



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Electronic Senate

11 to 25 September 2024

### Confirmed e-Senate Report

Comments raised via e-Senate can be accessed on the [Senate Members Portal](#).

#### 1 Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita (e-S 24/25 1A)

Senate approved the conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita on the following professors:

- Professor Chris Carr, Business School
- Professor Peter Dayan, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
- Professor Roger Jeffery, School of Social and Political Science
- Professor David Robertson, School of Informatics
- Professor Malcolm Douglas Walkinshaw, School of Biological Sciences
- Professor Christopher Williams, School of Informatics

Senate noted the special minutes provided for each professor.

One member expressed that they considered it to be disrespectful to confer emeritus/emera status with a Senate members' nil response being regarded as assent, rather than approving at a quorate Senate meeting. The member called for this item of business to be discontinued as part of e-Senate.

Congratulations were extended to the new emeriti, and thanks given to special minute authors. The member observed that not all special minutes referred to forthcoming plans for involvement with the university.

#### 2 Court Resolutions (e-S 24/25 1B)

Senate was invited to comment on the following draft resolutions of the University Court:

No. 99/2024: Foundation of a Personal Chair of AI, Memory and War

No.100/2024: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Educational Change and Diversity

Three members commented on this item. Two members commented that it would be beneficial for Senate to receive further information on what each Personal Chair would entail. One member commented that they welcomed the creation of the Personal Chairs, the creation of which they considered to be particularly timely.

Senate members' comments have been shared with the paper author.

#### 3 Report from the Senate Exception Committee (e-S 24/25 1C CLOSED)

Senate noted the two items of business that had been approved by the Senate Exception Committee in the period between 22 May 2024 and 9 October 2024.

One member of the Senate Exception Committee provided corrections to the paper, which Senate Support has made. Future items of Senate Exception Committee business will explicitly confirm, where relevant, that the requirements for award have been met and that the award could not await the next meeting of Senate.

#### **4 Communications from the University Court (e-S 24/25 1D)**

Senate noted the communications from the University Court as detailed within the paper, and which related to the University Court meeting of 17 June 2024.

Three members of Senate commented on this item.

Two members commented on the report and recommendations arising from the Externally-Facilitated Effectiveness Review of the University of Edinburgh's University Court and Committees. Comments were made on the applicability of recommendations from the Court review to Senate, particularly relating to the length and complexity of committee documentation and the need to provide papers that are fit for purpose; on the value of providing clarity to members on the respective roles and responsibilities of the University Court and Senate and the need for executive staff to appreciate the governance role of these bodies; on the need for discussion of Senate's legislative context parallel to the discussion of Court's; and of the need for both Senate and Court effectiveness reviews to consider the wider university community's views in evaluating effectiveness.

One member commented on the process of providing Senate communications to Court, and vice versa; and commented that they would appreciate information from Court on the agreed financial principles referenced in the report, including the reasoning for maintaining a large projected revenue surplus through lean years at potential cost to academic programming and student welfare.

Two members commented on discussion at the University Court on the Equality Diversity & Inclusion Data Report 2024. The members sought information on how the University supported groups affected by external events; and how the University fostered positive relations between groups with different protected characteristics in view of the member's perception that some recent events had caused an adverse impact on relations.

Senate members' comments have been shared with the paper author.

#### **5 Report from Knowledge Strategy Committee (e-S 24/25 1E)**

Senate noted the report from the Knowledge Strategy Committee as detailed within the paper, and which related to the Committee's meeting of 30 May 2024.

Two members of Senate commented on this item.

One member commented that they considered the current standard of accessibility and quality of management information and analytics data to be poor, and commented on the importance of this for staff to be able to support accreditation processes such as Athena SWAN and the Race Equality Charter.

One member commented on the need to give appropriate attention to inclusive planning and risk management when addressing the issues associated with the University's digital estate.

Senate members' comments have been shared with the paper author.

**6 Report from the Central Academic Promotions Committee (e-S 24/25 1F)**

Senate noted the report of the Central Academic Promotions Committee.