



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Electronic Senate

8 to 22 January 2025

### 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 3A)**

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

- Professor Brendan Corcoran, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
- Professor Jean Manson, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Senate noted the special minutes provided for each professor.

Five members commented on this item.

Three members communicated their approval, and one member communicated that they had noted the paper.

One member commented that they appreciated the special minutes providing information on how the professors would remain active in academic work. Separately, the member commented that they considered it to be disrespectful to confer emeritus/emera status by assent rather than affirmation at a quorate Senate meeting, and called for this item of business to be moved to ordinary Senate meetings. They observed that doing so should not affect meeting time.

#### **2 Court Resolutions (e-S24/25 3B)**

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

- No. 1/2025: Alteration of the title of Personal Chair of Politics
- No. 2/2025: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neuroinflammatory Medicine

Six members commented on this item.

One member communicated their approval, and three members communicated that they had noted the paper.

Two members commented on an error identified within paragraph five of the paper, resource implications. In response a correction was made to paragraph five, and a revised version of the paper was issued.

One member sought further information on the rationale for altering the title of the Personal Chair of Politics.

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

### **3 Report from the Knowledge Strategy Committee (e-S24/25 3C)**

Senate noted the report from the Knowledge Strategy Committee (KSC) as detailed within the paper, and which related to the Committee's meeting of 29 October 2024.

Six members of Senate commented on this item. Four members communicated that they had noted the paper.

One member commented on item one, Artificial Intelligence Adoption Task Force Update. The member commented that they were concerned that guidance provided on generative AI did not adequately consider variation in teaching across the University, and the potential for the guidance to undermine colleagues' teaching. Separately, the member commented that they appreciated reference within the report on the importance of governance for generative AI related policies and strategies; and added that Senate had a key role in providing such governance.

One member commented on item three, Chief Information Officer Update. The member queried whether more information could be provided to Senate on the impact of consolidation in the technology sector, and on the impact of long-term costs to the budget of the Information Services Group.

Two members commented on item four, Knowledge Strategy Committee Governance Update, which detailed initial consideration of a proposal for changes to the committee structure for Knowledge Strategy Committee and its three thematic committees: IT Committee, Library Committee and the University Collections Advisory Committee (UCAC). It was proposed that:

- The Knowledge Strategy Committee be disbanded.
- The Library Committee and the University Collections Advisory Committee be merged, and for the resulting committee to replace KSC as the joint committee of Court and Senate.
- The IT Committee to become a management/operational committee, reporting into the University Executive, but with digital estate projects with a value above £2m progressing to the Estates Committee.

One member commented that full consultation with Senate on the changes was required. They also sought clarification on which academic-related items of IT Committee business should be reported to, or approved by, Senate.

A member commented that proposals for modifying Senate standing committees should be undertaken in coordination with ongoing work on reviewing the remits and terms of reference of Senate's standing committees. The member commented that Senate did not appear to have much ownership or evidence of agency regarding the Knowledge Strategy Committee, and that the proposal represented an opportunity to such ownership and agency to be created.

Senate members' comments have been shared with the paper author, and will be reported to the Knowledge Strategy Committee meeting of 30 January 2025.

### **4 Report from the Central Academic Promotions Committee (e-S 24/25 3D)**

Senate noted the report of the Central Academic Promotions Committee.