THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Electronic Senate

E-Senate will commence on Wednesday 23 April 2025
and close at noon on Wednesday 7 May 2025

AGENDA

1   **Conferment of the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita**   **e-S 24/25 4A**
To approve.

2   **Communications from the University Court**   **e-S 24/25 4B**
To note.

3   **Report from the Knowledge Strategy Committee**   **e-S 24/25 4C**
To note.

4   **College Management Structure 2025-26**   **e-S 24/25 4D**
To note.

Electronic Senate

23 April – 7 May 2025

Conferment of the Title of Emeritus / Emerita Professor

Description of paper

1. Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita upon those professors who recently retired or whose retirement is imminent.

Action requested / recommendation

2. To approve. Please note that in the approval of the award of Emeritus/Emerita Professor via e-Senate, a nil response is regarded as assent. Members are invited to submit any comments, observations or reservations using the form available on the Senate Members Portal (Senate member access only). These comments will be added verbatim to the Senate Members Portal e-Senate page where comments can be viewed by other Senate members.

Discussion

3. Senate is invited to confer the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita upon those professors listed below:

    Professor Judy Barringer, School of History, Classics and Archaeology
    Professor Greg Cowie, School of GeoSciences
    Professor Elaine Dzierzak, Edinburgh Medical School
    Professor Bill Earnshaw, School of Biological Sciences
    Professor Peter Keightley, School of Biological Sciences
    Professor Brian Main, Business School
    Professor Stephan Malinowski, School of History, Classics and Archaeology

4. The Special Minutes are attached as an appendix.

Resource implications

5. None.

Risk management

6. Not applicable.

Equality & diversity

7. The use of the gendered titles 'emeritus' and 'emerita' may not align with an individual's preferences. The Senate Support Team will respect an individual's preference in title designation.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

8. Those Professors who have been conferred with the title of Professor Emeritus / Emerita will be contacted by Senate Secretariat in due course.

Author Senate Support, April 2025
Freedom of Information Open paper

Special Minute
Judith Barringer (BA, MA, MPhil, PhD)
Emerita Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology

Professor Judith Barringer retired from the Personal Chair in Greek Art and Archaeology in May 2025. After gaining her PhD in Classical Archaeology from Yale, she taught at several American colleges and universities before joining the University of Edinburgh in 2005. She became the first female professor in Edinburgh's Classics department, and in her 20 years of service to this institution, she has shaped the teaching provision in Greek Art and Archaeology and established Edinburgh as an internationally respected centre for the study of the material culture of the Greek world.

Professor Barringer stands for a holistic approach to Greek Art and Archaeology: the detailed study of ancient architecture, sculpture, vase paintings and imagery in other media is for her a window into aspects of ancient Greek society that would otherwise be inaccessible to us. Her books on *Divine Escorts: Nereids in Archaic and Classical Greek Art* (1995), *The Hunt in Ancient Greece* (2001) and *Art, Myth and Ritual in Classical Greece* (2008) demonstrate her longstanding concern with studying Greek Art and Archaeology in its religious, social and political contexts. Her intimate and comprehensive knowledge of archaeological sites in Greece also allowed her to write an authoritative textbook on her discipline – *The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece* (2014) – and, with her most recent book *Olympia: A Cultural History* (2021), a comprehensive presentation of one of the most famous sites of antiquity that will be widely read by colleagues and students for years to come. Her international standing as one of the leading Greek archaeologists resulted in numerous fellowships and awards from funders such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the British Academy, and the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, leading to research stays in Athens, Vienna, Berlin and elsewhere.

Professor Barringer was a dedicated and much-admired teacher. She created (and for a long time single-handedly taught) the second-year course *Greek Art and Archaeology* and offered numerous Honours and Postgraduate courses over the years; she was also a prominent – and certainly the most popular – face in first-year courses, drawing in many a student who had not planned to study the ancient world beyond the confines of an outside course. She also held several administrative positions in the department over the years, most recently International Officer, in line with her longstanding commitment to forging exchange and collaboration with other institutions across the globe. She aims to spend her retirement living in Berlin but travelling archaeological sites all over the Mediterranean, rescuing cats, and completing her current book project *Seeking the Divine in a Faraway Place*, a study of Western Greek colonies and their relations with the sanctuaries of the Greek mainland.

Professor Barringer has made very significant contributions to the study of Greek Art and Archaeology, and her work has shaped the way this discipline is understood and taught at the University of Edinburgh.

Special Minute
Professor Greg Cowie BSc, MSc, PhD,
Emeritus Professor of Biogeochemistry

Professor Cowie is retiring from his position in summer 2025, having been appointed 29 years ago as a lecturer and promoted to Chair in 2021. His path to Edinburgh started at the University of Wales with his undergraduate degree in Oceanography (1980) followed by MSc and PhD at the University of Washington before postdocs in France and Canada.

Throughout his time in Edinburgh, he has been a core member of the Environmental Geoscience degree team, being largely responsible for its expansion to its present levels. He served as degree programme co-ordinator for seven years, and designed and delivered numerous courses, including two field courses that are central to success of the degree. He also created and led the School's Organic Geochemistry Facility, and served as the School's Head of Facilities.

His research has generally focused on the use of organic biomarkers and other tracers in studying diverse biogeochemical processes, both modern and paleoenvironmental and in settings ranging from peat bogs to rivers, estuaries and the coastal and open ocean. He has worked in the Indian Ocean since 1993, applying novel experimental platforms in studying oxygen-depleted environments. He was PI on an Arabian Sea consortium project (NERC, Leverhulme) with multiple UK and international partners, which included 4 research cruises, being Chief Scientist on two of these. He also led UK participation in a Japanese cruise that involved *in situ* seafloor experimentation using a manned submersible. He has been a member of the Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem (SIBER) programme since 2008, and became co-chair in 2017. He is a co-author of the Science Plan of the 2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2), which will extend the expedition to 2030; coastal observations and capacity building have been highlighted as key focus areas. He is chair of the UK's IIOE-2 committee. Through these roles, he has played an important part in promoting international collaborative research in the world's most rapidly changing but least well studied ocean.

More recently, he has dedicated his energy to co-leadership of the Coastal Observation Lab in a Box (COLaB) marine science capacity building project. The project has brought together an international team to deliver training with newly developed low-cost instruments and techniques. The aim is to support coastal communities in under-resourced countries in monitoring and understanding the physical, chemical and biological nature of their coastal waters, in order to increase sustainable management. The project has recently been endorsed by the *UN Decade of the Ocean for Sustainable* (https://oceandecade.org/actions/coastal-observation-lab-in-a-box/). He recently secured funds for and led the first trial COLaB field training activities, in Ghana (July '24) and Kenya (September '24), and now has proposals submitted for regional training camps, in Ghana for the Gulf of Guinea region, and in Mozambique for the SW Indian Ocean region.

Professor Cowie will continue his work with COLaB, SIBER and IIOE-2 in coming years, and Emeritus status will greatly help those endeavours. A regional training camp has already been agreed for Indonesia. COLaB will be core to the UN Decade of the Ocean *CoastPredict* programme, which will involve capacity building and training at sites across the world. Emeritus status and continued association with the University of Edinburgh will help Professor Cowie in fostering further collaborative Indian Ocean research projects.

Special Minute
Elaine Dzierzak MSc MPhil PhD FRSE FMedSci
Emerita Professor of Haematological Regeneration

Since 2013, Elaine Dzierzak has held the Chair of Haematologic Regeneration at the University of Edinburgh. She established her scientific reputation in Developmental Haematopoiesis as a Staff Scientist at the MRC National Institute of Medical Research in London (1989). She was one of the first to show that the stem cells for the adult blood system originate in the developing embryo in the vascular endothelium of the aorta. With this discovery she changed the long-held paradigm of the yolk sac origins of the adult haematopoietic system. In 1996 she became a Professor at the Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam, NL. There she demonstrated in real-time, by vital microscopic imaging of the mouse embryo, the remarkable direct generation of haematopoietic stem cells from aortic endothelial cells. In addition, she advanced knowledge on the molecular regulation of this cellular transdifferentiation process by specific gene knockout and overexpression in mouse models. With her arrival in Edinburgh, her work focused on single cell 'omics' and computational technologies to define and manipulate the molecular programming of the first fully functional haematopoietic stem cells and the cells of the microenvironment. Together, these findings have been recognized worldwide and have provided important insights into human stem cell transplantation for the blood-related diseases and malignancies.

Amongst her funding for this research were prestigious awards from the MRC, Leukaemia Research Fund, European Union Frontiers Programmes, NIH R01, NIH Merit, European Science Foundation, KWF Cancer Fund, NL Scientific Organization (NWO), ERC Advanced Grant, BBSRC and she was the principal applicant for an Innovation Award that brought together and funded the research of over 40 stem cell and tissue engineering labs in the NL. She was founding director of the Erasmus Stem Cell Institute, the Dutch Stem Cells in Development and Disease Consortium and the NL Institute for Regenerative Medicine. She has received the most important honours in the field of experimental haematology (the ISEH Metcalf Award in 2015 and the EHA Grimwade Award in 2022), is an elected member of EMBO, Fellow of the Royal Society Edinburgh, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and was President of the International Society of Experimental Haematology. Her trainees include 32 postdoctoral fellows, 21 PhDs and numerous Masters and Honours students, many of whom have become research, clinical and teaching faculty at major international and national universities and/or industry.

Elaine Dzierzak's research career has been outstanding throughout her international posts, and especially her 12 years as a University of Edinburgh faculty member. She has been recognized for her professional credibility both nationally and internationally (for example, member of European Research Council Consolidator panel and Cancer Research UK Discovery Panel); a leader in conference organisation, journal editorial boards, plenary speaker invitations and has served on many University of Edinburgh funding, reviewing and promotion panels. Most importantly, she is a valued member of the ECAT programme, which evaluates tenure-track faculty promotions at the university. She leaves the university a legacy of young faculty members that are continuing the field of developmental haematopoiesis using state-of-the-art technologies for ex vivo human haematopoietic stem cell generation and expanding research into the study of leukemic initiation and progression (with focus on childhood leukaemia).

Despite her retirement, Elaine Dzierzak will continue to contribute as a valuable mentor to the young faculty within the research community of the University of Edinburgh Institute for Regeneration and Repair, and take part ad hoc in some evaluation panels, while she eagerly takes on new life challenges.

Special Minute
Professor William Charles Earnshaw BA, PhD, FRS, FMedSci, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Chromosome Dynamics

Bill Earnshaw obtained a BA *summa cum laude* in Biology and Art at Colby College (Waterville, Maine) in 1972. Subsequently, a National Science Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, allowed him to attend MIT (1973-1977), where his PhD research, conducted jointly in the labs of Jonathan King and Stephen Harrison at Harvard yielded a detailed model for the organisation of DNA in bacteriophage heads that was proven correct many years later with the advent of cryoelectron microscopy.

A fellowship from the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, enabled Bill to join the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge for postdoctoral work sponsored by Aaron Klug. There, Bill worked first with Tony Crowther, determining the unusual cross-beta structure of the T4 bacteriophage tail fiber, and then with Ron Laskey, where he studied nucleosome assembly by nucleoplasmin.

Bill was offered an Assistant Professorship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine but first spent 13 months in Geneva studying mitotic chromosome structure with Ulrich Laemmli. This changed his life, establishing his life-long interest in how non-histone proteins collaborate to produce the incredibly compact structures of mitotic chromosomes. Bill joined Johns Hopkins in 1981, ultimately becoming Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy. In 1995 he and his wife Margarete Heck were recruited by Adrian Bird to come to Edinburgh to help establish Cell Biology in the Swann Building, an initiative inspired by Ken and Noreen Murray. He was awarded a Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellowship, which he has held from January 1996 until the end of his career (September 30th, 2025).

Bill is a world leader in the field of mitotic chromosome structure and segregation. His identification of the human centromeric proteins allowed the first molecular analysis of chromosome segregation. Other highlights include designing the first human synthetic chromosome and a landmark international interdisciplinary collaboration to functionally characterise mitotic chromosome formation and structure. The impact of his 232 publications from the University of Edinburgh is evident from the fact that he has been cited over 66,000 times. He is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, The Academy of Medical Sciences and EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation) and has received numerous other awards.

Bill has actively supported the wider scientific community. He served on the Committee of the British Society for Cell Biology (1999-2005) and on membership committees at the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2003-2006) and Royal Society of London (2015-2018). He has also served on the Royal Society Diversity Temporary Nominating Group and Premier Awards Selection Committee. At EMBO, he joined the Course and Conference Committee (2008-2013), serving as its chair from 2010 – 2013. At the American Society of Cell Biology, he served on the International Affairs Committee (2013-2016) and is currently an elected member of the Council. At Wellcome, he served on the interview panels for Senior Fellowships (2000 – 2002) and Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships (2006 – 2016). He currently serves on the editorial Board of five journals. His Cell Biology textbook, published by Elsevier with co-authors Thomas Pollard and artist Graham Johnson is in its 4th edition, has sold ~50,000 copies and is translated into Greek, Korean, Portuguese, German, and Italian.

Bill was Deputy Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology from its inception in 2001 until 2016. He designed and taught a transferrable skills course on how to write a scientific paper for 17 years and since 2008 has designed and presented his course "Survival

Skills for Ph.D. students". He also lectured for many years in several honours programmes. He has supervised (at Edinburgh) 27 PhD students and 28 postdoctoral fellows. He and his team actively promote research in Edinburgh, delivering outreach sessions on cell biology to local primary and secondary schools. Bill remains active in mentoring today, both within the University and in external programmes from the Academy of Medical Sciences, American Society for Cell Biology and EMBO.

In summary, Bill has earned the University an outstanding reputation through a remarkable research career. Following his retirement, Bill hopes to actively contribute to our knowledge of mitotic chromosome structure. He also plans to remain active in mentoring students and junior colleagues, serving on thesis committees, and contributing as a *de facto* member of a lab group in the Swann Building

Special Minute
Professor Peter Keightley BSc, PhD, FRSE, FRS
Emeritus Professor of Evolutionary Genetics

Peter Keightley obtained his BSc in Genetics in 1982 at the University of Edinburgh. From 1982 until 1986 he worked in a commercial company developing software for trials of electronics funds transfer at point-of-sale systems. In 1986, he rejoined academia, and began studies for his PhD with Professor William Hill at the University of Edinburgh. Towards the end of his PhD studies, he wrote a successfully funded grant to study the impact of insertional mutational variation on quantitative variation in mice and in 1992 obtained a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, which he held until 2001 in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. His research branched in several directions, examples of which are described below, under the general theme of the impact of new mutations on evolutionary processes.

He worked with Henrik Kacser, one of the founders of systems biology, linking variation in metabolic systems with variation in quantitative traits. In a departure from traditional models of quantitative variation, he examined models of quantitative variation in which the trait was metabolic flux. He showed that dominance and interaction variance are emergent properties of such systems, but are not major contributors to the overall genetic variance, consistent with classical data from quantitative genetics.

In spite of the critical role in evolution and quantitative genetics, there had been a dearth of information on the nature of the distribution of effects of new mutations for quantitative traits, including fitness. Keightley was the first to develop methods to make inferences about this distribution. He analysed data from mutation accumulation (MA) experiments, in which new spontaneous mutations are allowed to accumulate in inbred sublines or chromosomes. He proposed that existing estimates of high rates of mildly deleterious viability mutations might be gross over-estimates, a hypothesis that was corroborated by further evidence from population genetics.

He carried out the first MA experiment in a multicellular eukaryote, *Caenorhabditis elegans*, that used a cryopreserved control. The experiment indicated that the decay of fitness brought about by spontaneous mutation accumulation is mainly caused by mutations with large effects, which are unlikely to become fixed in large populations.

With Sarah Otto, Keightley used empirical estimates of genome wide mutation rates and the fitness effects to test whether deleterious mutations could favour the evolution of recombination. Previous theory had suggested that in the absence of epistasis, recombination and sex would only be favoured in small populations. They showed that Hill-Robertson interference among recurrent deleterious mutations favours modifier mutations that increase the frequency of recombination even in large populations. Their results strongly suggest that Hill-Robertson interference is the general explanation for the evolution of recombination.

He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2005 and Fellow of the Royal Society in 2014.

Keightley has published more than 150 research papers and throughout his career maintained a research group funded by external sources. For example, a recent prestigious grant from the European Research Council produced the first estimate of the rate of degradation of fitness from mutation accumulation in a mammal.

He has mentored 13 PhD students as primary supervisor and over 20 Postdocs, almost all of whom have subsequently obtained jobs in academia, industry or government.

Special Minute
Professor Brian G. M. Main, BSc, MBA, MA, PhD, FRSE
Emeritus Professor of Business Economics

Professor Main first joined the University as a Lecturer in Economics in 1976. Promoted to Reader in Economics in 1983, he moved to be Head of Economics and International Relations at St Andrews in 1987, returning to Edinburgh in 1991 as Professor of Economics. He was Head of Economics in 1991-93 and again in 1995-97. In 2002 he transferred to the Business School with the title of Professor of Business Economics. Between 1995 and 2007 he served as Director and then Academic Director of The David Hume Institute.

Professor Main's research interests have been in labour markets. His early work focused on unemployment, publishing papers with George Akerlof of Berkeley (a subsequent Nobel Prize recipient) and David Raffe (of the University's Centre for Educational Sociology). He then commenced what was to be a life-long interest in women in the labour market, working initially with colleagues at Warwick University (where he held an Honorary Fellowship). Originally studying women's working lives and measuring the discriminatory hurdles they faced, his work in this area continues and can be found in his recent studies of women in the boardroom. Starting in 1987, he also authored some of the first studies of executive pay and continues to develop our understanding of this area of the labour market – both with Charles O'Reilly at Stanford and, more recently, with Ian Gregory-Smith at the University of Newcastle.

Professor Main has made his main contribution through large scale empirical studies of labour markets. Over the years, this work has been supported by major grants from the ESRC (indeed, as far back as the SSRC) – both responsive mode and initiative mode, the Leverhulme Trust, the National Science Foundation, and the Nuffield Foundation. His output has been consistently published in the better economics and management academic journals.

Always a very popular and enthusiastic teacher, in his early years at Edinburgh he taught not only his speciality topic of labour economics but for many years he taught an entire term of the introductory 'Economics 1' course – then held in what is now the Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre. In 1992 he introduced to Edinburgh University what was one of the first university courses in Negotiation in the UK, and over the subsequent years has taught this with great success at undergraduate, MSc and MBA levels.

Professor Main was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1998. Since 2012, he has also been an Academic Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). This last arose in 2012 when he designed and introduced Edinburgh's MSc in Human Resource Management – a programme that has established itself as a success, with over 90 students per year.

Since graduating from the doctoral program in Economics at UC Berkeley, he has through sabbaticals and shorter research visits maintained his contacts with both Berkeley and Stanford.

Professor Main will remain in Edinburgh after his retirement. He currently has four AJG-4 and three AJG-3 level publications eligible for the forthcoming REF, and plans to continue his research.

Special Minute
Stephan Malinowski (MA, PhD)
Emeritus Professor of Modern European History

Professor Stephan Malinowski will retire from the Personal Chair in Modern European History in May 2025. He studied at the Freie University of Berlin; Université Paul Valéry, Monpellier III; the European University Institute, Florence, and the Technische Universität, Berlin. Following his doctorate, he was a researcher or lecturer at the Technische Universität Berlin, the Historical Institute of the University of Cologne, Harvard University, the Freie University of Berlin, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, and University College Dublin. He came to Edinburgh in 2012 as Lecturer in Modern European History, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and remained after the DAAD lectureship ended. He was promoted to Professor of Modern European History in 2024.

Professor Malinowski's research has focused on modern German history, especially on the relationship between the Nazi party and the German nobility, and more recently on connections between Nazism and colonialism. His sole-authored books are *Vom König zum Führer. Deutscher Adel und Nationalsozialismus* [From King to Führer. German Nobility and National Socialism] (Berlin 2003), *Nazis and Nobles. The History of a Misalliance* (2020), and *Die Hohenzollern und die Nazis. Geschichte einer Kollaboration* (2021), published in English as *The Hohenzollerns and the Nazis: A History of Collaboration* (Penguin, 2025). He has also edited a special issue of the *Journal of Modern European History* and published multiple journal articles and book chapters.

Professor Malinowski's research has been exceptionally influential in the public sphere. His research on the German nobility and royal family's collaboration with the Nazi regime contributed to multiple court cases relating to the descendants of the Hohenzollern's efforts to reclaim property that had been confiscated in the aftermath of the Second World War. His expert witness testimony was crucial to the ultimate success of the defense against Hohenzollern restitution claims. Public interest in his work in Germany and beyond has been high. *Die Hohenzollern und die Nazis* was a bestseller, and won the German Award for the best non-fiction book of 2022. The newly published Penguin translation was reviewed across the UK press and chosen as *Sunday Times* Book of the Week.

Professor Malinowski was a popular teacher at Edinburgh, where he taught hundreds of students on courses including 'Stage of Extremes: Violence and Transformation from 1870 to the Present', 'Thinking the Twentieth Century: Hannah Arendt and the Breakdown of European Civilisation', and 'Colonial Wars and Civilising Missions in the Twentieth Century'. He served as International Director for HCA from 2018 to 2020, as Programme Director for the MSc in Intellectual History from 2018 to 2021 and as Deputy Director for the Centre for Modern and Contemporary History from 2017 to 2020.

As emeritus Professor, Malinowski will complete two books, *Hearts of Darkness: Europäischer Kolonialismus und NS-Herrschaft über Europa* (Hearts of Darkness: European Colonialism and Nazi Rule over Europe) and *Die große antikapitalistische Sehnsucht: Utopien und Gegenbilder von links und rechts* (The Great Anti-capitalist Longing: Utopias and counter-images from Left and Right) and will curate a major exhibition on colonialism and fascism at the German Historical Museum, Berlin.

Electronic Senate

23 April – 7 May 2025

Communications from the University Court

Description of paper

1. To update Senate on certain matters considered by the University Court at its meeting held on 24 February 2025.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.

Background and context

3. The University Court routinely reports to Senate on business which is of interest to Senate.

Discussion

4. Please see Appendix 1 for a report of business conducted at the 24 February meeting.

Resource implications

5. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Risk management

6. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Equality and diversity

7. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

8. Regular reports on the Court's work of interest to Senate will continue to be submitted.

Author
Daniel Wedgwood
Governance & Court Services
April 2025

Freedom of Information
Open Paper

Appendix 1:

24 February 2025

1   Principal's Report

The Principal's report was noted. Key points in the report included the following:
- The introduction to Parliament of the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill;
- Meetings of the General Council and the Russell Group;
- An event celebrating long-serving University staff;
- Work to enhance the student experience;
- A visit to India for a series of meetings on existing and prospective partnerships;
- Attendance at a reception celebrating the UK's AI ecosystem hosted by the Prime Minister, at 10 Downing Street;
- Significant research awards in renewable energy generation.

2   Senate report

Court received reports of Senate Business conducted at the Senate meetings held on 22 May, 18 June, 9 October, and 11 December 2024 and on 5 February 2025. Court also received reports of e-Senate business conducted between 13 and 27 November 2024, and between 8 and 22 January 2025.

3   Finance

Court received a report on current and forecast financial performance and contextual factors affecting UK universities. Court discussed a planned approach to rebalancing the University's income and expenditure. It was noted that communications on this matter would be issued to staff and students after the meeting.[1]

4   Student intakes 2025-26 – Early application insight

Court received a report on student intakes. Recruitment in the previous academic year had been short of targeted levels, although higher than the year before. What had been achieved, in the context of sector-wide reductions in demand, was a significant achievement and reflected substantial efforts on the part of colleagues working in student recruitment. In the current recruitment cycle, colleagues continued to work hard to achieve targets, which had been adjusted in the light of contextual factors. The University would continue to seek diversified international student intakes.

5   Annual People Report

Court received the Annual People Report for 2023/24. The following examples of positive developments were highlighted:
- the triennial valuation of the Staff Benefits Scheme had resulted in reduced staff contribution rates;
- there had been progress in simplifying the academic promotions process; and
- there had been a notable reduction in the University's gender pay gap.

---

[1] Staff can access further information on the Finance SharePoint site:
University Finance SharePoint

6   Edinburgh Innovations Strategy Update and Knowledge Exchange & Innovation Fund

Court approved submission of the strategy document to the Scottish Funding Council.

7   Self-Evaluation Action Plan

Court noted the University's annual report to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) on activities to effectively manage quality assurance and deliver on enhancement. References within the document to the student voice and to the Research Postgraduate (PGR) experience were particularly welcomed.

8   Other Items

Regular reports were received from Court's committees, the Students' Association and Sports Union and the Development & Alumni Office. Resolutions to establish and re-name personal Chairs were approved.

Electronic Senate

23 April – 7 May 2025

Knowledge Strategy Committee Report

Description of paper

1. The paper reports on the Knowledge Strategy Committee meetings held on 30 January 2025 and 27 March 2025.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the report.

Resource implications

3. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Risk management

4. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Equality & diversity

5. Where applicable, as covered in the report.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

6. Regular reports on aspects of the Committee's work of interest to Senate will continue to be submitted.

Author
Jamie Tait
Clerk to Knowledge Strategy Committee
April 2025

Freedom of Information
Open paper

REPORT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

30 January 2025

1   Knowledge Strategy Committee – Future Governance Update

The Convenor gave a verbal update on the future governance of Knowledge Strategy Committee (KSC), noting that as set out in the minutes of the previous meeting, KSC agreed with the onward transmission to Court and Senate of three recommendations, namely:

- KSC be disbanded at the end of the current academic year;

- A new Library and Collections Committee to replace KSC as a joint committee of Court and Senate; and

- IT Committee to return to its historic norm as a management/operational committee reporting into the University Executive, but with a reporting line to Estates Committee on digital estate projects above £2m.

It was reported that since the last meeting:

- KSC's deliberations were reported to Court in December 2024 and e-Senate in January 2025. There were no comments made at Court and there were two comments made by Senate members, which will be taken into consideration going forward.

- A workshop for IT Committee was held on 16 January and a workshop for Library Committee and the University Collections Advisory Committee is scheduled for 26 February.

- The feedback from the workshops will be used to develop the proposals for these three committees in more detail before a final recommendation is made to Court and Senate.

- In addition, the terms of reference for the three Senate Committees (Academic Policy and Regulations, Education and Quality Assurance) are being compared with the terms of reference for KSC and IT Committee. This is to ensure that there will continue to be committee oversight involving Senate members of digital/educational technology matters within Senate's remit for the oversight and regulation of teaching and promotion of research, and no gaps from KSC being disbanded and the proposed changes to governance of the IT Committee.

- A further update will be provided to KSC at their next meeting on 27 March 2025.

2   Sustainable IT Update

John Thompson, Professor of Signal Processing and Communications and Chair of Sustainable IT Sub-Group, and Tony Weir, Director of Information Technology Infrastructure, gave a presentation on recent work of the Sustainable IT Sub-Group of IT Committee. This included an overview of their discussions on two different topics: Future IT Hosting Planning and Summer Internship on Energy Consumption of Large Language Models.

The Committee welcomed the presentation, and discussed progress with ELM (Edinburgh (access to) Language Models), the University's artificial intelligence (AI) innovation platform. The benefit of using ELM as opposed to external generative AI was noted, particular in relation to energy consumption (as a result of fewer computations), data security (data is secure and is not retained by third-party services to train their models or for any other purpose) and equity (ELM is free to use for all staff and students).

The Convener thanked colleagues for their presentation, and noted an update to Senate on the benefits of ELM would be helpful.

3   ELM Infrastructure Rollout Update

James Reid, Head of Services and Deputy Director EDINA, gave an update on the ELM infrastructure rollout. The development roadmap was highlighted, including the aim of improving the user experience and the ability to upload multiple documents. Related projects were also flagged, including AskEDHelp, the Unidesk chatbot that integrates AI technology with the University's existing call management system.

The Committee welcomed the presentation, and noted the considerable amount of work undertaken by EDINA to get to this stage, including demonstrating appropriate rigour through the ISG Ethics Board. The relatively low number of ELM users was discussed, noting that promotion through the Edinburgh University Students' Association and on MyEd may be helpful, with a focus on highlighting the benefits discussed in the previous agenda item.

4   Chief Information Officer Update

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

- **EUCLID Options and Oracle Redwood and Implementation Plan.** It was noted the significant amount of work that had already been undertaken on these projects.
- **Technology sector**. It was again reported there had been increasing consolidation of the sector, resulting in price increases for both software and library materials.
- **Risk of vendor lock-in.** There continue to be mitigation plans around the risk of vendor lock-in.

5   EUCLID Options

Lisa Dawson, Academic Registrar, provided a summary of work to look at options regarding the ongoing and future operation of EUCLID, the student records system used for all matriculated students at the University, taking into consideration recent engagement with the current software provider.

The Committee discussed the paper and context provided, noting for any university a move to a new student record system would be a major change project.

The Convener thanked colleagues for their work to date on this critical topic, noting further updates would be provided to KSC.

6   Oracle Redwood and Implementation Plan

Martyn Peggie, Head of Service – People and Money, provided an update on progress with Oracle Redwood. It was reported that Oracle Redwood is the first major redevelopment of the Oracle Fusion user interface in the last 8 years, delivering changes to many of the screens that our staff use in People and Money. It was noted that positive changes for HR Learning through Redwood had been successfully implemented and well received by our learning providers and staff. The project is led by a senior programme board (Finance, HR and Research Programme Implementation Board) with representation from across the University. It was also noted the ISG Disability Service was closely involved given Redwood is expected to improve accessibility issues previously reported to Oracle.

The Committee welcomed the positive implementation of the work to date, with the first phase of the project due to be delivered by December 2025.

7   Digital Accessibility

The Committee noted an update on digital accessibility with regards to the Digital Strategy and recent UK government audits of University systems.

It was confirmed that the operational and ongoing work associated with the Centre for Open Learning (COL) was intended to provide an exemplar for University departments and areas to follow and embed accordingly. A report on the learnings from the COL work would be disseminated and communicated in due course.

8   Other items

The Committee noted a number of papers including Digital Estate Capital Envelope 2024-2029; Digital Estate Status Update; Information Security; Major IT Expenditure Commitments Update; Library & University Collections Annual Report 2024 and Information Governance Framework. Regular reports were received from the IT Committee, Library Committee and Estates Committee.

REPORT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

27 March 2025

1   Information Services Group Planning 2025-2030

The Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University, presented an overview of the Information Services Group (ISG) draft Planning Round submission for 2025-2030. It was noted that it would be a particularly challenging planning round, with the actions ISG are actively considering having an impact across the institution.

The Deputy Secretary Governance and Strategic Planning noted that in light of the current financial challenges facing the University, budget holders had been asked to prepare plans set against overall cost reductions of £140m to be delivered over the next 18 months. The scale and period for delivery of proposed savings had been approved at University Executive and shared with Court and formed the basis for Planning Round decision-making and the development of an overall budget for presentation to Court for approval at their meeting in June 2025. As a result, savings targets had been shared across budget holders and work was underway to develop and subsequently refine 2025-30 Planning Round submissions. The Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University noted he was confident that the proposed actions outlined would deliver the budget savings required by ISG in 2025/26, with these having already been costed.

The Convener thanked colleagues in ISG for the work already undertaken on this year's planning round, with a further update to be provided at the next KSC meeting.

2   Chief Information Officer Update

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

- **EUCLID contract**. As reported at the last meeting, a sector negotiating committee had been working with the Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association (UCISA), with the aim of enabling universities to procure via the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) framework rather than have individual arrangements and pricing. It was reported an agreement with the current software provider had been reached, which would allow for more time and planning on the longer-term options.
- **Oracle data breach**. There had been reporting of, and the University had been informed about, a potential data breach. As a precaution pending a full assessment by Oracle, all recommended proactive steps had been taken and monitoring checks to identify any malicious activity had been carried out. None had been observed to date, and the University has continued to work with Oracle and their security offices.

3 Committee Governance Update

The Senior Governance Advisor to the Vice-Principal & University Secretary and Head of Knowledge Management & IS Planning provided an update on the activities undertaken since the last KSC meeting with respect to the future of the Information Technology Committee (ITC), Library Committee (LC), and University Collections Advisory Committee (UCAC). It was reported that workshops had taken place to explore how the thematic committees might be reconstituted once KSC has been disbanded, with a combined Library and University Collections Committee succeeding KSC as a joint standing committee of Court and Senate, and IT Committee becoming part of the University Executive management committee structure. Digital estate items would continue to progress to Estates Committee as at present, and IT and digital items relevant to Senate continuing to be considered by the Senate committees. A paper on this proposal was being drafted for submission to both Senate and Court. It was noted that with the proposed changes, the overall number of committees in this area would reduce from 10 to 8. Additions to terms of reference for Senate committees, to explicitly include educational regulation/oversight aspects of IT matters, would also be included in the paper.

The Committee welcomed the positive progress made since the last meeting. It was suggested it would be helpful to explore alternative options for the reporting lines of the proposed Library and University Collections Committee, and whether this should remain a joint Senate and Court committee. The importance of committee membership to provide adequate levels of assurance, particularly in relation to digital estate items, was also noted.

4 Sustainable Printing Project

The Convener noted this paper was discussed by University Executive in February 2025, with Executive approving the direction of travel and the overall goal of reducing the University printer fleet by 50% and reducing overall printing by 50%.

The Head of Operational Services then summarised the project to date, highlighting the new contract with Xerox to locally re-manufacture a proportion of existing devices, and the behavioural change requirement necessary for successful delivery.

KSC endorsed the direction of travel of the project, and noted the associated carbon and financial benefits it would bring.

5 Identity and Access Management Replacement Options Appraisal and Initial Business Case

The Chief Information Security Officer and Head of Service Management introduced a paper that highlighted the need to make improvements to our cyber controls, notably around how we undertake Identity and Access Management (IDAM).

KSC noted the progress being made on developing options for the future shape of IDAM controls for the University, noting the complexity of the change and recognition of the need to minimise cost. KSC discussed the options presented, and noted the current recommended option of carrying out market research on a preferred supplier. It also welcomed the further consultation with interested stakeholders that would continue

throughout future phases of the work, and the inclusion of all categories of students and alumni in the initial business case.

8   Other items

The Committee noted a number of papers including Digital Estate Capital Envelope 2024-2029; Digital Estate Status Update; Information Security; University AI Innovation Platform Update; and Library Materials Budget Update. Regular reports were received from the IT Committee, Library Committee and University Collections Advisory Committee.

Electronic Senate

23 April – 7 May 2025

College Academic Management Structures 2025/26

Description of paper

1. The paper lists the College Academic Management Structures for 2025/26.

Action requested / recommendation

2. Senate is invited to note the content of this paper.

Resource Implications / Risk management / Equality and Diversity

3. Where applicable, the aforementioned factors will have been considered by each College when deciding on their College Academic Management Structures for 2025/26.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

4. Not applicable.

Originator of the paper

Senate Secretariat
April 2025

Freedom of Information

Open paper

College Academic Management Structures 2025/26

Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Head of College	Vice-Principal Professor Sarah Prescott
Deputy Head of College	Professor David Smith
Dean of Research	Professor Laura Jeffery
Dean of Education	Professor Mary Brennan
Dean of Postgraduate Research	Professor Laura Bradley
Dean of Students	To be confirmed.
Dean International	Professor Soledad Garcia-Ferrari
Dean Quality Assurance and Curriculum Validation	Dr Emily Taylor
Dean Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Ms Jenny Hoy
College Academic Misconduct Officer	Dr Filippo Fontanelli
Associate Dean (Research Impact)	Professor Ailsa Henderson
Associate Dean (Research Cultures)	Professor Jen Ross
Associate Dean (Research Ethics and Integrity)	Dr Sudeepa Abeysinghe
Associate Dean (Widening Participation)	Professor G Trousdale
College Registrar	Ms Heather Lawrence

Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Head of College	Vice-Principal Professor David Argyle
Deputy Head of College and Dean of Clinical Medicine	Professor Lorna Marson
College Registrar	Dr Anne-Marie Coriat
Dean of Research	Professor Liz Baggs
Dean of Education	Professor Gill Aitken
Dean of Students and Alumni	Professor Mohini Gray
Dean of Innovation	Professor Julie Jacko
Dean of Equity, Inclusion and Community	Professor Sue Fletcher-Watson
Dean of Medical Research	Professor Sarah Walmsley
Dean of Postgraduate Research	Professor Ruth Andrew
Dean of Quality	Professor Matt Bailey
Dean International	Professor Rebecca Reynolds
Associate Dean Culture and Integrity	Professor Julia Dorin and Professor Thamarai Dorai-Schneiders
Associate Dean Research Management	Professor Matt Nolan
Associate Dean Clinical Academic Training	Professor Jurgen Schwarze

Science & Engineering

Head of College	Vice-Principal Professor Iain Gordon
Dean of Education	Professor Linda Kirstein
Dean of Students	Dr Chris Mowat
Dean of Postgraduate Research	Professor Jamie Pearce
Dean of Research and Strategic Partnerships	Professor Andrew Mount
Dean of Research Culture and REF	Professor Jane Hillston
Associate Dean of Impact	Dr Karl Burgess
Dean, International – Students	Professor Tom Bruce
Dean, International – Partnerships	Professor Neil Robertson
Dean of Quality and Enhancement	Professor James Hopgood
Dean of Research Computing	Professor Mark Parsons
Dean of Innovation	Dr Graham Spittle
Dean of Systematic Inclusion	Professor Karen Halliday
College Registrar	Dr A Payne