeting were reported, including:
 - **Recruitment and retention of specialist information services staff;**
 - **Supply chain disruption:** the global supply chain disruptions reported at previous meetings were continuing;
 - **Sustainable IT Sub-Group:** it was noted the Sub-Group would have an academic chair, to be appointed following a recommendation from the Vice-Principal & Head of College of Science and Engineering and the Committee would be updated on its work. One of the initial areas of interest for the Sub-Group is expected to be the sustainability of the University's data centres;
 - **Exascale supercomputing service:** it was noted that in the UK Government's recent Spring Budget the Chancellor had announced a commitment of around £900m to implement the recommendations in the independent Future of Compute Review, including the establishment of an Exascale supercomputer service;
 - **Vendor price increases:** an increase in many software vendor prices was highlighted. This is being experienced sector-wide and sector body JISC has issued a [statement](#) appealing to digital content, hardware and software vendors seeking "pricing constraint" given budgetary pressures on the Higher Education sector; and,
 - **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):** significant developments in recent months were commented on, most notably ChatGPT. Numerous other systems are also being launched including one from Stanford University (Alpaca) rapidly and inexpensively developed using other generative AIs.
5. The University's approach to generative AI was discussed. Initial [guidance](#) had been issued to students on the use of generative AI (such as ChatGPT), noting that the technology, ethics and use of AI was a fast moving area, with the guidance to be updated as necessary. It was agreed that a link to the guidance would be made available. The Deputy Vice-Principal Students (Enhancement) noted the University position was not to impose a blanket restriction the use of generative AI, but rather to:
 - Emphasise the expectation that assignments should contain students' own original work;

- Highlight the limitations of generative AI and the dangers of relying on it as a source of information; and,
- Emphasise the need to acknowledge the use of generative AI where it is permitted to be used.

6. It was noted that further guidance may be needed in other areas, including the completion and submission of administrative forms and on research and intellectual property rights. It was also noted that Turnitin (an internet-based plagiarism detection service) will shortly launch an AI writing and ChatGPT detection capability. It was agreed that regular updates on AI should be received by the Committee given the rapid development of this area.

Information Services Group Planning 2023/24 to 2028/2029

7. An Information Services Group (ISG) planning update was presented, including the draft narrative Plan submitted as part of the Planning Round in February 2023. The following areas were highlighted:

- The expectation that Curriculum Transformation will quickly become a key priority and major IT and Library service change project within ISG; and,
- The identification of priorities for the Digital Estate, which will inform future budget planning. This will be shaped by the outcomes of the Digital Estate Prioritisation Group, chaired by the Provost.

8. The draft was welcomed and in discussion it was noted the following would be helpful to consider: setting out the expected future pipeline of projects more clearly; showing the relative scale of investment in comparison to peer universities; and, explaining and refining the optimism bias process used. Members were encouraged to send on any further comments and it was agreed that a presentation setting out the key projects covered within the Planning Round submission would be given at the next meeting.

9. The Committee also discussed risks around cyber security mentioned within the paper.

Learn Ultra Upgrade and Early Adopter Programme – Update on Progress

10. An update on progress with the Learn Ultra (Virtual Learning Environment) Upgrade and Early Adopter Programme was presented. It was reported the programme is half-way through its envisaged three year timeframe, with training for users to be delivered from late March onwards. Progress made was welcomed and the following points were raised in discussion: encouraging buy-in and the importance of local contacts such as learning technologists and School/College Office staff; a wider conversation on accessibility would be beneficial; ensuring support areas such as the Information Services Helpline are prepared at the start of semester; the shared budget available and the additional use of student interns by some Schools to help with preparatory work; and, the importance of spreading awareness of the programme's timetable and training for users prior to implementation.

People & Money System Update

11. An update on the implementation of the People & Money systems and processes was reviewed. It was reported that the Court has commissioned an

external review of the system's implementation and will be updated on progress with this at the next meeting. It was raised that with any additional interventions that might take place, there was a need to be mindful of any impact these might have on individuals and teams. It was agreed that future updates would be taken under the "Items For Noting or Formal Approval" section of the agenda.

Internet of Things Service Multi-Year Procurement Framework

12. A paper on an Internet of Things Service Multi-Year Procurement Framework was discussed. It was noted that, in putting in place the framework, experience from previous procurements had been used, with the main learning being to build in the option of multiple potential suppliers. The Committee agreed to recommend to Estates Committee that a multi-year purchasing route be established to support construction of the Data-Driven Innovation's regional sensor network and to facilitate purchasing of suitable equipment for wider University research projects and operational Smart Campus projects, as set out in the paper.

Information Security Update

13. 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. The refresh of the Information Security training course was also discussed, with some broad support expressed for extending the mandatory element to students. It was noted that a change of this type is outwith the remit of the Committee but the views expressed by Committee members would be fed into any considerations.

University Strategic Business Intelligence Update

14. An update on University Strategic Business Intelligence work was noted. The structured plan, with the 'hub and spoke' model was welcomed. Considering the varying state of readiness across the three Colleges and three Professional Services Groups was suggested and further updates will be provided to the Committee.

Other items

15. The Committee noted: an updated forecast for the ISG 5-year capital envelope, 2022-28; a progress report on the deployment of the new University data network; a progress report on the replacement of the University's Enterprise Infrastructure; and, received regular reports from the IT Committee, Library Committee and the University Collections Advisory Committee.

Further information

16. *Authors*

Jamie Tait
Governance Manager & Clerk to
Knowledge Strategy Committee

Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

Presenter

Gavin McLachlan
Vice-Principal and Chief Information
Officer, and Librarian to the University
(on behalf of Colm Harmon, who was
not able to attend the 21 March meeting
given participation in an Institution of
Mechanical Engineers accreditation
visit to the School of Engineering)

Freedom of Information

17. Open version.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Senatus Academicus Report

Committee Name

1. Senatus Academicus ('Senate').

Dates of Meetings

2. A meeting of e-Senate was held by correspondence from 11-25 January 2023. An Ordinary Meeting of Senate was held on 8 February 2023, and that meeting was adjourned and continued on 29 March 2023.

Action Required

3. To note the key points from the report of e-Senate for 11-25 January 2023.
4. Senate met on 8 February 2023 and the meeting was adjourned as not all business was concluded by the meeting's scheduled finish time. Senate resumed its meeting on 29 March 2023 but the meeting was not quorate for the duration of the meeting on this date. The draft minute of the business covered at the 8 February meeting was also a subject of discussion. Given this, a report will be submitted to the next Court meeting covering the combined 8 February and 29 March meeting after a minute for this has been considered at the next scheduled Senate meeting, on 24 May 2023.

Key points

e-Senate meeting 11-25 January 2023

Draft Resolutions: Chairs

5. Senate was invited to make observations on the draft Resolutions. An error was identified in Resolution 5/2023 and Court Services confirmed the correction and the Resolution was updated. Congratulations were extended to the new chairs.

An update to the Senate membership – New Student Members

6. An error was identified and the membership was updated. The updated membership was noted.

Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita

7. Senate agreed to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita on those professors listed in the paper.

Communications from the University Court

8. Senate noted the communications. Comments were received from two members and were passed to the author of the report.

Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee

9. The report was noted. A comment was received from one member and passed to the author of the report.

Full Agenda and Papers

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

Equality & Diversity

11. All paper authors are asked to consider and identify equality and diversity implications.

Further information

12. Author

Kathryn Nicol
Academic Policy Manger
Academic Services

Presenter

Peter Mathieson
Principal & Vice-Chancellor

Freedom of Information

13. Open paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Curriculum Transformation Project Update

Description of paper

1. This paper provides an update on the Curriculum Transformation Project following recent discussions at University Executive and Senate. This includes:
 - a. Plans for in-depth engagement with Schools on their response to the framework to inform its further development.
 - b. Plan and progress with the development of the investment case for Curriculum Transformation.
 - c. Development of a simple organisational and planning model to support the next phase of work on the project.
2. This will directly contribute to a range of Strategy 2030 outcomes including: the undergraduate curriculum will support breadth and choice, preparing students, graduates and alumni to make a difference in whatever they do, whenever they do it.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To comment on and note the paper.

Background and context

4. Curriculum Transformation is a major long term investment project for the University. An initial scoping phase (April 2021 to December 2022) has been used to develop an institutional undergraduate curriculum framework, readiness assessment and benefits case for consideration by Senate and through Standing Committees of Senate and other groups during early 2023.
5. At its meeting on 8 February 2023 Senate endorsed the following recommendations:
 - a. The continued development and design of key elements of the undergraduate curriculum framework and the next steps for in-depth engagement with Schools ([Paper S22/23 3D](#)).
 - b. The continued development of the case for investment, phased implementation and risk management needed to support the delivery of the curriculum transformation project ([Paper S22/23 3E](#)).
6. At a reconvened meeting of Senate on 29 March 2023, it was agreed to bring a report back to the first meeting of Senate in academic year 2023/24 drawing on the insight from the planned engagement with Schools outlined in this paper and addressing some specific questions raised by Senate members.
7. This paper provides a brief update on plans and progress in taking this work forward. These plans were considered and approved by the Curriculum Transformation Board on 21 February 2023. This paper was presented to the University Executive in 4 April 2023.

Discussion

Next steps on engagement

8. The key priority and focus for the remainder of academic year 2022/23 will be to test and refine the proposed curriculum framework through in-depth engagement with Schools and Deaneries. We are working with and through each College to plan and manage this next phase of engagement. We will ask Schools to consider how they could respond to and use the framework in the short term (in preparation for a September 2026 use) and medium term (beyond academic year 2026/27). Outputs will include School/Deanery implementation plans along with priorities for the investment case as well as enhancement. The project team will use this to refine and further develop the framework and associated guidance and resources, including the development of case studies and guidance for challenge courses, experiential learning and enrichment elements.

9. In addition to these discussions with Schools the project team will run a series of webinars, open to all within the University, to introduce and gather feedback on key dimensions and share examples of current thinking on the use of the curriculum framework, challenge courses, experiential learning and enrichment elements.

10. We will use these webinars and discussions in Schools to understand and address the questions and concerns raised at Senate on 8 February and elsewhere as well as the opportunities for enhancement and innovation opened up through Curriculum Transformation.

Development of investment case

11. An investment case will be developed to support decision making on the implementation of the proposals set out in the curriculum transformation project. In addition to financial investment (further information under Resource implications section), this investment case will: through impact assessments set out the anticipated impact of the changes being proposed and the scale and complexity of the work and readiness to commence with the next phase of work; set out the key project decisions and assumptions that are underpinning the case for investment and the approach for monitoring these and assessing the impact of any changes; set out the expected benefits the project sets out to deliver for students, staff and the University, including relevant benchmark data where this is available and agreed; explain alternative approaches that have been considered; set out risk and issue management; and implementation approach(es).

12. A phased plan and timeline will be developed as part of this process which will be underpinned by an implementation approach/structure which will need alignment across the main budget areas impacted by the changes. The Project Board agreed the recommendation to move away from the indicative implementation date of September 2025, with revised full implementation date to be confirmed once detailed planning on critical activity has been completed – including essential system changes.

13. A phased implementation provides opportunity to ensure benefits can be fully realised by focusing on outcomes we are seeking to deliver rather than being driven by a particular timeline, noting this may include delivering some benefits earlier than originally planned - for example introducing a scaling up of distinctive elements of the

new curriculum through pilots (e.g. challenge courses); provide a way of managing some of the key project risks around work and resources required to deliver the project; and support alignment with work already underway and/or planned including the student support project and digital strategy. However within any phased implementation plan there will be some aspects that will need to be rolled out at the same time across all Schools in the University (for example adoption of new regulations, arrangements for admissions); we will need to guard carefully against a phased plan resulting in scope creep and/or for the project to run longer than required.

14. The team(s) and engagement required to develop and then test the case for investment, implementation timeline and risk management and mitigation are being finalised and this will necessarily involve engagement across the budget areas and with experts in different parts of the University. Under the project structure this work will be co-ordinated through the 'Supporting the Curriculum' strand which will include senior representatives from budget areas. This is in line with the engagement strategy that has been undertaken to date by the project sponsor, board and teams

Organisational and Planning Model

15. As we move into the design and development phase of the Curriculum Transformation Project it is important for us to have and be able to communicate a clear link from our vision and the intended benefits of curriculum transformation to the key activities of the project.

16. We have prepared a simple organisational and planning model for discussion and further development with the project leadership team, board, workstreams and groups (Appendix 1). This model is intended to provide a high level summary of the key activities and the way they fit together to support achievement of the project vision and benefits. This is underpinned by detailed plans and schedules for specific activities and project deliverables.

17. As a project management tool the model will be used to help identify gaps, dependencies and connections; identify those with leadership and oversight responsibilities for key activities; and help ensure that all those involved in Curriculum Transformation have a shared understanding of the structure and focus of the project.

18. The next step in the development of the model is to identify the key activities of the curriculum transformation project. We have split these into four categories for planning purposes. These are: the distinctive elements of the curriculum (challenge courses, experiential learning and enrichment elements); the implementation of the framework itself (that requires action at School and institutional levels); the necessary investment, changes and improvements to the institutional infrastructure that supports the curriculum; and a set of other key institutional enhancement initiatives and connections that, while out of scope for curriculum transformation, are hugely important and significant for its ultimate success and impact.

Resource implications

19. A project team has been in existence during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years. As with all projects the team have asked for and required support from

colleagues across the organisation to attend workshops, engage with papers and proposals, attend board meetings and represent areas/bring their expertise to project workstreams and the board itself. This includes regular engagement with the Directors of Teaching, Heads of School, Heads of College, Professional Services staff as well as a significant number of presentations to Schools and Departments, to ensure they remain close to, and can help shape, the development of the project. We note our thanks to staff, students and alumni who have supported the development of the project to date and the level of engagement has been extremely positive.

20. As set out above an overall investment case for the Curriculum Transformation Project is being developed to set out the forecast investment, with contingency, to deliver the key components required to implement the reformed curriculum proposals in full and/or in part.

21. The investment case will need to set out a forecast of the resource required to implement the proposals and be kept under regular review through the appropriate governance mechanisms. It is likely that resources will fall into three broad areas: allocation/prioritisation of existing resources where time and expertise will be required to be prioritised on the changes being implemented through the project; one-off costs associated with the changes being implemented in Schools, services and/or project team over and above prioritisation of existing resources; and recurring costs, relating to any ongoing resource required to maintain elements of the curriculum reform following implementation. The assumptions/approach underpinning these broad areas have to be worked through.

22. The 2023-2028 planning template requested commentary on contribution to the 16 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set out in the Strategic Performance Framework. The planning round process sought commentary from the budget areas which conveys, for each KPI: how they are helping align activity around delivery of performance change; and what risks there are to achieving performance change/University ambitions.

23. The impact and benefits delivered through Curriculum Transformation is one of the placeholder KPIs and while work has to be completed to develop the detailed KPI, in this planning round budget areas were asked for the information below and review of submissions will further enhance understanding and assessment from each budget area.

- a. *Alongside the work on design principles and architecture for the Curriculum Transformation Programme, we are developing a small number of measures against which we can measure our progress. We will select a headline measure for including in this Strategic Performance Framework with the aim of being able to report from a baseline perspective in our mid-year report in April 2023, or our year-end report in Autumn 2023. Please note the ways in which you are engaging with CTP, your thoughts on engagement required by your area to successfully deliver the programme (noting that it is emerging), and what impact you will see over the period covered by this Plan.*

Risk Management

24. The project team maintain a risk register, which is reviewed, presented and discussed at the Curriculum Project Board in addition to follow up actions with the risk owners and those responsible for taking any actions set out to mitigate the risks. As part of any investment case a revised risk and issue register will be presented to inform decision making.

25. The University's Risk Policy and Risk Appetite document states: Major Change activities (e.g. projects, collaborations, mergers) – Major change activities are required periodically to develop the University, and to adapt to changes in the regulatory and technological environment and in the nature and conduct of the University's activities. The University expects such changes to be managed in accordance to best practice in project and change management, and has low appetite for deviating from such standards.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

26. Curriculum Transformation will support a positive contribution to the SDGs by the University. Objectives around inclusive and equitable access to education (SDG4), wellbeing (SDG3) and gender equality (SDG5) align with the purpose of Curriculum Transformation and the prototype Curriculum Design Principles. SDG13 (action to combat climate change and its impact) features directly in the Edinburgh Student Vision and through consideration by a Climate and Sustainability working group.

Equality & Diversity

27. An Equality Impact Assessment for the overall approach to Curriculum Transformation, the organisation and management of the Curriculum Transformation Project was completed in November 2022¹. Further equality impact assessments will be undertaken as part of the development and implementation phases of Curriculum Transformation (e.g. adoption of Curriculum Framework, linked to major changes in University Regulations, Policies and Systems). This includes work underway now to prepare a draft equality impact assessment for the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework

Next steps/implications

28. The Curriculum Transformation Board will oversee progress on the areas of work outlined in this paper. Key priorities include analysis and reporting on the results of the in-depth School engagement, further development of the Curriculum Framework and preparation of a detailed project plan for the first meeting of Senate at the start of the new academic year, as well as the development of the Investment Case. We will provide the June 2023 meeting of University Executive with an update on progress.

Consultation

29. In addition to discussions with specific Schools, through University committees and networks (e.g. Directors of Teaching) the curriculum framework has been discussed with Heads of School and College, University Court and at the University Executive Away Day in December 2022. The plans outlined in this paper have been

¹ <https://uoe.sharepoint.com/sites/CurriculumTransformation/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessment.aspx>

discussed by the Curriculum Transformation Board, at Senate Education Committee and elsewhere.

30. Looking ahead, in addition to the plans for in-depth engagement with Schools and the webinar series discussed in this paper the project team is undertaking a review of the content and structure of the Curriculum Transformation Hub² and will continue with a range of communication and engagement activities, including Senate Committees, Heads of College, Heads of School, Directors of Teaching, Colleges and Professional Services.

Further information

31. Authors

Dr Jon Turner
Curriculum Transformation
Project Lead
Barry Neilson
Director of Strategic Change

Presenter

Professor Colm Harmon
Vice-Principal Students

Freedom of Information

32. Open version.

² <https://uoe.sharepoint.com/sites/CurriculumTransformation>

Appendix 1 – Organisational and Planning Model

VISION & BENEFITS

VISION:
Deliver adaptive and inspiring education to prepare, respond and thrive in an uncertain world

Students are prepared, confident and excited for what's next

Staff have agency and space to develop and provide learning

Our institution is resilient, fit and flexible, built on agency, integrity and relevance

TOOLS, MEANS & MECHANISMS

Distinctive Elements of the Curriculum

- Challenge courses
- Experiential learning
- Enrichment elements

Implementation of Curriculum Framework

- Design & develop programmes (including external accreditation)
- Cross-cutting themes (e.g wellbeing, EDI, sustainability)
- Focus on student learning journey
- Rules, resources & guidance

Supporting the Curriculum

- Regulations, Quality Assurance, Programme & Course Approvals
- Digital Infrastructure (student record, learning technologies, system integrations)
- Timetabling
- Physical Estate

Other Enhancement Initiatives and Connections
(mutual benefits & dependencies)

- Size & Shape, Portfolio Review, Strategic Enrolment
- Degree Programme Finder, Student Journey/Experience (e.g. course enrolment)
- Digital Strategy, Learn Ultra, PCIM
- Assessment & Feedback Principles & Priorities

ROADMAP

Groundwork
Understand benefits & structures
September 2023

Construction
Develop programmes & infrastructure, communicate offer, understand practicalities
February 2025

Ready to Launch
Delivery and optimisation including active evaluation & refinements
September 2026



UNIVERSITY COURT

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

Action requested/Recommendation

3. 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.
5. For this meeting, following our March elections, an appendix is included outlining our newly elected Sabbatical Officers for 2023-24 and their roles, and our other new student representatives.

Discussion

Sabbatical Officer Overview

6. Firstly, we were delighted to achieve recognition in the National Union of Students (Scotland) Awards, announced in March. We were shortlisted in 5 categories:
 - University Students' Association of the Year
 - Campaign of the Year – for our Cost of Living campaign
 - Liberation and Equality Award – for our LGBT+ History Month campaign
 - Education Award – for our work preparing students to return to in-person exams
 - Club/Society of the Year – for our Global Buddies peer support scheme
7. We won the Education Award, for our work (led by Vice President Education, Sam) on in-person exams – more on that below.

Sabbatical Officer Updates

President – Niamh Roberts

8. Along with a University colleague from the analytics team, I am finalising the membership for a new Student Voice working group, where we will endeavour to

improve the efficiency of student feedback, increase engagement with methods of outreach, and re-focus University work around student experience from the students' own perspective.

9. I have been involved in discussions on University rents, although disappointingly these are now formally approved and students will face significant increases in the coming year. In the context of students' cost of living challenges we have argued at every stage against the proposed rent increases making reference to the debt that students will inevitably face even at current rent prices. This will leave students on the lowest Scottish maintenance loan in nearly £2,000 of debt after rent costs alone, this debt will be greater for English and international students who do not receive high maintenance loans or additional bursaries. Our Cost of Living campaign is now calling for the decision on rents to be reversed.

10. Cost of Living was also a theme for question and discussion at the Student Voice Forum I organised on 3 April to enable students to ask questions of the Principal and other senior leadership colleagues. Students were able to ask questions on any issues that matter to them, and we also focussed discussion on key themes of Student Experience, and Inclusivity.

11. I've been providing student perspective in the first meeting of the new On-boarding and Transitions group, part of the Student Lifecycle Management Group, and I've been in discussions with Lesley Ross from the Induction Team about encouraging students to enrol in Active Bystander and Consent modules online, before they arrive.

12. I'm also starting the process of creating handover materials for the new incoming President, Sharan Atwal.

Vice President Activities and Services – Natalia Ellingham

13. Natalia has been in conversations with Students' Association and Accommodation, Catering & Events colleagues on various aspects of food and drink offerings to students including: gluten free options and labelling, sustainable and ethical sourcing, and the Good Food policy. Natalia also took part in a focus group to give feedback on the University's catering offering. One of the main themes that came about from the session, and other pieces of feedback, is a desire for value for money, rather than just affordability; overall there is a need to strive for a balanced offering that meets students' dietary and financial needs. This also ties in with Isi's work on sustainable food options and her work on the sustainable policy, so they have met to discuss how our work on sustainability is communicated clearly and transparently – which will include signposting to the National Union of Students' relevant policies.

14. Additionally, Natalia has been involved in a number of collaborative activities with student groups across the University: helping societies gain sponsorships with businesses and employers (set up in response to society feedback), end of year kit collection (in collaboration with the Sports Union to support more students getting involved in sports and sustainability) and supporting our breakfast club. Natalia continues to work with colleagues in the College of Science of Engineering to ensure student input into developing and improving student experience of the Nucleus

through student interest groups that cover academic and social use of the building, community outreach and art & curation.

15. She has also continued to be involved in several University workstreams such as multi-factor authentication, study spaces, the Gaelic Language Plan and the Teviot renovation. While these are long-term/ongoing projects, Natalia has strived to share the student perspective as much as possible and facilitate opportunities to gather feedback and improve communication of these projects to students.

16. Looking ahead, Natalia is starting to plan her handover and is either wrapping up projects or bringing them to a place that the next Vice President Activities and Services can pick up. An example is the central events platform that she spoke with the events management community and Information Services Group about, which is now being adopted as a proposal for the Digital Strategy Board.

Vice President Education – Sam Maccallum

17. Sam has been focussing on their work highlighting difficulties students faced with the predominant return to in-person exams this year. Following Sam's recommendations to Senate Education Committee in November, the review of the December diet is now underway, with Academic Services beginning to draw data from the December diet and comparing to previous years. From the Advice Place, we have seen just over a 50% increase in queries about Special Circumstances in December this year compared to last year, and almost double the number of academic appeals related contacts in January compared to last year. The Advice Place reported that they had received numerous complaints in line with the original predictions from Sam's paper, including considerable anxiety, stress, and uncertainty with examination formats. The full review is being compiled for a new Assessment and Feedback group set up as a result of Sam's paper. This work has also been recognised as sector leading in Scotland at the National Union of Students Scotland Awards.

18. Sam has now chaired the Semester 2 College Student-Staff Liaison Committees for both taught, and research students in the College of Science and Engineering. Sam notes that having additional College staff support to actively follow up action points has been very valuable and has already resulted in faster resolutions from issues raised. The research representatives are still having considerable issues with the University's new finance system and the impact that this is having on their ability to order supplies and carry out their research, particularly in science subjects using lab consumables. Sam is setting up a meeting with the student representatives and University staff in the People and Money Implementation Team so that the ongoing issues are voiced and hopefully resolved. With industrial action continuing, Sam has been encouraging the University to prioritise student support and making sure that students are properly supported through gaps in their teaching. They have worked with staff to update student and School guidance, including allowing extensions for students missing out on dissertation supervision.

19. Sam is continuing work with strategic change projects in the University, and has been attending a new group looking at Challenge Courses within the Curriculum Transformation Programme. They are now having regular meetings with Jon Turner, the Director of the Institute for Academic Development, who is now on secondment

to work on Curriculum Transformation full-time. Sam is continuing to work with Lauren on the Project Board for the new Student Support Model ahead of the full roll out in September, and the Extensions and Special Circumstances Policy Group. Sam has contributed to discussions in Knowledge Strategy Committee, a committee of University Court and Senate focussing on Library and Information Services, and Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee. They also organised student representatives to join various Task and Finish groups for the Student Lifecycle Management Group, and they are working with the Deputy Secretary Students to ensure that students participating in these groups are remunerated, or otherwise recognised, for their time and contributions.

Vice President Welfare – Lauren Byrne

20. Lauren (with Isi) met with the Student Loans Company alongside other students to raise awareness of the disparity in experience between Scottish and English students, and to discuss how we can cross-lobby the Scottish Government on necessary increases to maintenance loans.

21. The Participation Grant was expanded last semester, with University support, and following this, it closed before Christmas. Lauren worked on confirming that it would reopen to continue helping students this semester.

22. Sam and Lauren have been working hard throughout the year on a task group reviewing Coursework Extensions and Special Circumstances, focussing on advocating for student needs while balancing staff workloads, and ensuring different student backgrounds are considered in the impact of any decisions made.

23. Lauren and Isi met with the President of the Islamic Society to explore how we can best support students during Ramadan, and brought issues raised to the Accommodation, Catering and Events Team, particularly to ensure that the food provisions at Pollock halls are sufficient for those who are fasting. Lauren has also been working with our Student Parents' Rep to chase some long unresolved issues such as access to sporting facilities with children, updating maternity leave policies and mapping facilities. She has also been showing support at a number of student-led demonstrations including a protest of the University's handling of gender-based violence cases, a vigil for the death of Brianna Ghey, a young trans woman, and a vigil to mark one year since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

24. Lauren has been working with The Advice Place and the Conduct Team to review guidance to support students who are going through the process of reporting breaches of the student code of conduct, and she facilitated getting student input from those who have been through the conduct process. In order to continue to shape the #NoExcuse campaign, she has consulted with the Liberation Officers on how we can represent their communities, and have reached out to student societies with a survey to get their input on the direction of the campaign. She has been working with the Deputy Secretary Students on wider gender-based violence issues at the University, and they are forming a strategy to involve relevant colleagues and potentially use external consultants to review the University's handling of areas like appeals, disclosures and data collection, and risk management.

25. Finally, Lauren spent time in March campaigning for re-election to the VP Welfare role which she was delighted to be successful in, and she looks forward to working with colleagues into next year.

Vice President Community – Isi Williams

26. Isi holds a voluntary role as Research and Insights Facilitator for the RGSU (Russell Group Student Unions) and has had regular meetings with the committee to discuss the recently released national Cost of Living survey report. Our Student Cost of Living Report can be viewed [here](#).

27. Some of the Edinburgh specific data can be seen below:

- 80% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their general student experience has suffered due to the Cost of Living Crisis.
- 70% have reduced the amount of socialising they do because they can't afford to, with 50% of respondents no longer taking part in extracurricular activities (e.g. clubs and societies).
- Of respondents studying at PhD level, 41% receive a stipend that does not cover the basic cost of living (rent, food, bills, travel, medicine, etc.)

28. Isi is also coordinating a Cost of Living Campaign at Edinburgh, with an open letter currently being supported by students with some specific asks for the University on better housing, transport options and food provision amongst other things. You can read more about our campaign [here](#).

29. Isi created a schedule of events for Sustainable Action Week (between the 21st and 28th of March). These events aimed to engage students in sustainability and were also open for our staff to attend. This helps to push forward our own Sustainability Policy Work, in particular: 'Create a culture which prioritises and promotes sustainability at the Students' Association', and 'Empower, educate and equip our members on sustainability.'

30. Finally, Isi will begin preparing for handover soon and is really looking forward to getting Alma ready to take over the role.

Awards Season

31. We had our very own annual **Student Awards** on Thursday 6 April in the Debating Hall at Teviot.

32. These recognised the outstanding achievements of students and student groups at the University of Edinburgh. As ever the nominations have highlighted a wide variety of individuals and groups who are making a big difference to students around them through community building, and also doing activity to benefit the wider community. Around 300 students and groups were nominated. You can see our shortlist and winners [here](#). We celebrated our Student Awards nominees at an event on 6th April.

33. The **Teaching Awards** is a key scheme we operate again annually to promote good teaching (to benefit our students). These awards continue to illustrate just how much students value their teaching and support staff, and this chimes with feedback we are also getting via representation routes about the industrial action, with most

students we hear from supportive of the academic staff and frustrated with the University as the employer. This year we've received over 2,200 nominations, and a student panel will be reviewing the nominations to develop our shortlist. All nominees receive notification of their nomination with feedback and a Teaching Awards Nominee badge. We'll be celebrating nominees and winners at a reception at the end of May.

Student Elections

34. Our Student Elections concluded with a full capacity results event and celebration for all candidates in the Debating Hall, Teviot Row House on Friday March 10th and you can see all the results [here](#): with a summary included as Appendix 1.

35. This year engagement through standing for a position in the elections was up 44% with 159 students initially putting themselves forward, with only 8 withdrawals prior to the start of campaigning. Engagement through voting was up 5% on last year, with 4456 voters.

36. Our new sabbatical team for 2023-24 will be:

- President: **Sharan Atwal**
- Vice President Activities & Services: **Katie Hardwick**
- Vice President Community: **Alma Kalina Rießler**
- Vice President Education: **Carl Harper**
- Vice President Welfare: **Lauren Byrne (elected to serve for a 2nd term).**

37. We also elected new Liberation Officers, Section Reps, School Reps, Student Opportunities Reps and Campaign Reps. The elections ran very constructively this year, with a positive supportive atmosphere for all candidates taking part.

38. Our current sabbatical team Niamh, Natalia, Isi, Sam, and Lauren are still in post, with nearly 3 months to go and lots they are still working on for our members before they finish - the formal handover being Friday 9th June. The new Sabbaticals will join the Association on 29th May to begin their induction and handover period, including a training and planning residential in Perth from 6 – 8th June.

Advice Place accreditation

39. This month our Advice Place went through a 2-day final assessment for our Matrix quality accreditation. This is a national standard for information, guidance and advice providers, and is a recognition of service quality, growth and continuous improvement. The very robust assessment preparation and visit focusses on how we continue to develop our service and plan service growth and change in response to changing needs, as well as on more 'core' measurements. The accreditation includes in-depth user feedback, as well as seeking feedback from at least 4 external agencies we partner with or refer to regularly. We are delighted to have once again achieved the accreditation, especially given the challenges presented by the pandemic and constant change created by that, plus pressures on the service following students' return to campus and significant growth in complex casework around sexual violence and harassment, the Edinburgh accommodation crisis, and now cost of living challenges for students.

Teviot Renovation

40. The Teviot renovation scheme is currently in the process of approval. This will finally bring about much needed improvements to make the building physically accessible and fit for purpose in public facing areas, as well as create some reconfiguration and enhancement opportunity. Planning for the scheme has become very real, with the building anticipated to close after Welcome Week in September this year for work to commence – so imminent. As well as finalising the detail of the plans, our focus currently is on the very significant business continuity issues and decant needs the full building closure creates. Whilst the work is ongoing, there are critical student experience impacts, for example on ensuring societies and their members still have access to appropriate meeting, rehearsal and event spaces when they need it, that students can still access a variety of study, socialising and catering spaces during the day and throughout the evening, and that we can meet our members needs in terms of access to a good range of social events and activities on campus. With a regular footfall of 2,500 people a day through the building currently during term-time, this is obviously a significant loss of space not easily absorbed or replicated elsewhere. In addition, as can be seen in the financial update below, Teviot continues to deliver positive financial returns above budget, critical in our financial recovery, which is also a concern given we are unlikely to be able to match this in any decant option unless there is further financial support to do so. The various practicalities therefore need resolving to enable us to continue to provide a positive level of service to our members over the period of the work. We have been working with the University to try to find some additional decant spaces in University buildings, as well as some reconfiguration of Potterrow to make it a viable alternative for some activity, but this is looking limited.

Student and Community events support

41. Gatsby Extravaganza 3rd February McEwan Hall - We worked in conjunction with the University and three of our talented societies to deliver an amazing experience in McEwan Hall open to staff and students. The three societies who delivered production for the event were: Edinburgh University Jazz Orchestra, Edinburgh University Swing Dance Society and Edinburgh University Jazz Band. This gave an opportunity to showcase McEwan Hall to over 900 staff and students who may only under normal circumstances see it to be part of a formal graduation ceremony and showcase our fantastic talent we have amongst our student groups.

42. We delivered all aspects of the event including the bar services, post event entertainment and event management from planning stages through to delivery on behalf of the University and the student groups, in a multi-department collaboration led by our commercial team. It was clear on the night how much students enjoyed the event, and the feeling was one of belonging to the University and student community.

43. We're keen to explore future event opportunities in the space, although noting that any event brings substantial costs to equip the space appropriately for such events even at a basic level.

44. 28th May Edinburgh Marathon – This year the Edinburgh Marathon's starting point is Potterrow, we will see the half marathon start at 8am and the full Marathon

start at 10am. Runners will arrive from 6.30am and our catering outlets will be open to runners and supporters. 5,000 people are expected to run in the half Marathon and 16,000 for the full.

45. 24th June – Edinburgh Pride – annual march in demonstration of equal rights and equality for the LGBTQI+ community with an estimated 7,000 attendees. This year the march is followed by an event on Bristo Square and takeover of Teviot and Potterrow, this will include guest artists and entertainment, community fairs, safe and inclusive rest areas and child friendly areas.

Festival Fringe

46. Planning for Festival 2023 is now well underway, which utilises Teviot, Potterrow and Pleasance, and sees us hosting our Festival Partners – Pleasance, and Gilded Balloon – for the month. We are currently recruiting our Festival staff, with c100 existing staff, mainly Edinburgh students, signed up already, and a further open recruitment for an additional 200, many of whom will be students returning ‘home’ to Edinburgh for the summer. Festival provision evolves every year, and this year with our partners we are supporting a trial of a new performance space in Teviot Row House, the addition of a staff and performer discounted food and drink space in Pleasance Courtyard and the further development of the Potterrow Plaza outdoor space at Potterrow Dome. Alongside the student opportunities available within our main Festival operations (including retail employment and technical and creative roles), this year we are also supporting our students at Bedlam Theatre with their plans to re-open for Festival 2023 for the first time since 2019. This brings significant resource challenges with it – both financial and staff capacity (to support effective recruitment/staffing practices, health and safety and building management, liaison with the city over licensing, to name a few), and we’ve been working through these with the society – Edinburgh University Theatre Club – who operate out of Bedlam, to build to a model that will work financially, and be operationally viable. Bedlam has long been a flagship location for smaller performers/theatre companies in the Festival, and given the students’ commitment to running the space for festival themselves, and the affinity many in the arts sector have with it, any further Festival closure would feel negative. They have already filled the majority of the slots in the month-long programme demonstrating a desire for the venue to be back in operation.

Financial Report for Period 11 (to end of February): High Level Summary

£ 000's	YTD			Current Month		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Commercial net income	458	235	223	89	58	31
Block Grant	2,964	2,997	(32)	279	283	(5)
Total net income	3,422	3,232	190	367	341	26
Membership Engagement & People Development	(1,032)	(1,139)	107	(104)	(106)	2
Corporate Services (excluding utilities)	(886)	(930)	44	(94)	(94)	(1)
Marketing & Member Communication	(332)	(361)	29	(31)	(35)	3
Central Overheads	(625)	(493)	(132)	(54)	(47)	(7)
Total non-commercial expenditure	(2,875)	(2,923)	47	(284)	(281)	(3)
Surplus / (deficit) excluding utilities	547	310	238	83	60	23
Utilities	(417)	(228)	(189)	(49)	(21)	(28)
Surplus / (deficit) including utilities	130	81	49	34	39	(5)

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

47. The budget was approved by the Trustee Board in March 2022 and gives a full year surplus of £156k.

Commentary & analysis

48. The February overall result is a surplus of £34k, which is only marginally behind budget. The February surplus increases our year to date surplus to £130k. February has been a busy month with trading sales reporting the second highest level all year, in part due to the Six Nations rugby. Teviot has continued to perform well and this strong performance is a key factor in the results being higher than budget this month. Staff costs and overheads continue to be lower than budget in some areas which is adding to the bottom line surplus.

Utilities

49. The earlier period end for February means we don't have actual costs and have accrued the same as January at £48k. This brings our year to date utilities to £417k and our latest forecast is still indicating the full year costs will be around £460-470k. This increase in unit costs of 85% has had a significant impact on our bottom line. As shown in the table above, our year to date surplus excluding utilities is £547k and after deducting a 'normal' or pre-covid level of utility costs (c£230k February year to date) would have given a year to date surplus of £319k. Whilst our strong trading performance and some budget underspends has resulted in our overall position still being on track against budget, this is not a sustainable long term position.

The University Estates team are indicating further rises in utility costs next year which we estimated will add an additional £150k to our costs. Without additional support from the University, we would have to make significant changes to our structure in order to maintain our target financial recovery position, and we have made this case in our Planning Round discussions for this year.

50. For context, utility costs used to be around 6% of our annual University grant, but this has increased to around 14% in the current year.

Full Year Forecast

51. We are now one month away from our financial year end. The actual results in February were more favourable than originally forecast which is improving the outlook for the full year. March is a long month (nearly 6 weeks) and with a number of year-end adjustments to be processed, it can be difficult to predict. It is looking more likely that our actual results (excluding any adjustment for the pension provision) will be closer to the budgeted surplus than was first anticipated. As already highlighted earlier in the report, this positive full year position is after we have absorbed a significant amount of inflationary cost, particularly in utilities.

Resource implications

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

Risk Management

53. Financial risks are highlighted in the report.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

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

Equality & Diversity

55. 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

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

Consultation

57. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

58. Author & Presenter

Niamh Roberts

President 22-23

April 2023

Freedom of Information

59. Open paper.

Sabbatical Officers

PRESIDENT



SHARAN ATWAL SHE/HER

- Leads on the Association's work on finances, including HE funding and student fees
- Acts as the University's key contact with the Association
- Attends University Executive on behalf of the Association
- Chair of the Association's Trustee Board and Association Executive
- Represents the Association at key University events, such as the Welcome Ceremony

VICE PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES & SERVICES



KATIE HARDWICK SHE/HER

- Leads the Association's work on student opportunities (societies, volunteering groups, Peer Learning and Support schemes, and social enterprises), as well as our commercial services, spaces, and facilities
- Acts as the key contact for University services focused on students' personal and professional development, including the Careers Service and Edinburgh Innovations, as well as the Sports Union (EUSU) and Edinburgh Students' Charities Appeal (ESCA)
- Supports the work of the Student Opportunities Representatives
- Chair of the Association's Strategic Development Subcommittee

VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY



ALMA KALINA RIEBLER THEY/THEM

- Leads the Association's work on issues that affect students outside the University, including housing, transport, access to healthcare, and involvement in the local community, as well as sustainability
- Acts as the key contact for the University's Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) department
- Chair of the Association's Finance, Risk and Audit Subcommittee
- Leads the Association's engagement with external stakeholders including political leaders, and local community groups

VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION



CARL HARPER THEY/THEM

- Leads the Association's work on issues impacting students' academic experience, including learning and teaching, academic support, and quality assurance and enhancement
- Acts as the key contact for the University's Academic Services department, the Institute for Academic Development (IAD), the Doctoral College, and the three Colleges
- Supports the work of the Programme and School Representatives
- Chair of the Association's Governance Subcommittee

VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE



LAUREN BYRNE SHE/HER

- Leads the Association's work on issues impacting students' welfare and wellbeing including student support, mental health and wellbeing, gender-based violence, and issues of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)
- Acts as the key contact for the University's wellbeing services including the Disability and Learning Support Service, the Student Counselling Service, and the Chaplaincy
- Supports the work of the Liberation Officers
- Chair of the Association's People and Culture Subcommittee

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Liberation Officers

BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC (BME) OFFICER

Vansh Bali

DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

Leo Hajducki

LGBT+ OFFICER

Ash Scholz

TRANS & NON-BINARY OFFICER

Robyn Woof

WOMEN'S OFFICER

Pia Wahi-Singh

Section Representatives

COMMUTER STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Sophia Blum

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Aarnesh Kapoor

MATURE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Olaniran Orekha

PART-TIME STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Anna O'Gara

STUDENT CARERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

STUDENT PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVE

Brenda Cundy

Undergraduate School Representatives

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Alanie Lapina

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Liza Larionova

BUSINESS SCHOOL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Dylan Walch

CHEMISTRY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Max Nyman

DIVINITY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Helen Ruth Schunemann

ECONOMICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Qingchi Wu

EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Katie Marsden

EDUCATION & SPORT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Fraser Hudson

ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Bintang Dirya

GEOSCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Hattie Palmer Noon

HEALTH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Setsengerel Nergui

HISTORY, CLASSICS & ARCHAEOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Marks

INFORMATICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Aurora Chua Man Shan

LAW UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Hannah Dong

LITERATURES, LANGUAGES & CULTURES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Minju Kim

MATHEMATICS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Rishab Acharya

MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

James Keeley

PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & LANGUAGE SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Aaron Rumph

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Mishita Khurana

SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Georgia Garrett

VETERINARY STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Estelle Marrier D'Unienville

Student Opportunities Representatives

Lucy Caswell

(INCLUSION & ACCESS)

Prerana Singh

(MEDIA)

ChenChen Zha

(PARTICIPATION)

Phoebe Kim

(WELLBEING)

Campaign Representative

Anya McClatchie

(TACKLING SEXUAL ASSAULT)

Christiane Bjørnland

(AFFORDABILITY)

Niamh Roberts

(SUSTAINABILITY)

2023/24

Edinburgh
University
Students'
Association





UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 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. Court is invited 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

British University and College Sport (BUCS) and Scottish Student Sport Update

5. In March, six teams qualified for BUCS Big Wednesday Championship, Vase, and Trophy finals. The finals day held in Nottingham saw Women's Fencing 1s claim the BUCS Championship title for the sixth consecutive year, and Men's Hockey 1s win on penalties against Nottingham in an exciting Vase final. Men's Football 1s, Women's Fencing 2s, Men's Water Polo 1s, and Women's Hockey 2s all had close and exciting games, with Water Polo seeing six rounds of sudden death penalties after the initial five, but ultimately finished runners up.

6. Meanwhile in Scotland, our Women's Shinty team were victorious in the prestigious McHue Porter tournament. Karate and Sailing had good outings at their respective BUCS competitions, with Karate bring back six medals and the Women's Sailing team coming fourth in the Fleet Racing Championships. At the time of writing, our swimmers are seeing success in the pool at the British Swimming Championships, with Kara Hanlon and Archie Goodburn both breaking Scottish

records. In the Women's Six Nations Rugby, we are represented by five current students and seven alumni in the Scotland team, highlighting the strength of our Women's programme.

7. We are currently on 3431.5 BUCS points and in fifth place in the BUCS league table. We have already secured two promotions to the BUCS Premier Tier, with Men's Table Tennis and Men's Squash both moving up for next season to join their Edinburgh female counterparts.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

8. After our AGM, we have been able to announce the addition of Baseball and Chinese Martial Arts and Combat Sports as new associate member clubs and Handball as promoted to a full member club. We are also in progressing the admittance of Flag Football as a new Associate member club. Handball's promotion follows on from two successful seasons as an associate member club, and Chinese Martial Arts and Combat Sports and Flag Football have already been operating independently this year. All four clubs have a strong appeal to international students, a group that currently make up 33% of our membership and we are actively trying to engage within our club structure. Our new clubs are currently undergoing an induction process.

9. At our AGM, we also announced the winner of our Sports Union President and Executive Committee elections, with Peter Sawkins elected Sports Union President for 2023/24. He will take office on the 1st of July.

Intramural Sport Update

10. We are reaching the end of the Intramural season with most leagues now drawing to a close. This year saw 146 teams compete as part of our Intramural programme, with football being the most popular sport (32 11-a-side teams and 61 5-a-side teams). This year we have run several new Intramural events facilitated by our Sport Participation Activator, including a basketball play-off tournament, a table tennis test event, and an Intramural Cup that will be taking place in April featuring Mixed Netball, Hockey and Men's and Women's Football 5s.

11. Our Sport Participation Activator has been reaching out to contacts within Schools and Residence Life to make connections and increase awareness of our Intramural and recreational sport programmes across the University, and what we can offer Schools and halls. We hope to formalise these connections and partnerships going into next year, as Intramural Sport is one of our greatest potential growth areas. We are looking forward to developing the Intramural programme further, and react to current student trends.

Campaigns and Fundraising

12. Our Clubs continue to get involved in campaigns and fundraising, with eight clubs supporting our International Women's Day social media campaign in collaboration with Sport & Exercise, and the Cricket Club running a charity Intramural netball and football cross-event in aid of CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) and Opening Up Cricket. The three students and staff member taking part in the Volunteer Zambia sport development project this summer have now completed their

final induction session, and are currently undertaking their last few fundraising events before heading out for eight weeks in May.

Semester 2 Engagement

13. Following on from a successful January Welcome, clubs have continued to welcome new members and provide opportunities to participate in sport. We have surpassed our 2019/20 membership total with over 7,500 Sports Union members, reaching our second-highest ever total membership (highest was 2021/22). When the Snowsports club (who have decreased the size of their ski-trip, hence the expected reduction in membership) is removed, our club memberships are level with this time last year. We welcome the return of the Student Participation Fund this semester, which we believe has been key to our membership being 12% Widening Participation students (University figure: 13%), and has supported sport being accessible to students from lower income and other Widening Participation backgrounds.

14. In March we hosted Leavers vs Returners – in lieu of Varsity vs Heriot Watt. This allowed our leavers to have one last run-out (or in some cases first run-out) onto our show pitches against their returning teammates. This was positively received by the participants with clubs enjoying the opportunity to have a friendly game after their regular competition schedule had finished.

15. We are also working with EUSA this Semester on a kit collection and swap event, where clubs and individuals can donate sports kit or equipment they no longer use to be redistributed to the wider student community.

Looking ahead:

16. In March over 400 individuals engaged with a variety of topics from alumni to club culture and wellbeing as part of our Club Committee training week. Moving this to March has given us the opportunity to upskill club leaders earlier, enabling development and planning over Summer. This training will be followed up with Club Conference Pre Welcome Week Sept 2023, and ongoing training throughout the year. We will be running drop in sessions specifically to support club Treasurers with budgeting given increased costs.

17. Looking ahead, we have at least ten clubs already signed up to deliver free sessions to students during exams as part of our stressbuster programme, with more anticipated to sign up over the next couple of weeks.

18. As we approach the summer, our focus turns to postgraduate students and we have already used participation funding to subsidise entries to the Hop Run, which is in close proximity to the Easter Bush campus, with almost 100 International and Postgraduate students signed up within the first day of promotion.

Recruitment

19. Recruitment is open for the 2023/24 Coaching & Volunteering Academy Intern role, an important part time role that offers a current student experience of working in a sporting environment, and allows them to lead projects within the Coaching & Volunteering Academy. We also continue to focus on recruiting students to

Edinburgh, via presence at fairs and supporting the Sport & Exercise scholarship programme.

Sport Participation Activator

20. Having had almost three months in the role, our new member of the team is settling in well and the role has served the purpose we hoped. Not only does the role give the opportunity for an individual to lead on projects and gain valuable experience in a professional sporting environment, it has allowed the Sports Union to have more of a face throughout the delivery of recreational activity. We have had higher uptake for our Stressbusters programme this Semester, and have also been able to deliver a number of recreational sport events. We will also be delivering an Intramural Cup Event for the first time, to provide additional opportunities for Intramural teams to continue to play after the season ends. The event is also open to the wider student and staff community, and is free to enter. We hope with the continued funding from the University for this role, we will be able to continue to grow and develop our programmes.

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. Our upcoming stressbusters over the exam period and other upcoming recreational sport events provide accessible opportunities to be health and active. 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. Through International Women's Day activities we showcased our visible support for women and girls in 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 continued appetite for sport and active wellbeing within the University, particularly in light of cost of living. This is reflected both in club membership numbers and in the uptake of free and low-cost opportunities. The Sport Participation Activator is already having a positive impact within the Intramural and Recreational sport programmes, and the continued investment in this role and surrounding programmes is welcomed.

24. 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

25. Consultation on this paper was not required.

Further information

26. Author
Heather Gault
Sports Union President
April 2023

Freedom of Information

27. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Director of Finance's Report

Description of paper

1. This paper provides a short update on the current Planning Round and the latest position on the University's management accounts for 2022-23. Further to this, there is an update on the upcoming Universities Superannuation Scheme valuation along with the results of the 2021-22 Russell Group financial benchmarking exercise.
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 5-18: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

19. 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

20. 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

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

Consultation

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

Further information

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 23. <u>Authors</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
| Rachael Robertson | Lee Hamill |
| Deputy Director of Finance | Director of Finance |
| Stuart Graham | |
| Head of FIRST (Financial Information,
Reporting & Strategy Team) | |
| 3 April 2023 | |

Freedom of Information

24. Closed – commercially confidential.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Residential Strategy 2023 - 2030

Description of paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to present a revised Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030 (Strategy) for approval.
2. The proposals in this paper will contribute to the following outcomes as set out in Strategy 2030. The University will:
 - i. be leading Scotland’s commitment to widening participation.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. have created opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts.
 - iv. be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040.
 - v. Ensure the estate will be fit for purpose, sustainable and accessible to support learning, research and collaboration with our neighbours, businesses and partners.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. Court is invited to:
 - approve the Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030;
 - note the Key Strategic Actions and Delivery Plan as contained within the Strategy document; and
 - note commitment to the University Strategic Objectives, specifically around Student Experience, Inclusion and Diversity, Transport and Climate Action.

Background and context

4. This Strategy was supported by University Executive on 21 February 2023. It was considered by Estates Committee on 23 March 2023 and Policy & Resources Committee on 27 March 2023, with both agreeing to recommend it for approval by the University Court.

Paragraphs 5-14: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

15. This Strategy aims to incorporate the following goals:

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by supporting students in their transition to University and provide them with a safe and supportive place to live

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by considering the accessibility challenges faced by residents and creating a complement of support, both financial and physical.

SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all by ensuring our residences are financial viable, ensuring we continue to offer homes to student and employment for our staff.

SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by addressing issues around accommodation costs, financial support and the changing pattern of both disability and gender

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns through our circular economies and waste reduction targets

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through ambitious replacement programmes, engagement in partnership and emergency technologies in addition to behaviour changing education initiatives

Equality & Diversity

16. Key aspects of equality and diversity have been addressed as part of this strategy, with a view to taking innovative approaches to residences. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in relation to all aspects of the Residential Strategy.

Next steps/implications

17. If approved, the Residential Strategy 2023-2030 will be taken forward and will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Consultation

18. Extensive consultations were undertaken with the following colleagues to assess the various interdependencies of ACE and other functions. These consultations shaped both the Strategic Assessment and Key Action Plan:

Deputy Secretary, Students
Deputy Secretary Governance and Strategic Planning
Interim Director of Estates
Assistant Director, Disability and Learning Services
Director of Information Technology Infrastructure
Directors Estates Operations & Development
Academic Registrar
Deputy Director, Social Responsibility and Sustainability
Head of Energy and Utility Management
Head of Indirect Tax
Various Financial Partner - Group Finance
President, EUSA
Vice President – Communities, EUSA

19. Estates Committee and Policy & Resources Committee considered the Residential Strategy 2023 – 2030 on 15 March 2023 and 27 March 2023 respectively and both agreed to recommend it to Court for approval.

Further information

20. Authors

Carina Svensen
Director – Accommodation, Catering
and Events

Michelle Christian
Director – Property and Residential
Services
Accommodation, Catering and Events

Steven Poliri
Estates Development Manager

Presenter

Gary Jebb
Director of Place

Freedom of Information

21. Closed paper – commercially confidential.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Edinburgh College of Art



Description of paper

1. This paper reports on the progress of the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) project. It seeks approval of funding to progress the project to completion.

2. The ECA project will contribute to the following outcomes set out in the Strategy 2030:

- i. Student Experience - Improve and sustain student satisfaction and wellbeing.
- ii. Staff Engagement - Foster a welcoming community, where staff, students, alumni and friends feel proud to be part of the University.
- iii. Net Zero - Be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040.

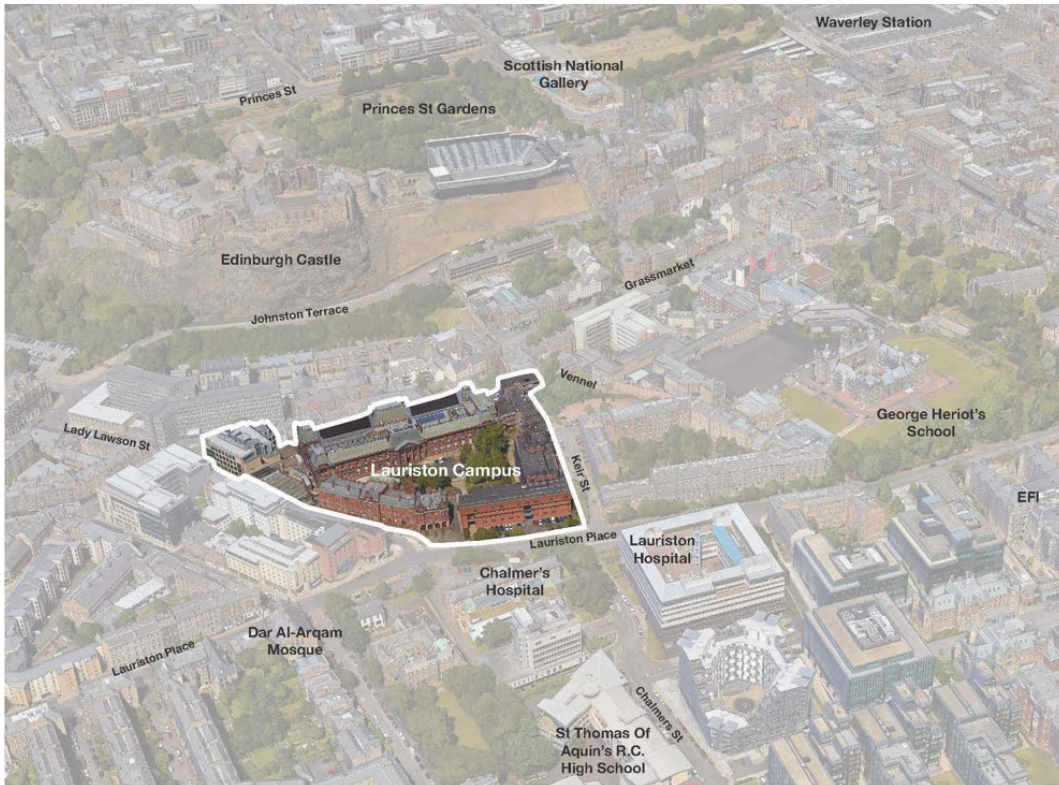
Action requested/Recommendation

3. Court is invited to:

- Note that proposed funding is currently included in the prioritised Capital Plan for this project;
- Note that the implementation and delivery of the ECA Masterplan will allow the Reid School of Music to relocate from Alison House to the Lauriston Campus, thus releasing space within the Central Area for repurposing;
- Approve capital funding to progress the project from RIBA Stage 3 through to construction and building occupation; and
- Note that funding has previously been approved to cover design team fees and surveys.

Background and context

4. Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) encompasses the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA), the School of Art, School of Design, History of Art and the Reid School of Music. Its activities are currently carried out in a number of locations across the Central Area including the main campus at Lauriston Place as well as Alison House, the Reid Hall, Minto House and the Maltings, Adam House and 7-8 Chambers Street.



Location Plan – Lauriston Campus

5. A number of funding requests in relation to ECA have previously been considered by Estates Committee, Policy and Resources Committee and University Court. Most notably an ECA Masterplan was approved by University Court in December 2017. This envisaged an expanded single site campus for ECA at Lauriston Place. During 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic a decision was taken to defer a number of projects for 24 months. This included the Edinburgh College of Art project.

6. In February 2022, a revised Capital Plan was approved by the University Court. This included a prioritised ECA project with a revised budget allocation.

Paragraphs 7-39: Closed section

Sustainability, climate change and sustainable development goals implications

40. The project aligns to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG8 - Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
- SDG9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

41. The ECA project has been modelled using the Edinburgh Sustainability Model Evaluator (ESME) Tool, which sets the Estates and Social Responsibility & Sustainability criteria against all development projects. This will measure projects at each RIBA stage and evaluate the level of sustainability afforded by the building design, specifications and operational criteria against the University sustainability targets.

42. The ESME report at RIBA Stage 3 (Developed Design) for ECA identified that the design complies with all aspects of good practice, University guidelines and targets established for a refurbishment project.

43. Measures will be taken to improve the energy performance of the buildings. The Fire Station refurbishment will incorporate draught sealing of windows, insulation of roof space and incorporation of wall insulation where possible. The building is to be heated by air source heat pumps, as a zero-carbon technology, however, the systems have also been designed to be able to be connected to the University Combined Heat & Power system when it is extended at a future date.

Equality & Diversity

44. Equality and Diversity will be considered at each stage of the design process. The Design Team review the current and new provision of facilities for all users and the capacity to support future need. All designs will have access surveys and reports prepared to ensure compliance.

45. The re-development project will address improving the accessibility of the campus, following inclusive design principles. The Hunter building at present has a steep flight of steps at its main front entrance which will be removed and a new entrance to the campus created between the Fire Station and the Hunter Building. The central quad landscape is to be re-configured with re-graded paths and with a new ramped access created into the Hunter building. Blue badge car parking spaces are to be provided in the quad and on Lauriston Place. A new main reception to ECA will be created in the Fire Station engine room, which will have a level access from the street. A full choice of wc options will be provided as part of the proposals, including an adult changing wc.

Next steps/implications

46. Following approval of funding the following actions will be undertaken:

- Planning application and Listed Building consent submissions will be progressed.
- Design Team will conclude RIBA Stage 4 technical design.
- Procurement of a contractor for Pre-construction Services will commence.
- Complete procurement and appoint contractor for asbestos removal enabling works.
- Procurement of a contractor for main contract construction works.

Consultation

47. The Full Business Case was reviewed and approved by the Project Board on 30 January 2023 and by Estates Committee on 15 March 2023.

48. In preparation of the report, a series of consultation sessions were held in 2022 with staff and students from:

- College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS)
- Edinburgh College of Art

Consultations were also undertaken with representatives from:

- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Historic Environment Scotland
- University Estates Technical Team

49. Estates will continue to liaise with the appointed consultants and relevant stakeholders at each stage of the project development.

Further information

50. Authors

Juan Cruz
ECA Principal

Presenter

Gary Jebb
Director of Place

Francine Shields
ECA Director of Professional Services

Karen Pickering
Estates Development Manager

Freedom of Information

51. Closed paper – commercially confidential



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2023

Description of paper

1. This paper comprises our Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2023, a component of the University's statutory reporting duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). It is a narrative report, considering strategy and actions from across the University.

2. The University is strongly committed to equality, diversity and inclusion reflecting the values and vision of Strategy 2030. This report helps identify the drivers of progress with respect to equality, diversity and inclusion, and areas where more focus is required.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To review and approve the report for publication.

Background and context

4. Under the Equality Act 2010, the University is bound by the PSED and must - in all its activities - have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

5. The PSED is underpinned by additional, devolved, specific duties. This paper focuses on the duties that the University must, by 30 April 2023:

- report on progress on mainstreaming the equality duty;
- report on mid-point progress towards achieving the Equality Outcomes 2021-25;
- gather and publish employee equality information;
- publish an equal pay statement and gender pay gap information;
- publish the gender composition of Court.

6. In line with Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and legislative guidance, the duty to publish the gender composition of Court is incorporated within the Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2023, and links are provided to employee and student equality information, and the equal pay statement and gender pay gap report.

Discussion

7. The report considers progress in mainstreaming Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) under five themes, each enabling embedding EDI in all that we do:

- Governance Structure – EDI within governance at all levels and across functions;
- Key Strategies – EDI principles embedded in major strategic change programmes such as Curriculum Transformation and the Digital Strategy;
- Services and Infrastructure – improvements to accessibility, inclusivity and wellbeing;
- EDI Literacy and Awareness – examples include EDI learning opportunities in leadership development;

- Evidence Base Improvement – improvements to data capture and analytical tools.
8. Demonstrable progress across our Equality Outcomes 2021-2025 includes:
- Our staff and students feel confident and are supported to report harassment, hate crime and gender-based violence – Establishment of Report & Support platform, Equally Safe Team, guidance and learning resources;
 - Improve access to education, and reduce retention, progression, and attainment gaps for different groups of learners – expanded scholarship offering for specific equality groups, new model of Student Support;
 - Increase the diversity of staff, including at senior grades, in leadership roles and on key decision-making bodies – Diversifying Recruitment guidance; Leadership development programmes for specific equality groups;
 - Ensure equality, diversity and inclusion is actively promoted throughout pandemic recovery and negative impacts are mitigated – cognisance of unequal COVID-19 impacts in academic promotions, Chancellor’s Fellowships, hybrid working.
9. The report is not intended to include all that we do, given the size and structure of the University. It demonstrates how we are enabling mainstreaming including, for example, through governance and improving evidence use. We also identify evidence of progress towards achieving our Equality Outcomes 2021-25, grouping examples of activities under each Outcome. Inevitably some activities fall under more than one theme or outcome.
10. Reflection on progress is in narrative form; the associated data reports provide some quantitative data, but much more could be done to provide effective monitoring and evaluation of our EDI work.
11. Although we have made significant progress in mainstreaming and towards our Equality Outcomes, there is so much more to do including:
- Advancing disability equality for staff and students for an accessible and inclusive environment
 - Accelerating our anti-racist work
 - Addressing awarding gaps
 - Building effective monitoring, evaluation and accountability
 - Ensuring sufficient professional EDI resource to support this work
 - Enhancing EDI related communications
 - Fostering good relations particularly in relation to freedom of expression and its intersection with EDI concerns

Resource implications

12. The continued implementation of the Equality Outcomes 2021-2025 will have implications for staff resources and in some cases will have financial costs. These will be spread across different budget areas, which is sometimes challenging in terms of responsibility to take forward. The Equality Outcomes have been aligned with existing priorities and activities where possible.

Risk Management

13. Failure to comply with our reporting duties has legal implications and runs counter to our values and commitments.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

14. In seeking to support the advancement of equality, this work contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reducing Inequalities).

Equality & Diversity

15. In seeking to support the advancement of equality, including identifying areas where more progress is urgently required, this paper has positive implications for equality, diversity and inclusion matters.

Next steps/implications

16. Following approval, the report will be finalised and published by 30 April 2023.

Consultation

17. Key action-owners and stakeholders have been consulted in the drafting of the report. Both the format of the report and a draft were discussed at a meeting of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee and approved in the draft state. An earlier draft was reviewed and supported by the University Executive on 14 March and by Policy & Resources Committee on 27 March.

Further information

18. Authors

Dr Caroline Wallace, Head of HR –
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Professor Sarah Cunningham-
Burley, University Lead for Equality,
Diversity and Inclusion

Presenter

Sarah Cunningham-Burley
University Lead, Equality, Diversity and
Inclusion

Freedom of Information

19. Open paper. The final version of the Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2023 has been published here: <https://equality-diversity.ed.ac.uk/about/outcomes/equality-outcomes-2021-2025-and-mainstreaming-prog>



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Data Report 2023

Description of paper

1. This is the public report on the University's staff and student population with respect to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. It provides high level descriptive data and forms a part of our overall approach to equality data.
2. Equality, diversity and inclusion are fundamental to all our values and vision in Strategy 2030. This report helps identify areas of inequality and lack of diversity that require further action in order to reflect our values and vision.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To review and approve publication of the report.

Background and context

4. The University has a statutory duty to gather and report on the protected characteristics of our staff population under the Public Sector equality duty. We are also expected to report annually to Court on equality monitoring under the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance.
5. From 2011 to 2021, we combined our public reporting on staff and student protected characteristics in the publicly available Equality Data Monitoring and Research Committee (EDMARC) reports, with the most recent report being up to the 2019-20 academic year and published in spring 2021. The reports were overseen by the Equality Data Monitoring and Research Committee. We paused this reporting in 2022 to reflect on our approach, with the aim of a refreshed and simplified external reporting approach alongside more granular internal data presented via dashboarding, for greater usability by different internal audiences.
6. Although much of the data is continuous with our previous EDMARC reports, there are some differences. For staff data, the changes to People and Money and the way the data can be reported on via the HR Data Mart mean that there is a break in the way that the data has been reported and trends may be slightly at variance with previous reports. For both staff and student reports, we have only reported at University level. These high level data are appropriate for a public report, while recognising the need for more granular data for specific purposes. Our intention to make data dashboards available to Schools and, as appropriate, other areas, in ways that mean personal data are protected.
7. EDMARC (Equality Data Monitoring Research Committee) will be reinstated and renewed, with refreshed membership and terms of reference, with an academic co-convenor and to ensure future reports draw on the wide expertise across in the University in relation to data analysis and statistics.

Discussion

8. The approach the report takes means that we provide a University level view of our staff and student characteristics, focussing on relevant protected characteristics in the way data allow. Such a high level focus gives an overview of trends and enables the identification of key issues either of concern, and/or in need of further investigation, in relation to these trends. Benchmarking data is provided when possible and as appropriate. The future work of EDMARC will enable more detailed analytical work to be conducted. Of note is the improvement in the presentation of ethnicity data, now provided for specific ethnic groups where possible.

9. In relation to student data, there has been an overall increase in the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity (BAME) UK and non-UK domiciled undergraduate entrants, an increase that is particularly marked for non-UK domiciled students. This reflects our global position and international recruitment. Asian students comprise the highest proportion. The proportion of BAME postgraduate entrants has also increased for both Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and Postgraduate Research (PGR).

10. While there is little difference in the proportion of BAME and white undergraduates exiting with a successful outcome, there is evidence of an awarding gap; this is most marked for BAME non-UK domiciled undergraduate students when compared to white students.

11. Younger undergraduates are more likely than older undergraduates to exit the University with a successful outcome. However, those aged 17 and under on entrance are less likely to achieve a successful outcome or a 1st or 2:1 degree. At postgraduate level, younger students were also more likely to achieve a successful outcome. However, the proportion of PGR students aged 36 and over who have achieved a successful outcome has increased every year since 2012/13.

12. We continue to see a consistently higher proportion of female than male students, including at PGR level. Female undergraduates have consistently been more likely to have successful outcomes and higher attainment than male undergraduates.

13. There has been a marked increase in the proportion of students, whether undergraduate (UG) or postgraduate (PG), who disclose disability, although the proportions are highest for UG students. Undergraduate students with a disability are slightly less likely to exit with a successful outcome and also less likely to attain a 1st or 2:1 degree.

14. Our staff data show an increase in the proportion of BAME staff, both UK and non-UK nationals. Reflecting our global position and international recruitment, there is a higher proportion of our non-UK staff who are BAME than UK staff. There is a higher proportion of BAME staff overall amongst our academic staff compared to our Professional Services staff.

15. When examining staff contracts, we see that, for both Guaranteed Hours and Fixed Term contracts, a higher proportion of BAME staff are represented. Although

broadly in line with sector, it is an area of inequality that we should consider mitigating.

16. Although 54.9% of staff are female, there is a higher proportion of female Professional Services staff than female Academic staff. There are slight differences in contracts between male and female staff. There is also a decrease in representation at higher grades.

17. The proportion of staff declaring disability has increased and is consistent with Scottish Higher Education Institutions; however it is considerably lower than for the adult working population as a whole.

Resource implications

18. There are no specific resource implications from this paper in itself, though the data generated in the report suggests areas for further action which would have their own resource implications.

19. The process of developing the approach and iterating public and internal reporting will have resource implications for Governance and Strategic Planning and the Business Intelligence teams in Information Services Group, and we will revisit our consultation across the institution.

20. A refreshed EDMARC will require contribution from staff and student representatives, sometimes beyond their specific job remit. This will need to be taken into account when managing workloads and rewarding contribution.

Risk Management

21. Through publishing this report we manage risks of failure to comply with our reporting duties, which would have legal implications.

22. We will also be better able to assess and manage our risks in relation to advancing equality of opportunity.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

23. In seeking to support the advancement of equality, actions arising from this work contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reducing Inequalities).

Equality & Diversity

24. In seeking to support the advancement of equality, this report has positive implications for equality, diversity and inclusion matters: it identifies areas where we need to concentrate actions in order to ensure equity, increase diversity and ensure all staff and students can flourish.

Next steps/implications

25. The report will be finalised and published on the University website by 30 April 2023.

Consultation

26. The proposed approach to the data reports was discussed at Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee in December 2022 and a draft report in February 2023. The draft report was reviewed by the University Executive on 14 March 2023 and Policy & Resources Committee on 27 March 2023. Additionally, colleagues across the University have been consulted by Governance and Strategic Planning during the process, including HR, College representatives and Academic Registry.

Further information

27. Authors

Governance and Strategic Planning team:

Jessica Armstrong

Jim Galbraith

Kevin Harkin

Pauline Manchester

Jennifer McGregor

Chris Sim

Roy Woolley

Presenter

Sarah Cunningham-Burley

University lead, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Freedom of Information

28. Open version – the final versions of the data reports can be accessed at: <https://equality-diversity.ed.ac.uk/about/reports/edmarc>.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

People and Money Systems Update

Description of paper

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

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To comment on and note the paper.

Background and context

3. Court approved the recommended implementation option for People and Money in October 2021 along with a revised package of governance and assurance changes to the People and Money programme designed to ensure the implementation of the project is given sufficient and sustained priority and support.

4. The paper submitted to Court at its last meeting provided an update on post phase 3 implementation and the summary of the short-term programmatic plan that had been developed to focus on essential tasks and operational issues. Reports are also provided to each meeting of the University Executive, Policy & Resources Committee and Knowledge Strategy Committee. An update was also provided at the most recent meeting of Audit & Risk Committee.

Paragraphs 5-33: Closed section

Further information

34. Authors

Barry Neilson
Director of Strategic Change

Presenter

Catherine Martin
Co-Chair of People & Money Enactment Group

Freedom of Information

35. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 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’*.

2. As such, a proposal was subsequently presented to Court on 27 February 2023. This proposal and outline approach was approved by Court.

3. The purpose of this paper is to provide Court with a short update on progress with commissioning of the External Review.

Action Requested/Recommendation

4. Court is requested to note the update and raise any questions as considered appropriate.

Paragraphs 5-8: Closed section

9. Author & Presenter

Paul McGinty

Head of Internal Audit

Freedom of Information

10. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Managing Security Related Risks in Internationalisation – Annual Update

Description of paper

1. This annual update report focuses on management and mitigation of security related risks across international activity and collaboration.

Paragraphs 2-27: Closed section

Further information

28. *Author and Presenter*

Alan Mackay,
Deputy Vice-Principal International

Freedom of Information

29. Closed paper – commercially confidential



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Performance measures to support Strategy 2030 – 2022-23 mid-year report

Description of paper

1. This paper provides Court with an update on performance for our agreed Strategy 2030 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), providing an in-year position on measures where we can provide data showing the direction of travel, alongside historical and benchmarking data, where available.

Paragraphs 2-20: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

21. In developing our performance measures, we have worked with Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) colleagues and our relevant activities reflected in the SPF are in line with those of SRS and tackling the climate emergency.

22. Each group of measures is mapped to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

Equality & Diversity

23. Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion is key to Strategy 2030, our underlying values and our obligations under the Equality Act. This means several of our measures are relevant to assessing progress in relation to EDI and include some specific metrics for our Equality Outcomes 2021-25.

Paragraphs 24-27: Closed section

Consultation

28. To develop this set of Key Performance Indicators and prepare this progress report we have consulted across the University, and we will continue to engage as we refine the SPF measures.

Further information

29. Author

Jennifer McGregor
Strategic Planning

Presenter

Rona Smith
Deputy Secretary, Governance and Strategic
Planning

Freedom of Information

30. This paper is closed as the performance data is mid-year/forecast.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Small Works Programme and Statutory Compliance Budget Allocation

Description of paper

1. This paper sets out the proposed programme of Small Works and Statutory Compliance budget allocation for 2023-2024 coupled with the associated budget allocation. It seeks approval for funding to proceed.
2. The proposals in the paper will contribute to the following outcomes set out in Strategy 2030:
 - Our estate will be fit for purpose, sustainable and accessible. We will support learning, research and collaboration with our neighbours, businesses and partners.

Action requested/Recommendation

3. Court is invited to approve the Small Works Programme and Statutory Compliance Capital allocation

Paragraphs 4-30: Closed section

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

31. Individual projects will be assessed for their potential to contribute towards the Strategy 2030 outcomes or SDG goals.

32. However the accessible and egress elements of the programme will contribute towards goal 4 by making it easier for those of varying physical ability to use buildings and access education more widely.

Equality & Diversity

33. An equality impact assessment is not required for this paper.

Next steps/implications

34. On approval of the amounts proposed in this paper, the new Small Works process will begin with a first round of projects agreed through May/June 2023.

Consultation

35. Colleges and Professional Services Groups have been consulted via the recent round of Programme Boards. Estates Committee and Policy & Resources Committee considered the Small Works Programme and Statutory Compliance Budget Allocation on 15 March 2023 and 27 March 2023 respectively.

Further information

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 36. <u>Authors</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
| Jane Johnston | Gary Jebb |
| Director of Estates Development | Director of Place |
| Tommy Angus | |
| Director of Estate Operations | |

Freedom of Information

37. Closed paper – commercially confidential.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Awards of University Benefactor

Description of paper

1. The paper proposes candidates for the award of University Benefactor status.

Paragraphs 2-13: Closed section

Freedom of Information

14. Closed paper until all awards have been offered and accepted by the recipients.



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Donations and Legacies; Alumni Relations Activities

Description of paper

1. A report on legacies and donations received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust or directly by the University of Edinburgh from 1 February to 26 March 2023. The paper also includes an update on current alumni relations activities.

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

Action requested/Recommendation

3. To note the legacies and donations received and the update on current alumni relations activities.

Paragraphs 4-11: Closed section

Alumni support for Student Recruitment

12. Alumni Ambassadors assisted in undergraduate and postgraduate offer holder events in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington DC and New York from the end of March to the start of April. The team will continue to support applicants in Hong Kong with two events at the end of April. Additionally, alumni participated in panel sessions for the Postgraduate Online Open Day in January and the Postgraduate Discovery Day in March. In April, the alumni team will host two College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Offer-holder Events to educate prospective students on how they can engage with the alumni network during their studies and beyond.

Being Edinburgh 2023 Award

13. The winner of the Being Edinburgh 2023 Award was announced at the Students' Association Student Awards Ceremony on 6 April. Winner, Henry Anumudu, is a 2022 MSc Africa and International Development graduate and Mastercard Foundation Scholar Alumni. He is passionate about creating educational opportunities for children from low-income communities. Over 50 nominations were received this year, and you can read about our three other finalists [here](#).

Insights Programme (helps Widening Participation students develop confidence, skills and connections to consider a range of careers through introductions to Edinburgh alumni working in a range of sectors and environments)

14. Academic year 2022/23 is a transitional year as the team aims to grow and strengthen Insights and "test the water" post-pandemic. Key areas of focus are the reimagined student development offering, integrated online activities as well as a partial re-opening of in-person visits in early June. The in-person segment includes trialling a new micro-internship model to provide work experience opportunities for Insights students who may be unable to undertake a traditionally longer internship.

Graduations

15. The Department's communications team and Careers Service have collaborated on a new guidebook called the [Multi Story Edinburgh Handbook](#), distributed to recent graduates. The handbook offers guidance, insight, and support, including features on the experiences of recent graduates and lessons they can share. In March 2023, the handbooks were distributed during the ceremonies dedicated exclusively to 2020 and 2021 graduates who were unable to attend a graduation ceremony due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Enlightened Magazine

16. The upcoming 4th issue of the [Enlightened](#) digital magazine, set to be released on 7 April, will showcase additional inspiring stories of alumni making a difference. Meanwhile, the Multi Story Edinburgh newsletter is being consistently sent to recent graduates.

Multi Story Edinburgh, the Podcast

17. The Department's communications team has been working on season four of the [Multi Story Edinburgh](#) podcast, released in February 2023. The season featured interviews with graduates from the class of 2022, discussing their experiences and whether things are back to normal yet. Planning for the next season has commenced, and the team is recruiting a student intern host for summer 2023.

Climate 75

18. [Climate 75](#), a collaborative project with Social Responsibility and Sustainability department, was launched during COP27. Climate 75 is a list of 75 alumni who are active in the sector and making a difference. From leaders and entrepreneurs, to those with potential for the future. Climate 75 showcases the University's community making a difference in the field.

Resource implications

19. 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

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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

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

Consultation

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

Further information25. Authors

Gregor Hall

Finance Manager

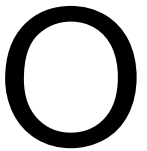
Gloria Ombuya

Alumni Relations Project Officer

Development & Alumni

Freedom of Information

26. Closed paper



UNIVERSITY COURT

17 April 2023

Draft Resolutions: Degree Programme Regulations

Description of paper

1. This paper invites Court to consider two draft Resolutions containing annual updates for the degree programme regulations and to refer them to the General Council, Senate and any other interested party for comment before they return to Court for approval.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. To refer the following draft Resolutions to Senate and the General Council for observations:

- Draft Resolution No. 8/2023: Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations
- Draft Resolution No. 9/2023: Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations

Background and context

3. The Universities (Scotland) Act 1966 enables the Court to exercise by Resolution approval for 'any additions or amendment to regulations for existing degrees' on the recommendation of the Senate, with Senate having delegated responsibility for detailed work on the academic regulatory framework to its Academic Policy & Regulations Committee (APRC). APRC has undertaken its annual review of the undergraduate and postgraduate regulations and has recommended some changes. Draft Resolutions have been formulated to incorporate the recommended changes and attached to these draft Resolutions are a list of degrees to which these regulations apply.

Discussion

4. The key changes proposed to the Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2023/24 are as follows:

5. Links within the regulations to other information and changes in terminology have been updated as necessary. This includes changes in terminology related to the adoption of the Student Support Model.

Regulation Updated	What has changed
4 Compliance (Fitness to Practice)	Cross-reference to sections on College Fitness to Practice Procedures added.
9 Timing of admittance to degree programmes and courses	Amended to add clarification that no student may commence any year of their degree programme more than two weeks after the start of the relevant academic year. Amended to clarify that, in circumstances where a Board of

	Examiners awards a null sit, the requirement for students to enrol in a course in the first two weeks of semester applies.
13 Study Period	The MBChB is an Ordinary degree, but is a 6 year programme. Updated on the basis that a 10 year maximum period is more appropriate for this programme.
92 Passes with Distinction	Removed the regulation on Passes with Distinction from College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations. The College state that this regulation has been obsolete for some time.
92 (formerly 93) BVM&S Distinction at graduation	Amended to state that Distinction at graduation will not be awarded to students admitted from 2023/24 onwards.
93 onwards - College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations AND College of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations	All regulations below 92 have been renumbered to reflect the removal of a regulation from Section C.

6. The key changes proposed to the Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2023/24 are as follows:

7. Links within the regulations to other information and terminology have been updated as necessary. This includes changes in terminology related to the adoption of the Student Support Model.

Regulation Updated	What has changed
6 Fitness to Practice	Links to College Fitness to Practice Procedures added
9 Late Admission	Amended to add clarification that no student may commence their degree programme (rather than 'be admitted') more than two weeks after their given start date.

	Amended to add clarification that students cannot enrol on courses more than two weeks after the start of the course, without College approval.
33 Authorised Interruptions of Study	Amended to permit the Head of College to exceptionally authorise an Interruption of Study which would take the total period of interruption beyond 100% of the prescribed period of study, provided this does not exceed the maximum allowable study period.
34 Extensions of Study	Amended to clarify that the total maximum period of permitted extensions is 24 months, provided this does not take the student past their maximum allowable study period.
41 Supervision	Amended to “Student visa” and removed “Tier 4 visa”. Amended the link to Immigration information for staff working with non-UK students.
90 Masters in Transfusion, Transplantation and Tissue Banking (MSc)	Programme specific regulations removed to reflect the programme closure.
90 onwards - College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations AND College of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Degree Regulations: Degree Specific Regulations	All regulations above 90 have been renumbered to reflect the removal of a regulation from Section C.

8. As the draft degree regulations are lengthy and are mainly unchanged, with the key changes summarised above, these are not appended to this paper but are instead included in full under the ‘Additional Information’ section of the Court [site](#) should members wish to review these.

Resource implications

9. APRC has given due consideration to any potential resource implications and there are none to be raised to Court.

Risk Management

10. APCR has considered any risks presented by the proposed amendments, and regards these as minimal.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

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

Equality & Diversity

12. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the proposed amendments.

Next steps/implications

13. Senate and the General Council will be invited to comment on these draft Resolutions and notice will be published on the website. Final Resolutions will be referred to Court on 19 June 2023 for consideration and approval.

Consultation

14. Academic Services have consulted widely on the revisions to the degree regulations and these have been reviewed and recommended for approval by Senate's Academic Policy & Regulations Committee. Senate and the General Council will then be asked for observations. The draft Resolutions will also be published online to enable any other body or person having an interest to express observations before returning to Court for approval.

Further information

15. Authors

Dr Kathryn Nicol and Ms Olivia Hayes
Academic Services
7 April 2023

Freedom of Information

16. Open paper.