



University Court  
St Cecilia's Hall  
Monday, 5 February 2018

**AGENDA**

- |          |   |               |
|----------|---|---------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Minute</b>   | <b>A</b>      |
|          | To <u>approve</u> the minute of the meeting held on 4 December 2017           |               |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Matters Arising</b>  | <b>Verbal</b> |
|          | To <u>raise</u> any matters arising   |               |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Principal's Communications</b>   | <b>B</b>      |
|          | To <u>receive</u> an update from the Principal                                |               |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee Report</b>                                | <b>C</b>      |
|          | To <u>consider</u> a report from the Convener of Policy & Resources Committee |               |

**SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

- |           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Student Experience Update</b>  | <b>D</b>  |
|           | To <u>consider</u> an update from the Senior Vice-Principal and from the Head of College of Science & Engineering |           |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Outcome Agreement 2017/18</b>  | <b>E</b>  |
|           | To <u>consider</u> a paper from the Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning:   |           |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Finance Director's Report</b>  | <b>F</b>  |
|           | To <u>consider</u> a report from the Director of Finance  |           |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>City Deal Update</b>   | <b>G</b>  |
|           | To <u>consider</u> a paper by the Senior Vice-Principal   |           |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Zero by 2040 Investments</b>   | <b>H</b>  |
|           | To <u>approve</u> a paper presented by the Senior Vice-Principal  |           |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Estates</b>  |           |
|           | To <u>approve</u> the following papers presented by the Vice-Principal Planning, Resources and Research Policy:   |           |
|           | • <b>Strathclyde Rowing Centre and Boat Centre</b>  | <b>I1</b> |
|           | • <b>Disability Access Improvements Programme</b>   | <b>I2</b> |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Development &amp; Alumni</b>   |           |
|           | To <u>note and approve</u> the following papers from the Vice-Principal Development and Alumni:                   |           |
|           | • <b>Development &amp; Alumni Office Annual Report 2016/17</b>  | <b>J1</b> |
|           | • <b>Governance of Alumni Clubs</b>   | <b>J2</b> |

- 12 EUSA President's Report** **K**  
To receive an update from the EUSA President

**ADDITIONAL ITEM**

- Rosalind Franklin Institute – Joint Venture** **O**  
To approve a paper presented by the Director of Corporate Services

**ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

- 13 Committee Reports**
- Exception Committee **L1**
  - Court City Deal Sub-Group **L2**
  - Court USS Sub-Group **L3**
  - Nominations Committee **L4**
  - Knowledge Strategy Committee **L5**
  - Senate **L6**
- 14 Resolutions** **M**  
To approve
- 15 Donations and Legacies** **N**  
To note
- 16 Uses of the Seal**  
To note
- 17 Any Other Business**  
To consider any other matters
- 18 Date of Next Meeting**  
Monday, 23 April 2018



UNIVERSITY COURT

4 December 2017

Minute

- Present:** Mr Steve Morrison, Rector (in chair)  
The Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea  
Ms Anne Richards, Vice-Convener  
Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen  
The Rt Hon Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh  
Dr Alan Brown  
Ms Doreen Davidson  
Professor Elizabeth Bomberg  
Professor Sarah Cooper  
Dr Claire Phillips  
Professor Alexander Tudhope  
Ms Jo Craiglee  
Dr Frank Armstrong  
Mr David Bentley  
Dr Robert Black  
Ms Perdita Fraser  
Ms Alison Grant  
Mr Alan Johnston  
Mr Patrick Kilduff, President, Students' Association  
Ms Esther Dominy, Vice-President, Students' Association
- In attendance:** Mr Sandy Ross, Rector's Assessor  
University Secretary, Ms Sarah Smith  
Professor David Argyle, Acting Head of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine  
Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl  
Mr Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer & Librarian to the University  
Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr Phil McNaull, Director of Finance  
Ms Leigh Chalmers, Director of Legal Services  
Mr Gary Jebb, Director of Estates  
Ms Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning  
Mr Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary, Student Experience  
Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources  
Mr Rob Tomlinson, Acting Director of Communications and Marketing  
Ms Fiona Boyd, Head of Stakeholder Relations  
Ms Kirstie Graham, Deputy Head of Court Services  
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services
- Apologies:** Mr Ritchie Walker  
Lady Susan Rice

September 2017 was approved.

## **2 Matters Arising**

**Verbal**

The Rector and the Vice-Convener congratulated the Principal on his receipt of the 2017 City of Edinburgh Award and noting that this is the Principal's final Court meeting before demitting office in January, formally recorded Court's thanks for his exceptional service to the University and wider community.

## **3 Principal's Communications**

**Paper B**

Court noted the content of the Principal's report and the additional information on: the University's Christmas carol service held at St Giles' Cathedral; the Senior Vice-Principal's visit to India in a Universities Scotland delegation with the Deputy First Minister; a £10M capital donation by an anonymous benefactor for the Edinburgh Futures Institute at Quartermile; the award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education for work led by Professors Jane Norman and Hilary Critchley to improve women's health; and UK sector discussions on the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

Court discussed local and national communications of USS proposals and an associated University & College Union UK-wide ballot on possible strike action or action short of a strike.

## **4 Policy & Resources Committee Report**

**Paper C**

Key items considered by the Policy & Resources Committee were summarised, including three Social Impact pledges approved for 2017/18 (Homeless Health and Inclusion Centre; Digital Ambassadors; Student Social Enterprise) and an update on industry strategy, with Dr Frank Armstrong joining the Committee's Commercialisation Sub-Group.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS**

## **5 Student Experience Update**

**Paper D**

The Deputy Secretary, Student Experience, presented the first iteration of a new metrics-based report and accompanying commentary.

Members discussed: active assistance for selected Schools with lower performing student experience measures; the potential for new technology to assist oversight of individual student progress and offer targeted support, with a Learning Analytics Policy in development in consultation with student representatives; the importance of cultural and leadership factors within Schools; regular communication with students on actions taken; and enhancing recreational sport opportunities.

It was noted that future reports would continue to include broader updates beyond metric-based measures and include College-specific reports on a rotating basis.

- 6 Strategic Planning**
- **Strategic Plan 2012-16: Final Progress Report** **Paper E1**
- Targets and key performance indicators which did not have final data available in December 2016 were reviewed alongside a summary of all Strategic Plan 2012-16 measures. It was agreed that the University has broadly achieved the targets and key performance indicators set out in the Strategic Plan 2012-16.
- **Strategic Plan 2016: Performance Measurement Framework** **Paper E2**
- The first annual progress report using the Performance Measurement Framework for the Strategic Plan 2016 was reviewed. Gender balance at staff grades 9 and 10, staff age profiles, including ethnicity/race measures, the proportion of academic staff from other EU member states and growth in staff numbers relative to student numbers were discussed. It was agreed that the University is broadly on track to deliver against the Strategic Plan 2016.
- 7 Audit & Risk Committee Annual Report** **Paper F**
- The Convener of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the Annual Report to Court. Active oversight by the Committee and by the Risk Management Committee of mitigating actions in response to the UK's planned exit from the European Union was welcomed and it was agreed that the report provides reasonable assurance that the University's internal control environment in 2016/17 was sufficiently adequate to allow approval of the Annual Report and Accounts.
- 8 Risk Management Post Year End Assurance Statement** **Paper G**
- It was noted that no significant new events or material issues since the year end of 31 July 2017 that could impact on the ability of Court to approve the Annual Report and Accounts had been reported.
- 9 Finance**
- **Finance Director's Report** **Paper H1**
- The report, containing an analytical review of year-on-year movements in the income and expenditure account, was noted.
- **Annual Report and Accounts 2016/17** **Paper H2**
- Following scrutiny by the Audit & Risk Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee, the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2017 were presented for approval. It was noted that the Strategic Plan progress overview page had been updated and agreed with the Convener of Audit & Risk Committee. The sector-leading integrated reporting method used was discussed and welcomed. Court thanked all staff for their contribution towards the financial performance of the University and those involved in producing the Annual Report and Accounts. Court approved the Annual Report and Accounts 2016/17.

- **Letter of Representation** **Paper H3**

Court approved the Letter of Representation to provide the External Auditors with a written declaration that the Annual Report and Accounts are sufficient and appropriate and without omission of material facts and its signing by the Principal and Vice-Convener.

- **US GAAP Management Commentary and Financial Statements** **Paper H4**

Court approved the US GAAP Management Commentary and Financial Statements 2016/17, a restatement of the UK figures in US format.

- **'Zero by 2040' Update** **Paper H5**

An update on activity in support of the University's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2040 was reviewed. The initial options assessment undertaken by the renewable and low carbon options group was summarised, with an initial proposal for investment in solar energy to be considered by Estates Committee.

- **Statement of Investment Principles** **Paper H6**

Court approved a Statement of Investment Principles to govern the investment of resources within both the Endowment & Investment Fund and University Treasury balances.

## 10 **Estates**

- **Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) Masterplan** **Paper I1**

A masterplan envisaging an expanded single site campus for the Edinburgh College of Art at Lauriston Place was reviewed. The following points were discussed:

- ECA's strong performance since joining the University in 2011 and future ambitions in teaching and research;
- The importance of maintaining and improving student facilities as part of the Masterplan;
- Expected future growth in the creative arts in Scotland; and,
- Providing an overview of planned major estates projects at a future Court Seminar.

The ECA Masterplan was approved.

- **Quartermile** **Paper I2**

An opportunity to acquire a gap site adjacent to the Edinburgh Futures Institute, conditional on entering into a development agreement for the delivery of a new academic facility on the site, was considered. Members discussed conditionality agreements with the developer, the attractiveness of the site to other parties, a desire for the site to be used for academic rather than residential purposes and the benefits of constructing a new academic facility in tandem with the Edinburgh Futures Institute. The strategic acquisition of the site and the associated funding request from University Corporate Resources was approved.

**11 City Deal Update** **Paper J**

An update on the University's participation in the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal was reviewed. The potential for appointing Chancellor's Fellows with a specialism in data driven innovation and an update on financial modelling assessing the incremental impact of the City Deal on the Ten Year Forecast was noted.

**12 Low Carbon College** **Paper K**

Following a progress update considered at the April 2017 meeting, a further update on the partnership with Shanghai JiaoTong University to establish a Low Carbon College in Shanghai Lingang, China, was reviewed. The plans in the context of the University's 'Zero by 2040' carbon neutral ambition was discussed, with data driven innovation to be incorporated into teaching methods.

The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement by the Senior Vice-Principal was approved subject to confirmation that the project team and Legal Services are content with the finalised document. The development of a Firm Proposal was supported.

**13 Distance Learning at Scale** **Paper L**

Plans to establish a small number of large scale distance learning programmes to meet the University's ambition of 10,000 distance learners on credit bearing courses within the next five years were outlined. Building on the University's success in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and involving the Students' Association at the appropriate stage in development was discussed. The update and strategic direction proposed was noted.

**14 EUSA President's Report** **Paper M**

The Student President reported on activities since the last meeting, including Welcome Week events and the positive financial performance of the Students' Association in the year to date.

**ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

**15 Annual Review 2016/17** **Paper N**

Eight feature articles for publication in the Annual Review 2016/17 were approved.

**16 Laigh Year Regulations** **Paper O**

*The Student Vice-President Welfare declared a potential conflict of interest and abstained from discussion and decision-making on the item.*

An amendment to allow – subject to various academic checks and final approval from Senate – student sabbatical officers to serve for a second one-year term of office if re-elected was approved.

**17 Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance** **Paper P**

A summary brief of the revised Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance and the proposed approach to ensuring compliance within the expected timeframe was noted.

**18 UK Quality Code for Higher Education – Consultation** **Paper Q**

The University's draft response to a UK Quality Code for Higher Education consultation was reviewed, with the Assistant Principal Academic Standards & Quality Assurance to finalise the response following comment from the Senate Quality Assurance Committee.

**19 Committee Reports**

• **Exception Committee**

**Paper R1**

The following matters approved by the Exception Committee on behalf of Court were noted:

- Rectorial Election 2018 Regulations – approved following consultation with student and staff union representatives. It was agreed that the election should take place based on previous years' regulations. It is proposed that an independent review of the election process engaging the Electoral Reform Society is undertaken after the 2018 election.
- Purchase of Ion Microprobe – approval for the purchase at an approximate cost of £2.9M, funded by a UK Research Council grant, and delegation of signing authority to the Head of the College of Science & Engineering.

• **Court EU Sub-Group**

**Paper R2**

The report was noted.

• **Court USS Sub-Group**

**Paper R3**

The report was noted.

• **Nominations Committee**

**Paper R4**

*The Rector declared a potential conflict of interest and withdrew from presiding, discussion and decision-making. The Vice-Convener presided for the item.*

The report was noted and the following appointments to the Scrutinising Committee for the Rectorial Election 2018 were approved: Dr Claire Phillips (Court representative); Janet Philp (Trade Union representative); and Patrick Kilduff (President of Students' Association).

• **Audit & Risk Committee**

**Paper R5**

The report was noted, with a revision to the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2017/18 endorsed and the Modern Slavery Statement 2016/17

approved.

- **Remuneration Committee**

**Paper R6**

The report was noted. It was noted that the Principal does not attend if his remuneration is being considered and minutes of meetings are published on the University website.

- **Knowledge Strategy Committee**

**Paper R7**

The report and the importance of the University's digital estate was noted.

- **Senate**

**Paper R8**

The report was noted.

## **20 Resolutions**

**Paper S**

The following draft resolution was referred to the General Council and to Senate for observations:

Draft Resolution No. 1/2018: Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed).

The following resolutions were approved:

Resolution No. 76/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Fire and Structures

Resolution No. 77/2017: Foundation of a Personal Chair of Medicine

## **21 Donations and Legacies**

**Paper T**

Donations and legacies received by the Development Trust from 1 September 2017 to 10 November 2017 were noted.

## **22 Uses of the Seal**

A record was made available of all the documents executed on behalf of the Court since its last meeting and sealed with its common seal.

## **23 Any Other Business**

Court members were reminded of the invitation to attend a reception for long-serving members of staff in St Cecilia's Hall following the conclusion of the meeting.

## **24 Date of February 2019 Meeting**

Monday 18 February 2019 was approved as the date for the third Court meeting of the 2018/19 academic year.

**25 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 5 February 2018



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Principal's Report

**Description of paper**

1. The paper provides a summary of activities that the Principal and the University has been involved in since the last meeting of the University Court.

**Action requested**

2. Court is invited to note the information presented. No specific action is required of Court, although members' observations, or comment, on any of the items would be welcome.

**Background and context**

3. This report is a summary of significant University and sector activity dating from the last Court meeting until the Principal demitted office on 31 January 2018.

**Discussion**

4. *University News*

a) Assistant Principal Professor Jon Oberlander

First, to mention the very sad and untimely death of Professor Jon Oberlander. A much respected and valued friend and colleague whose impact and influence spread widely across the City and beyond, his loss will be felt by many. The memorial service in the Playfair Library Hall on Friday 12 January was overflowing and brought some comfort to Jon's family.

b) New Year's Honours

The University featured prominently in the New Year's Honours List with ten staff or close friends recognised.

- Lady Susan Rice has been appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in recognition of her services to business, the arts and charity in Scotland.
- Vice-Principal Professor Andrew Morris has been appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of his service to science in Scotland.
- Assistant Principal Professor Lesley McAra has been appointed CBE for services to criminology.
- Professor Kathy Whaler has been appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to geophysics.
- Professor Margaret Frame has been awarded an OBE for services to cancer research.
- Ms Hayley Walters has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to veterinary education and animal welfare.
- Very Reverend Professor Iain R Torrance, honorary professor in the School of Divinity, received a knighthood in recognition of services to the Church, theological education, interfaith dialogue, the British Army and work to combat homophobia.

- Two honorary professors in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine have been awarded OBEs:
  - Professor Derek Bell for services to unscheduled care and quality improvement.
  - Dr Angela Thomas received her award in recognition of her services to the regulation of public health.
- Dr Fiona Bradley, Honorary Fellow at Edinburgh College of Art, received an OBE for services to the Arts.

c) Extension of Tier 4 Pilot

We are very pleased to be included in the extension of the Home Office pilot scheme that aims to streamline the process for international Masters students applying to study in the UK. The pilot will simplify the visa process for Masters courses of 13 months or less and will allow graduates to remain in the UK for six months after they have finished their course. Almost three thousand of Edinburgh's international students are set to benefit from this pilot extension, which now includes 23 universities.

d) Joint Committee on Human Rights

The Principal and EUSA President Patrick Kilduff gave oral evidence to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry evidence session on freedom of speech in universities on 10 January. The Principal noted how the vast majority of speaker led events and activities take place at the University with no concern or issues being raised.

e) Visit to Easter Bush Campus

We were very pleased to host a visit on 26 January by Mr Bill Gates, co-director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt, MP, Secretary of State for the Department for International Development to the new Centre Building at Easter Bush to hear, among other things, about the work of our new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security. The Principal also took part in a dinner that evening jointly hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the leader of the Scottish Conservatives Ms Ruth Davidson MSP.

f) Cabinet Reshuffle

Education was one of the most affected policy areas in the recent Cabinet reshuffle with a new Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, replacing Justine Greening MP and a new Universities Minister, Sam Gyimah MP. Elsewhere we noted that the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, who has recently visited the University, is staying at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

g) High level Visits and Meeting

The Principal attended the Financial Services Advisory Board, chaired by the First Minister, in mid-December and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the University with the Karta Initiative, an organisation that focusses on the social mobility of bright low-income students from developing economies.

Further details of University activity, including research success can be found here: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/archive>

Information relating to student and staff success, news and recognition can be found here:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff>

### **Resource implications**

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

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Equality & Diversity**

7. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

### **Next steps/implications**

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

### **Consultation**

9. As the paper represents a summary of recent news no consultation has taken place.

### **Further information**

10. Further information can be obtained from Ms Fiona Boyd, Principal's Office.

11. Author

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea  
29 January 2017

### **Freedom of Information**

12. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Policy & Resources Committee Report

**Committee Name**

1. Policy & Resources Committee.

**Date of Meeting**

2. 19 January 2018.

**Action Required**

3. Court is invited to note the key items discussed at the meeting as detailed below.

*Paragraphs 4 - 11 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Full minute**

12. All papers considered at the meeting and in due course the Minute can be accessed on the wiki site at the following link:

<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/UCC/Policy+and+Resources+Committee>

**Equality & Diversity**

13. Issues related to equality and diversity were considered within each paper as appropriate.

**Further information**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 14. <u>Author</u>      | <u>Presenter</u>                       |
| Dr Lewis Allan         | Ms Anne Richards                       |
| Head of Court Services | Convener, Policy & Resources Committee |

**Freedom of Information**

15. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Student Experience Update

Description of paper

1. The paper provides a metrics-and-narrative based report focused specifically on the College of Science and Engineering along with the regular update on the University’s student experience enhancement activities.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. Court is invited to note and discuss the content of this paper.

Background and context

Section A: Approach to Reporting on Student Experience

3. At the last meeting of Court we presented a new report on student experience enhancements combining a summary of key metrics in this area with a narrative summarising the actions being taken to enhance across many areas.

4. At this meeting we have a further metrics-and-narrative based report focused specifically on the College of Science and Engineering (section C). We believe that these College-specific updates will be interesting and useful to Court in understanding both the challenges and the work underway in different areas of the University.

5. In December, Court also asked that in addition to future College-specific updates, we continue to provide regular updates on the University’s enhancement activities. At future Court meetings we therefore propose to provide further institutional updates alongside College reports using the framework proposed to Court by the Senior Vice-Principal in June, as follows:

Month	Thematic Area to Report On
February 2018	<b>Partnership and Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure students feel a strong sense of community linking them with academic and support staff</li> </ul>
April 2018	<b>Recognition and Incentives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that our staffing processes recognise and incentive teaching sufficiently alongside other aspects of the academic role</li> </ul>
June 2018	<b>Innovation and Curriculum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure our curriculum at all levels is fit for purpose</li> </ul>
October 2018	<b>Review of NSS 2018 results</b>
December 2018	<b>Resources and Investment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure sufficient resources are committed to enhancing student experience</li> </ul>

6. This paper therefore sets out for Court’s information (in section D) the work being done by the University and the Students’ Association under the theme of “Partnership and Community” to ensure students feel a strong sense of community linking them

with academic and support staff. This is particularly appropriate at this stage given that the University and the Students' Association signed a [Partnership Agreement](#) in November last year which highlights how the wider University, including all students and staff, can effectively work together to enhance the student experience.

## Discussion

### **Section B: Preparing for the National Student Survey (NSS) 2018**

7. The 2018 NSS survey will open to our final year students on 5 February and will close on 30 April 2018. There has been significant work taking place since the summer to ensure that NSS 2018 takes place as far as possible in a positive context. Our NSS 2017 results showed us very clearly that students feel they have plenty of opportunity to provide feedback, but are less clear that staff value their feedback and even less clear how their feedback has been acted on. Our work this year on student communications sets out to improve this through:

- The introduction of mid-course feedback on all courses at all levels
- The introduction of final year “welcome back” sessions across all Schools
- An institutional communications campaign, “Inspiring Students” to convey the messages that:
  - We have many great teachers at the University
  - And many great students
  - We are listening to student feedback and (as a result)
  - We are investing in the student experience (across many different areas, from physical estate through digital infrastructure to frontline services)

8. Institutional activity – billboards, online articles and films, social media posts and student newsletters – is organised by theme (broadly, one theme per month) and schools are encouraged to adopt the same thematic approach in their own student-facing communications throughout the year.

*Examples of “Inspiring Students” messaging:*

Website news:

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Student news](#) > [All news](#) > [Massive boost for student facilities](#)

[Contact us](#)

## Massive boost for student facilities

The University is investing £200 million over the next eight years to dramatically improve facilities for students.

The investment will enhance the “Edinburgh experience” by delivering an extensive range of benefits.

These include expanded and improved teaching and study spaces, a major new Student Centre, a Health & Wellbeing Centre and enhanced sports facilities.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/students/2018/massive-boost-for-student-facilities>, 17 January 2018

## Social media:

### Posts

 **The University of Edinburgh** shared Students at the University of Edinburgh's video.  
2 hrs · 🌐



1,079 Views

**Students at the University of Edinburgh**  
21 hrs · 🌐

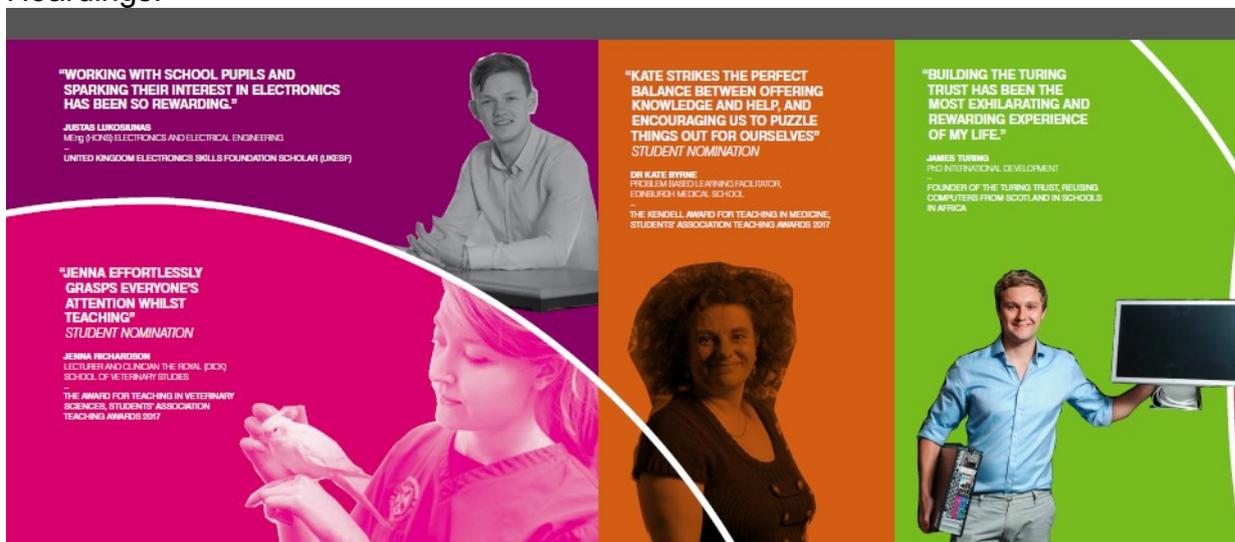
We want The University of Edinburgh to be a place that supports you and enables you to flourish – so we're investing in services that support health and wellbeing.  
<http://edin.ac/2CQNuhJ>  
#inspiringstudents

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

Qhansa Di Ayu Putri, School Of Divinity, New College, University Of Edinburgh, Bartosz Modelski and 17 others like this.    Top comments ▾

<https://www.facebook.com/UniversityOfEdinburgh/>, 17 January 2018

## Hoardings:



**"WORKING WITH SCHOOL PUPILS AND SPARKING THEIR INTEREST IN ELECTRONICS HAS BEEN SO REWARDING."**  
JUSTAS LUKOSIUSAS  
MEng (HONS) ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
— UNITED KINGDOM ELECTRONICS SKILLS FOUNDATION SCHOLAR (UKESF)

**"KATE STRIKES THE PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN OFFERING KNOWLEDGE AND HELP, AND ENCOURAGING US TO PUZZLE THINGS OUT FOR OURSELVES"**  
STUDENT NOMINATION  
DR KATE BYRNE  
PROBLEM BASED LEARNING FACILITATOR,  
EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL  
— THE KENDELL AWARD FOR TEACHING IN MEDICINE,  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TEACHING AWARDS 2017

**"BUILDING THE TURING TRUST HAS BEEN THE MOST EXHILARATING AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE."**  
JAMES TURING  
PRO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
— FOUNDER OF THE TURING TRUST, REUSING COMPUTERS FROM SCOTLAND IN SCHOOLS IN AFRICA

**"JENNA EFFORTLESSLY GRASPS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION WHILST TEACHING"**  
STUDENT NOMINATION  
JENNA RICHARDSON  
LECTURER AND CLINICIAN THE ROYAL (DISQ)  
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES  
— THE AWARD FOR TEACHING IN VETERINARY SCIENCES, STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TEACHING AWARDS 2017

Paragraphs 9 - 22 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.

## Section D: Partnership and Community

### The Partnership Agreement

23. The University and Edinburgh University Students' Association have enjoyed a long and productive partnership. The Partnership Agreement signed in November 2018 builds on the strength of that partnership. It serves to highlight ways in which the wider University, including all staff and students, can effectively work together to

enhance the student experience. It sets out our values, our approach to partnership and the priorities we have agreed to work on together during academic year 2017-2018.

24. Partnership working recognises that members of the partnership have legitimate, though sometimes different, perceptions and experiences. By working together towards a common agreed purpose, we can achieve positive outcomes to the benefit of all concerned. Based on feedback from students – from the National Student Survey, the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey, our internal course and programme surveys – and from the Students' Association, we have identified three key themes that we will address together during the 2017/18 academic year: student voice, academic support and mental health and wellbeing.

- We will work together to ensure our students and the student voice are central to co-creating a high quality student learning experience.
- We will work together to strengthen the effectiveness of the range of academic support available.
- We will work together to promote positive mental health and well-being.

25. To help ensure that the agreement leads to action, a fund has been set up to support joint staff-student applications to deliver small enhancement projects on one of the above themes. Seven bids, all funded at £500 each, were approved in the first call for proposals and the second call is now open.

#### *Student Voice*

26. NSS 2017 introduced some new primary themes focussing on areas that enable student learning – including whether students feel their views are heard and taken into consideration (“student voice”); and whether they feel part of a community of students and staff (“learning community”). The University scored relatively poorly in these measures.

#### *Feedback*

27. Some of the issues around student voice are about feedback opportunities and how students get “feedback on their feedback”. In order to strengthen this aspect of the student experience:

- The University has this year introduced mid-course feedback on all courses at all levels. The rationale for this activity is to promote a sense of dialogue between staff and students from the earliest stages, by providing opportunities for staff to gather (and respond to) mid-course feedback from all students. The University has provided case studies and resources to allow staff to make the most of this feedback opportunity.
- The introduction of final year “welcome back” sessions across all Schools. This activity provides an opportunity for Heads of School to talk to final year students about the feedback from previous years' cohorts and how the School has responded. The University provides Heads with summaries of course feedback themes from previous years, as well as templated presentations for them to adapt and use in their talks.

- The development of institutional and school-based communications, online and face to face, highlighting how we have taken on board student feedback and used it to drive enhancement activity. For example:

Home > Students > Inspiring Students > We're Listening [Contact us](#)

## We're Listening

Your feedback helps us enhance the student experience.

We listen to and act on your comments through surveys, mid-course feedback activities, and end-of-year Course Enhancement Questionnaires.

Topic	You said...	We did...	More information
Teaching spaces	You wanted better teaching spaces that are fully accessible	To enhance the teaching and learning experience, renovations at the Lister Learning & Teaching Centre, which opened earlier this year, will offer fully accessible classrooms, study spaces, and lecture theatres, with capacity for 900 students.	<a href="#">Student News article</a>
Study spaces	You wanted more flexible study spaces accessible whenever you need them.	The Main Library is now open 24/7, and more than 350 study spaces have been created. The new Student Centre will create around 300 additional study spaces.	<a href="#">Student News article</a>
Lecture recording	You wanted to be in control of when and how you catch up on lectures.	The University's new lecture recording service is becoming available in more classrooms across campus, which can be another resource available for studying and revising. It is now available in over 140 rooms and over 5,800 lectures have already been recorded.	<a href="#">Student News article</a>
Mid-course feedback	You wanted a more consistent approach to course feedback.	All courses now carry out mid-course feedback so you have the chance to say what is going well in the course and how it can improve.	<a href="#">More information</a>
The Pleasance	You wanted better spaces for socialising and for societies to meet.	After a £6 million pound refurbishment, the completely renovated Pleasance complex has re-opened with new events spaces, an improved café and bar, and better accessibility.	<a href="#">Student News article</a>

### *Lecture recording*

28. One of the most high profile examples of how the University has responded to student voice in recent years has been the development and launch of the lecture recording system, (“Media Hopper Replay”) in direct response to student demand for this service. With over 140 rooms now equipped (and plans to have 300 by next year), uptake has been extremely successful:

- Over 500 Courses linked via the Virtual Learning Environment to Media Hopper Replay since “go live” in 09/17
- Over 6,000 recordings made to date (as at end December 2017)
- 2,200 recordings currently scheduled to happen automatically
- 16 rooms with more than 100 recordings– average capacity 295 seats
- 54 rooms with more than 10 recordings – average capacity 162 seats
- Over 300 staff trained

29. December was the highest month so far for replaying content – *over 70,000 hours*. This is a record viewing figure, with virtually no new recordings being made, reflecting very strong usage for exam revision. Replay is very popular with students with around 190,000 student views to the end of December.

30. The majority of Schools have now made recordings using Replay. Ten Schools have made over 200 recordings since Replay was launched. Policy is currently being developed – and is currently out for consultation – which will see further uptake of this approach across the campus.

#### *Enhancing the Student Voice through the Student Representation System*

31. Since the 2012/13 academic year, the student population has increased by 20%. In the same time period, the number of class representatives has increased by 143%, from 1,163 to 2,808. The Rep system is inconsistent across the University, with the term ‘Class Rep’ potentially referring to students representing a tutorial, class, programme or year group depending on the School’s system. The ratio of reps to students in each School is also significantly inconsistent, with one School have 1 rep for every 3 students in their School. The Students’ Association recommends a ratio of 1:40.

32. The large numbers of student reps, paired with inconsistent systems across the University, are creating challenges for the Students’ Association, staff in Schools, and the students themselves. The current system makes it challenging for Students’ Association and School staff to support the individual reps, whilst the inconsistency of the system makes it confusing for students to know who to approach. The numbers of reps in some Schools also leads to a diffusion of responsibility.

33. Students’ Association Vice-President Bobi Archer has proposed we move to a system which priorities quality over quantity. Many other leading institutions have adopted this system, such as Leeds and St Andrews. By reducing the numbers, student representatives would receive more personal and relevant support. The expectations would be clarified and, as a result, the larger student body would benefit from a more engaged and effective representation system.

34. Bobi believes that this model is fundamental to helping address the issues regarding the Student Voice in the NSS. Therefore her project involves;

- Reducing the number of representatives by consistently appointing at degree-programme level (a model currently used by 6 schools across the University.)
- Assigning a minimum of 1 joint-degree representative per year.
- Enhancing Student-Staff Liaison Committees.
- Providing representatives with data from student surveys, to help shape their discussions at Student-Staff Liaison Committees and School-wide meetings.
- Developing LEARN (a Virtual Learning Environment) to create a community around representation.
- More personalised training and support from the Students’ Association.

35. With the support of the Senatus Learning and Teaching Committee Bobi has been consulting Colleges and meeting with individual Schools to discuss the proposals and 12 out of 14 schools consulted so far have confirmed they plan to move to this model. All Schools will have been consulted by the end of January 2018.

#### *Academic Support*

36. The NSS 2017 results for “Academic Support” show that our Personal Tutor question (‘I am satisfied with the support provided by my personal Tutor’) has a high

correlation with the Academic Support Primary Theme. This confirms that 'Academic Support' is equated strongly by students with the role of the Personal Tutor rather than the wider package of academic support we offer to students outside the classroom.

37. Assistant Principal Professor Alan Murray has developed initial thinking around how we can make it clearer to students that academic support does not (only) equal Personal Tutors and may include for example:

- a) A casual conversation with a lecturer after a timetabled teaching session
- b) An "office hour", "surgery" or other pre-arranged meeting to discuss taught material
- c) A chance conversation with a lecturer in a coffee room that leads to a discussion of taught material
- d) An email exchange with a lecturer regarding taught material
- e) Formative feedback provided by a lecturer
- f) *Ad hoc* revision sessions arranged in response to student requests

38. Professor Murray also identifies the important role played both by professional services staff (in particular student support teams based in Schools) and peers through the widely available peer mentoring schemes run by the Students' Association.

39. A number of models of additional support are emerging and are being evaluated (for example the role of "Student Learning Advisor" created within the School of Maths, or the School Senior Leader Peer Support within the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures) as are online tools that students can use to post questions about course material they are struggling with or need further help with. Firm recommendations are likely to follow once the evaluation is complete.

40. A key enabler to better academic support – because it is time-intensive – is staff time and Professor Murray has identified staff "busy-ness" as a potential barrier. The Service Excellence Programme has a key role to play here in improving our administrative services so that academic staff in particular need not spend so much time on administration.

### *Mental health & wellbeing*

41. The number of students reporting mental health difficulties at the University continues to grow. This is a nationwide phenomenon – in fact it is a phenomenon in the higher education systems of many other developed countries as well – and the reasons for it are complex and not yet fully understood.

42. However in response to this increase and the pressures that it creates on both students and staff, the University has approved a Student Mental Health Strategy with the twin aims that:

- Students who experience mental health difficulties at the University of Edinburgh are well supported
- The University is recognised as a community that promotes the good mental health of its students and treats all students with respect and empathy

43. The following bullets highlight some of the activity and investments underway in this hugely important area – with thanks to Students' Association Vice-President (Welfare) Esther Dominy who led on and has contributed the summary of Mental Health & Wellbeing Week:

- With support from the University, the Students' Association has for the last three years delivered an annual Mental Health and Wellbeing Week to raise awareness of these issues and to encourage more students to talk openly about their mental health. This year, Mental Health and Wellbeing Week ran from 13-17 November. 51 events were held as part of the week: 61% were staff-led (including in partnership with students); 25% student-led and 15% organised centrally by the Students' Association, and we were pleased to see the high levels of engagement from students and staff meeting two key goals of greater visibility and engagement and collaboration with Student Services. Feedback from students was incredibly positive, both for high-profile events like the alpaca petting zoo at King's Buildings campus, which drew over 300 students, but also for more 'serious' skills-based and educational events drawing the week back to its core purpose. A week-long programme of outreach across the University and standalone exhibitions featured in several locations helped to further increase visibility in comparison to previous years." Quote from a Business School student who attended the 'Fear of Failure' panel discussion and workshop: *"We actually realised we'd never been talked to about mental health in that way before [...] it made me feel proud to say that I studied here as it's an example of how the Business School is beginning to change perceptions and actually listen to student needs."*
- In response to increased demand, the University has invested very significantly year on year in the Student Counselling Service, which is seeing demand rising at around 20% per year, but continues to offer appointments to 90% of students within 4 weeks of their initial assessment (which is the Key Performance Indicator they have been set).
- The University has developed and approved in principle plans for a sector-leading Health and Wellbeing Centre at 7 Bristo Square, to open in 2019, bringing together the University Health Centre, Counselling and Disability Services in a fully-refurbished, fully accessible building with increased space for both 1-to-1 sessions with students and also group and student-led wellbeing activities
- An ambitious programme of work is underway to deliver training to all personal tutors, supervisors and student support teams in supporting students with mental health difficulties.
- The University has purchased a site-wide licence so that all students and staff can access The Big White Wall, a professionally mediated, online peer support community, accessible anytime anywhere, offering self-help programmes, creative outlets and a community that cares.

### **Resource implications**

44. There is no direct resource request in this paper but significant resource is allocated to improving the student experience.

### **Risk Management**

45. Failure to provide a high quality student experience is classed as a red risk on the University risk register and is the most significant internal risk facing the University.

### **Equality & Diversity**

46. There are no equality and diversity issues arising directly from this paper and any actions taken will consider possible equality and diversity impacts.

### **Next steps/implications**

47. The report will be enhanced over time and will include College-specific reports and thematic reports as set out in paragraph 5.

### **Further information**

#### **48. Authors**

Professor Charlie Jeffery,  
Senior Vice-Principal

Professor Dave Robertson, Head of the  
College of Science and Engineering

Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student  
Experience

Bobi Archer, Vice-President Education,  
Edinburgh University Students'  
Association

#### **Presenter**

Professor Charlie Jeffery,  
Senior Vice-Principal

Professor Dave Robertson, Head of the  
College of Science and Engineering

### **Freedom of Information**

49. Open paper aside from Section C.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Outcome Agreement 2018-19

**Description of paper**

1. The paper outlines the process undertaken and issues considered in the production of the draft Outcome Agreement to be submitted to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in April 2018.

2. 2017-20 is the second Outcome Agreement cycle period for the Higher Education sector in Scotland. However, in line with recent years, we intend to offer only a single year Outcome Agreement for 2018-19. This reflects the absence of multi-year funding information.

*Paragraphs 3 - 15 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Risk Management**

16. The Outcome Agreement document is a public statement and thus failure to provide SFC with an acceptable document could potentially impact on our reputation with Government, stakeholders and staff and potentially undermine funding arrangements.

**Equality & Diversity**

17. Equality & diversity objectives are positively targeted during the Outcome Agreement process which includes the statutory requirement for a widening access agreement.

**Next steps/implications**

18. If Court is content with the broad approach of the Outcome Agreement, we will continue to refine the document prior to 23 April when Court will be asked to approve the final Outcome Agreement for publication on both SFC and the University's websites.

**Consultation**

19. Prior to final sign-off in April, the Outcome Agreement will go through a full internal process involving EUSA, recognised trade unions and issue leads across the University. The revised draft has been developed by the Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning and Jennifer McGregor, Senior Strategic Planner.

**Further Information**

20. Author

Jennifer McGregor  
Senior Strategic Planner  
26 January 2018

Presenter

Tracey Slaven  
Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning

**Freedom of Information**

21. Closed until publication of the Outcome Agreement by the Scottish Funding Council.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Finance Director's Report

**Description of paper**

1. The paper summarises the finance aspects of recent activities on significant projects and initiatives updating on progress as appropriate. We also report the combined November (Period 4) Management Accounts and Quarter 1 Full Year Forecast.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to comment on the latest update. In particular, Court is invited to review and comment on the Quarter 1 Full Year Forecast for 2017/18.

**Background and context**

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

*Paragraphs 4 - 20 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Risk Management**

21. The University continues to proactively manage its financial risk by not breaching the following minimum criterion - unrestricted surplus of 2% of gross income. The draft financial results demonstrate we do not expect this indicator to be breached. The continuing health and sustainability of the University depends upon strong direction supported by robust forecasting and we will continue to refine and challenge the assumptions underpinning the Ten Year Forecast.

**Equality & Diversity**

22. 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**

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

**Consultation**

24. The paper has been reviewed by Phil McNaull, Director of Finance.

**Further information**

25. Author

Lorna McLoughlin  
Head of Financial Information,  
Reporting & Strategy Team

Stuart Graham  
Management Accountant

Presenter

Phil McNaull  
Finance Director

**Freedom of Information**

26. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

City Deal Update

**Description of paper**

1. This paper provides a summary update on the process of moving towards a detailed agreement with the UK and Scottish Governments on the City Deal as a whole, and specifically on the Data Driven Innovation programme led by the University of Edinburgh, which forms a significant part of the City Deal. The Court City Deal Sub-Group met on 19 January 2018 and a report from the Sub-Group is included in Paper L2.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to note and discuss the contents of this paper.

*Paragraphs 3 - 18 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Risk Management**

19. The project team maintains a detailed risk register which is reviewed on a regular basis by the City Deal Executive Governance Group.

**Equality & Diversity**

20. There are significant equality and diversity opportunities associated with the Data Driven Innovation programmes that we will develop over the next 10 years with partners from industry and the public sector associated in particular with the idea of 'inclusive' growth.

**Next steps/implications**

21. We will continue to engage with local authorities and the two governments through both through the formal governance structures of the City Deal process and through informal consultation as needed.

**Consultation**

22. Court City Deal Sub-Group. The process set out in this paper is reviewed regularly by the City Deal Executive Governance Group chaired by the Principal.

**Further information**

23. Author and Presenter

Professor Charlie Jeffery, Senior Vice-Principal

**Freedom of Information**

24. Closed – commercial in confidence.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Zero by 2040 – The University of Edinburgh’s Investment Approach and Low Carbon**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper recommends to fully divest from fossil fuels, updating our policy to take account of our ‘Zero by 2040’ carbon neutral goal.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to approve a commitment that we will cease to invest in fossil fuels as soon as practicable in the next three years.

**Discussion**

3. The University is committed to making a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to society. In 2016 the University committed to taking a whole institution approach to tackling climate change, one of the most serious global challenges of this century.

4. Our 2016 climate strategy included the significant new commitment to be carbon neutral by 2040. In the light of this commitment we are now reviewing and updating our investment approach.

*2015 Fossil Fuel Group Review*

5. We undertook a substantial review of our investments in fossil fuels companies, published in May 2015. That review committed us to substantial actions, all of which have been completed. These included a review of the risks posed by climate change to our investments and we can confirm that our investment advisers and fund managers have been briefed to ensure our investments are well placed to manage climate risks.

6. Less than 1% of our total funds are currently invested in companies engaged in fossil fuels extraction. This is a direct result of the decision made three years ago to divest from the most damaging fossil fuels, and prioritise low carbon investment.

7. Our action to prioritise low carbon investments across other industries has also helped to reduce the emissions of our portfolio (measured in carbon per £ invested) to less than 10% of its 2008 levels. In 2015, we committed, and rapidly delivered, divestment from coal and tar sands that summer.

8. We have recently taken a bold step and have just announced a £60 million investment in low carbon companies and renewables (<http://edin.ac/2z8QODp> )

*Our New Commitment*

9. The energy and carbon landscape has continued to move rapidly since our last review in 2015. In line with our commitment to review our approach within 3 years, we have now updated our position.

10. In particular, the agreement of the Zero by 2040 goal, which applies across all of our activities, means that we now need to update our investment approach to ensure it is fully consistent with the 2040 goal.

11. Since 2015, significant changes in the market for power, with the increasing dominance of renewable technologies, have been augmented by rapid developments in energy storage, and the shift to low carbon and electric vehicles.

12. At present, suitable cost-effective and scalable technologies to entirely replace fossil fuels do not yet exist across the full range of uses; power, heating, land and sea based transport, aviation and petrochemicals. However, we believe that the shift to low carbon and fossil-free technologies is now inevitable and will move forward at an increasingly rapid pace. Whilst we expect fossil fuels to remain in use for decades to come, the time is now right to further develop our investment approach.

13. We think that our investment portfolio should reflect our commitment to a low carbon future, focusing on lower carbon investment products and transitioning out of investment in fossil fuel companies. Against this background we now make a commitment that over the next 3 years, we will cease to invest in fossil fuel extraction and production, across our direct and pooled investments – this includes coal, tar sands, oil and gas. We will update our responsible investment policy in due course to reflect this commitment.

14. We will continue to engage with fossil fuel companies and continue to research, teach and work with these companies, in line with our normal processes and activities and the principle of academic freedom.

### **Resource implications**

15. There is a risk that avoiding investing in fossil fuels has a small negative impact on investment returns but this is not likely to be material. By contrast, over time fossil fuel investments are expected to present serious investment risks. Implementation of the new policy can be done within existing resources.

### **Risk Management**

16. Communications will need to be carefully managed as we are committing to change as soon as practicable in the next three years; implementation will need to be monitored and discussed with investment managers.

### **Equality & Diversity**

17. Positive, as climate change impacts most strongly on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society, with women in developing societies most at risk.

### **Next steps/implications**

18. If Court approves the proposal, it will be implemented as soon as practicable with the oversight of Investment Committee. A communication plan has been developed to maximise the positive reputational benefits of the proposed change, and to anticipate any concerns based on the experiences of other institutions. Subject to Court's discussion and steer, we would propose to issue this shortly after the Court meeting.

**Consultation and Support**

19. Endorsed by: Policy & Resources Committee; Directors of Corporate Services Group, Finance, Social Responsibility & Sustainability; University Secretary; Senior Vice-Principal; Central Management Group; Vice-Principal Planning, Resources and Research Policy; Chair of Investment Committee; Student Association leaders.

**Further Information**

20. Author

Dave Gorman

Director of Social Responsibility & Sustainability

16 January 2018

Presenter

Professor Charlie Jeffery

Senior Vice-Principal

**Freedom of Information.**

21. Closed paper until approved and announced.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Strathclyde Rowing Centre and Boat Store**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper requests entering into a 30 year ground lease with North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) at Strathclyde Country Park in order to build a new rowing centre and boat store at Strathclyde Country Park.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to approve entering into a 30 year ground lease with NLC at Strathclyde Country Park.

**Background and context**

3. Edinburgh University Boat Club (EUBC) membership has doubled over the last 10 years with an enrolment of 213 members in the current academic year. The growth and continued success of EUBC has put pressures on the existing rowing infrastructure

4. Due to the limitations of the waterway at the Union Canal at Meggetland, EUBC in 2013 relocated its international standard rowing facilities to Strathclyde Country Park. EUBC is now a designated centre of excellence by both Scottish and British Rowing with eight student members having won medals at Olympic and World Championship level.

5. Strathclyde Country Park is one of only two publicly accessible rowing courses in the UK, and the only one to host a university programme. The current water course environment provides world class conditions for rowing. Presently EUBC lease one and a half storage bays from NLC to house boats and equipment. The leased accommodation provision is sub optimal with limited storage space, no expansion opportunities, and lacks indoor coaching and training provision.

6. A Masterplan for Outdoor Sport was presented to Estates Committee in December 2016. The paper presented the vision for outdoor sport at University of Edinburgh, over the next 10 years. The Masterplan identified three projects that would act as enablers in delivery of that vision. One of the projects detailed within the Masterplan was the creation of a new rowing centre and boat store at Strathclyde Country Park.

7. In December 2016, Estates Committee endorsed £80k of funding. Architects were appointed and a Full Business Case was endorsed by the Project Board.

*Paragraphs 8 - 13 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Risk Management**

14. A full risk register for the project has been developed and will be monitored at each stage of the project lifecycle.

**Equality & Diversity**

15. Equality and Diversity has been considered at each stage of the design development and will continue to be reviewed at each stage.

**Next steps/implications**

16. If Court approval is granted, the University will continue its negotiations with NLC at Strathclyde Country Park to progress a 30 year ground lease.

**Consultation**

17. A series of consultations have been held with the Sport and Exercise and Estates to develop the brief and the design. The proposal was endorsed by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2018.

**Further information****18. Author**

Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services Group  
Jim Aitken Director of Sport and Exercise  
Director of Estates  
3 January 2017

**Presenter**

Professor Jonathan Seckl  
Vice-Principal Planning,  
Resources & Research  
Policy

**Freedom of Information**

19. The paper should remain closed until any commercially sensitive procurements in relation to this project have been concluded.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Disability Access Improvements Programme (2018 – 2023)**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper:

- (i) summarises the findings from the Disabled Go access audits; and,
- (ii) seeks funding to allow the recommendations to be implemented to improve access to buildings across the University estate.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to approve £15.0m expenditure (£3m per annum over the five year period 2018/2019 to 2022/2023) from University Corporate Resources to implement the recommendations.

**Background and context**

3. The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It sets out the different ways in which it is unlawful to treat someone. Improvements to the accessibility of the University's estate is a key objective of the Equality Outcome Action Plan 2017- 2021.

4. The University, over recent years, has improved accessibility to buildings across the estate. However, considerably more needs to be done to comply with legislation. The proposal put forward in this paper will make substantial improvements to the accessibility of the University's estate and improve learning opportunities.

5. Estates Committee in December 2016 supported this expenditure and requested the Estates Department to develop specific access improvement proposals following detailed access surveys.

6. As part of Disabled Go's appointment, an app for iPhones and Android phones has been produced and this, as well as the access audits, are freely available on the University's website (<https://www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information>). This allows students, staff and visiting members of the public to have a better understanding of the current accessibility of the University and to better plan their visits.

**Discussion**

7. In September 2016, the Estates Department commissioned Disabled Go (the UK's leading provider of accessibility and equality services) to undertake access audits of the University's core buildings and teaching spaces. The audits provide detailed information on where barriers to access exist in 170 buildings across the University's estate. The audits have been evaluated by the University's Disability Access and Equality Manager, who is qualified to NRAC<sup>1</sup> Consultant level.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC) is the UK's independent accreditation body for assessors providing Access Consultancy Services.

8. There is now a requirement for the University to act upon this knowledge in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. It is proposed to implement a 5 year improvement programme to address the priority areas identified within the report. The budget cost for these improvements is calculated to be £15m. The expected spend across the estate is:

	Approx Cost based on Disabled Go audit	Approximate Cost per building
Central Area (96 buildings)	£8.0m	£80k
King's Buildings (35 buildings)	£3.3m	£90k
Easter Bush (11 buildings)	£0.8m	£70k
Western General (7 buildings)	£0.5m	£70k
Bio Quarter (4 buildings)	£0.2m	£50k
Residential Estate (23 buildings)	<u>£2.2m</u>	£95k
<b>Total (174 buildings)</b>	<b>£15.0m</b>	<b>£85k</b>

9. Examples of typically recommended improvements made in the Access Audit Reports, with suggested budget costs, are provided below as a point of reference.

Access Improvement	Budget Cost per item
• Install new lift to provide better access	£50k
• Provide 1 additional car parking space/drop off area	£10k
• Provide 1 new accessible unisex toilet	£10k
• Supply and install new ramp	£5k
• Reconfigure reception counter to provide variable height surfaces and knee recesses	£2.5k
• Replace or reconfigure entrance doors	£2.5k
• Supply and install a new induction loop	£2.5k

10. It is proposed that the access audits will be regularly updated by Disabled Go, as improvements and changes are made to buildings.

11. It is a key recommendation of the 'Review of Support for Disabled Students' that the Estates Department involve disabled students and staff during design stages of refurbishments or new builds and this recommendation will be incorporated into accessibility improvements, as appropriate.

### Resource implications

12. Based on the Disabled Go access audits, a resource of £15.0m over a five year period from 2018/2019 – 2022/2023 is required to allow the recommended access improvements made in the recently completed access audits to be completed.

### Risk Management

13. Failure to complete the work recommended in the access audits leaves the University at risk of not meeting its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

14. There also remains the risk of complaints from students, staff and visiting members of the public where access is difficult or cannot be satisfactorily provided to services. This also carries with it an associated reputational risk.

15. All proposed improvements will involve the Disability Access and Equality Manager to allow a review of proposed changes.

### **Equality & Diversity**

16. Equality and diversity will be considered throughout the design and implementation of the access improvements.

### **Next steps/implications**

17. If approved by Court, the recommendations will be implemented within the five year period.

### **Consultation**

18. In accordance with the Estates Accessibility Policy and the recommendations from the 'Review of Support for Disabled Students', new projects will have access and egress considered from the earliest points in the project through to completion and views from stakeholders will be sought for selected projects to ensure their needs are being considered and accommodated during any changes made. The proposal was endorsed by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2018.

### **Further information**

19. Author

Gary Jebb, Director of Estates;  
Graham Bell  
Depute Director of Estates  
3 January 2018

Presenter

Professor Jonathan Seckl  
Vice-Principal Planning, Resources &  
Research Policy

### **Freedom of Information**

20. Closed paper – until approved by Court.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Development & Alumni Office Annual Report 2016/17**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper contains six topics describing the University's philanthropic and alumni relations activities and its strategic goals in the academic year 2016/17.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to note this paper.

**Background and context**

3. The Annual Report reports progress against key performance indicators and other metrics of relevance to the University's strategic goals.

*Paragraphs 4 - 5 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Resource implications**

6. None.

**Risk Management**

7. There are no risks associated with this paper.

**Equality & Diversity**

8. This paper does not impact on equality and diversity issues.

**Next steps/implications**

9. None.

**Further information**

10. Author and Presenter

Chris Cox

Vice Principal Philanthropy and Advancement

25 January 2018

**Freedom of Information**

11. This is a closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Governance of Alumni Clubs**

**Description of paper**

1. At present there is a range of alumni clubs, Unincorporated Associations (UAs), networks, informal groups and contacts acting on behalf of the University in locations around the world. These have developed somewhat organically. This paper sets out proposals to introduce a more systematic approach in order to help us achieve maximum impact.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to approve proposals for the official recognition of alumni clubs, such that clubs wishing to be formally recognised by the University of Edinburgh (i.e. permitted to use the University name and brand, and to be supported in their operations) must go through an approval process that is ratified by Court or a committee/group with authority delegated from Court on an annual basis.

**Background and context**

3. With around 30% of our graduates now living outside of the UK, the proposed model will enable the development of a strong, engaged global alumni community. With a network of clubs in priority locations across the world, as well as in new and emerging markets, the University can consolidate its engagement in established regions while allowing it to be responsive to new opportunities.

4. Through engaging alumni clubs in strategic programming, such as student experience and employability activities, there is an opportunity to create a robust framework whereby alumni are actively facilitating the University's global impact and playing an active part in shaping the futures of our graduating students. Active alumni clubs in each of the major cities and regions of the world in which the University has a strategic interest will underpin the engagement of alumni globally, while a robust framework will help mitigate the risks associated with entrusting volunteers with the University's brand.

5. The majority of clubs<sup>1</sup> are wholly independent of the University and there are good reasons for establishing a process of official recognition. It will enable permission to be given to use University branding and, indeed, recognised clubs will be encouraged to use that branding. It will also provide a firmer basis for the sharing of alumni data, subject to appropriate controls and in compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation, with clubs where there is benefit in doing so (see paragraph 12 below).

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<sup>1</sup> The exceptions are three clubs constituted as 'Unincorporated Associations' described in paragraph 10.

## **Discussion**

### *Approval Process*

6. It is proposed that Development & Alumni will present a list of clubs to be approved (or have their official recognition renewed) annually. This will be a single list for Court or a committee/group with delegated authority from Court to sign off and it is anticipated that this will be a light-touch process, with Development & Alumni providing assurance that the process outlined below has been followed.

7. A recommendation will be made to Court for a club to become *Formally Recognised* once it has met the following criteria:

- Club officials must read and familiarise themselves with an Alumni Club Toolkit and Alumni Club Agreement, which set out the expectations and standards to be met by alumni clubs.
- The lead contact for each club must complete an application form and sign up to the Alumni Club Agreement.
- Once the application form has been returned, the lead contact will be invited to have a phone or Skype introductory interview with the Global Alumni Networks Manager to outline plans for the club and to ask questions.
- Once these steps have been completed and Development & Alumni are satisfied that the group's interests are aligned with those of the University, a recommendation will be made to Court that the club is formally ratified. This recommendation will come from the Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement.
- Court will be provided with the name and location of the proposed club, along with confirmation that the club has signed the Alumni Club Agreement.
- Once the decision has been ratified by Court, Development & Alumni will notify the lead contact of the decision.

8. Volunteer groups are entirely legally and financially independent from the University and the University reserves the right to withhold or withdraw formal recognition for groups that do not meet the requirements as set out in the Alumni Club Agreement.

### *Existing Clubs*

9. Communications will be issued to update existing alumni clubs and groups about the proposed changes and Development & Alumni will work with them to transition to the new approach. A lighter touch process will be applied to longstanding well-established clubs that already demonstrably meet the criteria.

### *Unincorporated Associations*

10. In the USA the University has three clubs established as Unincorporated Associations (UAs), located in Washington DC, New York City and Boston. These 'unincorporated' clubs are legal subsidiaries of the North American Office and therefore must comply with certain regulations, including the signing of a special constitution and fulfilling certain insurance and liability obligations. UAs will be treated as formally recognised clubs as they meet all of the necessary criteria set out in the Alumni Club Agreement.

11. Whilst we do not propose changing the structure of UAs for now, we do not advise on increasing the number of UAs because of the administrative overhead

associated with the arrangement and because it involves an unnecessary differentiation within the club network.

#### *Data Sharing*

12. The University does not currently share data with its alumni clubs. Development & Alumni works with clubs to send mailings on their behalf. Clubs are asked to look after the mailing lists they establish themselves and manage personal data carefully and in compliance with data protection regulations and privacy policy. A data sharing arrangement with one alumni club (Washington DC) is currently being piloted to assess the benefits, risks and costs. Dependent on the outcome of the pilot, and the appetite for further data sharing among recognised clubs and Development & Alumni, this approach may be extended in future.

13. Development & Alumni are currently working with the Careers Service to implement a new student-alumni networking platform. In addition to providing opportunities for students and alumni to connect over careers and other advice, it is anticipated that that this platform will provide a forum for alumni clubs to communicate directly with their members (and each other), possibly reducing the need for data sharing between the University and clubs.

#### *Legal status*

14. All alumni clubs, with the exception of the Unincorporated Associations in the USA, are legally independent from the University and are not covered by the University's Public Liability Insurance. Clubs will be advised to investigate whether insurance is necessary for their purposes.

#### *Club Finances*

15. All clubs are expected to be self-financing. It is at the discretion of each club how they finance their activities, including whether membership fees are charged. Many clubs do not charge fees, relying instead on income from events. Clubs charging membership fees will be expected to state how the fees are being used and to make clear the benefits of being a paid-up member.

#### *Branding*

16. Development & Alumni will work with colleagues in Communications and Marketing to develop clear branding guidelines for officially recognised alumni clubs. A bespoke recognition mark will be developed for alumni clubs to use instead of the University logo. This recognition mark may then be used on printed materials, social media and any other communications which are being sent by an officially recognised club. Only recognised clubs will be permitted to use this branding. This approach helps manage the risk of misuse of the University name and brand.

#### *Evaluation*

17. Each year, officially recognised clubs will be asked to provide a written update on their activities for the year. Court will be asked to renew recognition of a list of existing clubs annually, to approve new formal clubs, and to withdraw recognition where required, all based on recommendations from Development & Alumni.

18. After an initial 12 month period, Development & Alumni will review the process, looking at: feedback from alumni; the ease of transition, where applicable; the level of

support required; and a review of the extent to which club obligations have been met by each formally recognised club during that 12 month period. A review paper will be produced for the Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement with recommendations or suggested amendments.

### **Resource implications**

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

### **Risk Management**

20. There are no significant risk implications arising from this paper.

### **Equality & Diversity**

21. No specific Equality and Diversity issues are identified.

### **Next steps/implications**

22. A phased implementation is proposed, beginning with existing well-established clubs. The first clubs will be ready for approval by June 2018. Development and Alumni aim to have formally recognised alumni clubs in 13 priority city regions by 2020.

### **Consultation**

23. This paper has been prepared by the Alumni Relations team and approved by the Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement.

### **Further information**

24. Author

Grant Spence  
Director of Alumni Relations  
17 January 2018

Presenter

Chris Cox  
Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement

### **Freedom of Information**

25. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Edinburgh University Students' Association President's Report**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper is to note developments at Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) since the last Court meeting, and to provide an update on current work and initiatives.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to note the report. It is recommended that this information be considered to support other initiatives and projects designed to improve student satisfaction and enhance the student experience.

**Background and context**

3. The Students' Association has provided regular reports to Court on projects, campaigns and developments of the organisation as a whole .

**Discussion**

*Finance update*

4. A summary of the Students' Association financial position at the end of November (Period 8) is as follows:

**November (Period 8)  
2017/18**

	Year to Date			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Last Year
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trading	886	998	(112)	805
Block Grant	1,661	1,660	1	1,654
<b>Total net income</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>2,657</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>2,459</b>
Student Support Activities	(396)	(420)	24	(329)
Central costs	(1,939)	(1,949)	11	(1,761)
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(2,334)</b>	<b>(2,369)</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>(2,090)</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>(76)</b>	<b>369</b>

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

5. By the end of November, the Association's trading activities were making a surplus of just under £900k. This is ahead of the same point last year, however it is more than £110k below budget. The overwhelming majority of the surplus is from the Festival operations.

6. While the Festival result was ahead of budget, some Trading areas (Bars & Catering in particular) have been failing to meet their budgeted position. So while at

the end of November the Students' Association had made a surplus of over £200k, this is behind the budgeted surplus at this point in the year.

7. Student Support and Central costs are spending slightly less than budget, however this is not sufficient to make up the shortfall elsewhere.

8. Looking ahead, we believe that it is unlikely that the trading activities will make up this gap, and indeed it may get wider. While a breakeven budget was agreed for this year, it is looking likely that a full year deficit will be incurred, which is disappointing.

9. Whilst there are issues to address on an ongoing basis, a reasonable proportion of the shortfall, estimated at approx. £100k, is a shortfall that should be 'non-reoccurring'. This is principally down to the early year poor performance of the Teviot operations, which in our first trading quarter (April 2017-June2017) we had budgeted to be free of the impact of Bristo Square works, when in fact these works were extended. Whilst, based on previous experience, we had anticipated a slow recovery even once reopened, this re-establishment has also taken longer than we had budgeted for. It is likely we have 'lost' some first-year students to these buildings for their University careers. A similar but smaller impact was from the early underperformance of the Pleasance site which came back on stream from refurbishment in September 2017. We didn't have Wi-Fi or appropriate power points initially, and we also had to make changes to the environment, décor and lighting in the café bar post-handover. Given the daytime trade focus was as informal study space not having the environment and services in place under late October obviously had an impact, and again, some people are lost for the year having missed Welcome Week and week one with these services.

10. Cash balances have been affected by this and by the increased capital expenditure agreed by the EUSA board this year as investment in the future of the Students' Association. By the end of November 2017 cash had fallen about 10% or £200k on the same point in 2016.

11. The board and management team are considering options available both for the remainder of this financial year and for next, with the intention of continuing to invest in the long term development of the organisation while regaining the financial recovery that we have experienced over the last four years.

#### *Budgeting and Planning for 2018-19*

12. Given that the Association's financial year runs from 1 April – 31 March, we are currently developing budgets and annual plans across the Association. In addition, as we enter the final year of our current strategic plan, we are beginning work to develop the process for creating our new strategic plan, which will commence from April 2019. We anticipate most of the work on developing this new plan will take place from June – December this year.

#### *Commercial/estates update*

13. The key area of work remains the Student Centre development. We collaborated with the University to provide a further consultation opportunity for students and the public to engage with the current iteration of the plans in November, and this seemed to go well. The architects have revised the plans substantially following feedback,

with the proposed extension to Teviot largely being located behind the building, which has resulted in a brand new footprint. Consequently, this has required substantial reworking of the detailed internal plans and specifications, which has provided some challenges in ensuring we can meet the needs of our members in the future, and provide our full range of services. The addition of external venue and catering consultants has added time to the process but provided welcome expert perspective at this critical stage. The Association has retained our previous Commercial Director, Alan Duff, on a project basis to support the detailed work required.

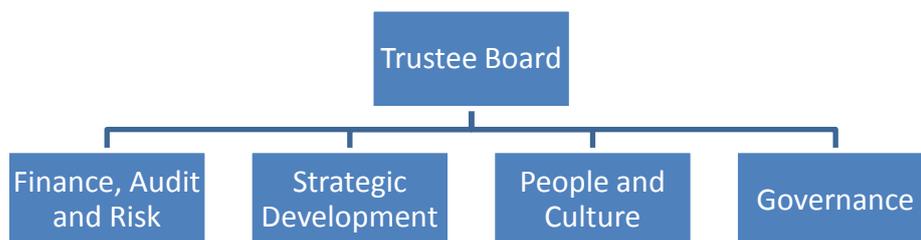
14. Alongside this work, we have development plans for some of our current spaces, to improve the experience/ambience for our students but also to improve footfall and spend in some commercial areas. These projects include some upgrading of décor and furniture in the Library Bar, improvements to our Sports Bar, and some possible improvements to key catering outlets including the New Amphion, Dome Cafe and the Magnet Café in the James Clerk Maxwell Building. In addition, we have undertaken some improvement of our Advice Place in Potterrow, with a similar project to follow at our King’s Buildings Advice Place following a successful bid to the Donald Pollock Trust. We continue to enhance the newly completed spaces at Pleasance, to ensure our student societies see the space as their own – a recent project included the creation of a Societies’ Lounge to provide space for society leaders.

15. We are pleased to welcome Michelle Berry, previously at Northumbria Students Union, as our new Commercial Director. Michelle has extensive experience of managing large scale venues and outlets and managed a number of refurbishment and upgrade projects in her previous role. We will introduce Michelle to key University contacts as part of her induction in due course.

*Strategic Projects: Governance update*

*Trustee Board operations*

16. From January we are operating under our new Trustee Board subcommittee structure, which aims to ensure that key areas of business undergo substantive discussions at an earlier stage, and to free up time for the Board to focus on strategic business. Our new structure is as follows:



17. In addition, we have expanded the membership of our subcommittees to enable discussion by a wider group of trustees, and now have spaces on all subcommittees for external lay members (previously these were included on our Finance, and Trading committees) to bring additional expertise and perspective, and potentially also provide a pipeline of prospective external trustee candidates.

18. The revised structure in part recognises the work over recent times to strengthen and develop key areas of work, including governance, risk, strategic planning and

development and review of key trends and insight. It is therefore reflective of our positive development over the last few years.

#### *Sabbatical 2<sup>nd</sup> terms of office.*

19. Following the positive decision at the last Court meeting, we are now waiting for Senate approval of changes to the Laigh Year regulations, which would allow current and future sabbatical officers to run for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term of office. In the meantime, we are developing guidance to ensure we can manage this effectively and fairly during the elections.

#### *Strategic Projects: Staff Culture, Reward and Recognition update*

20. Elements of this project include: cultural principles (translating our values into organisational/employee behaviour/approach); salary benchmarking; development of our employee offer. We have undertaken substantial work to benchmark current roles and review job descriptions. We have engaged with external consultants, Korn Ferry, to complete a benchmarking exercise which will ultimately inform the development of a new pay framework and strategy for the Association, although more data analysis and research will be required before we are at that stage. (Alongside this work we remain committed in principle to delivering on aspiration to pay living wage to all our employees, we are taking a phased approach to this, and it will take time to achieve). At the same time, we are reviewing and assessing options for an enhanced employee offer to address health and wellbeing, work/life balance and non-cash benefits.

#### *Strategic Projects: Communication*

21. Our strategic communications project has so far focussed on assessing and making proposals for the transformation of our internal and external communications, including with our members. We have been able to progress aspects of our new communications strategy, including finalising the rebranding process which began over a year ago, managing our press and PR strategy, and developing a stronger focus on research and insight as a tool for planning and development. Other key aspects we also aspire to deliver will require significant investment in digital tools and support – these will be considered as part of our budgeting process this year.

#### *Membership Support and Development update*

##### *Key student-facing projects for semester 2 include:*

##### *'Give it a Go' 15 – 21 January*

22. GIAG aims to provide an opportunity for students to re-engage with societies, volunteering and other activities, and promotes student development and fun. This year's programme includes circa 150 events and we are hopeful our new calendar slot in January (rather than November in previous years) will suit students returning after the Christmas break better, and also provide a great opportunity for our growing numbers of semester 2 visiting students to experience and get involved with the wide variety of opportunities beyond their studies. GIAG began as a small pilot 2 years ago but is fast becoming a staple of the Association's calendar.

#### *Elections*

23. Nominations have been open since before Christmas but our focussed 'Stand!' campaign begins in mid-January. Candidates can begin campaigning from 1 March with voting taking place online from Monday 5 March and results announced on

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. We have set a turnout target of 7,500 students. This year we have had nominations open early to enable interested candidates to submit nominations when they are ready, and have introduced a new 'recommend a friend' facility to enable students to send an online recommendation message to friends, so that there is peer encouragement to run for a position. We continue to provide a framework of training and support for candidates to promote a positive and supportive culture – we were commended by NUS last year for the transformation of our elections culture over the last few years.

24. New sabbatical officers will join the Association from 28 May for handover and induction, officially taking up office from Monday, 11 June.

#### *Students' Association Celebration Season*

25. Our annual Teaching Awards, Impact Awards and Activities Awards all take place later this semester with nominations open for all now. These are key events in our calendar which (in the case of the Teaching Awards) allow students to highlight positive experiences in relation to teaching, learning and support, and in relation to the Impact and Activities Awards provide the opportunity to highlight student commitment, initiative and achievement in extra-curricular activities and contribution to the university community. Some Court members will have received invitations to attend our awards evenings, and we will provide information about our runners up and winners after the event – these stories are usually inspirational!

#### *Work on significant student issues*

26. In addition, we continue to work with University colleagues on proposed developments in relation to both student mental health (through the current Mental Health Strategy), and sexual violence and harassment. Our Advice Place is reporting an extremely high volume of enquiries relating to this latter issue, driven largely by the recent #metoo campaign which was prompted by a number of high profile cases from the entertainment industry amongst others. The University is also reporting higher numbers of complaints on this issue and we are keen to work together to address the complex support required, and the need to revisit both academic and HR policy to ensure cases can be appropriately managed and that complainants are appropriately supported. Our Advice Place manager has (with the director of Student Wellbeing) been visiting a number of schools to brief staff on good practice in relation to these types of case. We are also currently considering the support required for our advice staff who are now dealing with these cases on a day to day basis.

#### *Sabbatical Update*

27. A Happy New Year to all members of Court from us at the Students' Association. As the second semester begins we're excitedly welcoming students back with Give It A Go week with our many societies putting on taster events and sessions across the week; we're equally excited to look ahead to our awards season to which I'm sure many members of Court will be coming. At this midpoint in the year we would like to reflect on things we have worked on in the months past and share our objectives for the coming term as well.

*Patrick Kilduff – President*

28. Last Semester:

- Estates projects. Working on the Student Centre with the VP Activities & Services, Students' Association colleagues, Estate's colleagues and Page/Park to develop revised plans and holding the second, student facing consultation. Also working on the Old Kirk Postgraduate Centre and plans for the redevelopment of 7 Bristo Square to provide a new home for the Student Counselling Service and Student Disability Service.
- Association communications and engagement. Rolling out an outreach programme for Sabbatical Officers for the first time in years with relative success. The Dick Vet School in particular praising Bobi (VP Education) for the great work she has done in bridging the communications and University-wide community gap felt at Easter Bush.
- Transport. Working with the Vice-President Community and colleagues working in the transport arm of the University to develop the trial of a £1 fare with Lothian Buses. We also redesigned the Shuttle Bus timetable to King's Buildings to fit more appropriately with the student timetable and give more buses in the morning when there is greater demand. We have continued to work with the Deputy Secretary Student Experience and colleagues in Estates to try find a way of disseminating more affordable transport options to students from Widening Participation backgrounds.

29. Next Semester:

- Working with the Vice-President Community and colleagues in Estates to finalise the work around the Residential Strategy.
- Election outreach and general communications and engagement. Both streamlining our current outreach work to ensure we are getting to students in the right areas, at the right times and with the correct forms of communication. Attempting to invigorate a much greater election turnout.
- Continuing to explore models for affordable transport options for students across Edinburgh. Especially within the context of students on campuses outwith the Central Area and with a particular focus on the strategy of helping students who more and more will continue to move further and further from the city centre and campus in the coming years due to spatial pressures.

*Bobi Archer – Vice-President Education*

30. Last semester:

- Programme Representative Structure gained support from Senate Learning and Teaching Committee for implementation. A real step in the right direction for effective student representation.
- Reducing the Pressure of Semester One also passing at Senate Learning and Teaching Committee, to be implemented in 2017/18.
- Widening Participation Strategy. Working with University colleagues to develop a strategy for implementation with work continuing into Semester Two.

31. This semester:

- Continuing to push on the Programme Representative Structure. Continuing to roll out the model and assessing the training and supporting systems around creating a successful and effective structure.

- Personal Tutors. Reviewing the structures and developing consistency in the quality and level of service provided. A key to ensuring students are supported properly.
- Joint-honours Support. Mapping with Sabine Rolle to improve their student experience and ensure these students, rather than falling through the cracks between Schools, are receiving equal support and guidance from Schools. No longer should the buck-passing between Schools be a norm for students, neither should they have to understand the complex University structure to get help that is needed.

*Ollie Glick – Vice-President Community*

32. Last Semester:

- Housing. Worked with estates to agree the principles of the University Residential Strategy moving forward, namely the importance of accessible rent rates for disadvantaged students in line with the University's widening participation strategy. As well as this building in the importance of estate sustainability especially in terms of our relationship with the private halls industry to prevent them from dominating the market.
- Community Engagement. Worked on establishing a Social Enterprise Pilot for students as well as a pilot sending maths students into local schools in need of teachers. Continuing to contribute to University community grant schemes.
- Transport. Worked on improving the shuttle bus to King's Buildings with an enhanced service and improved timetable, as well as this lobbying for cheaper fares for students.

33. Next Semester:

- Work with local community groups such as the Swap and Reuse Hub (SHRUB) and Greyfriars Charteris to grow and gain more student community opportunities.
- Continue positive discussion around housing and housing co-operatives going forward.
- Improve sustainability of the Students' Association and University with a focus on food waste and plastic coffee cup waste.

*Kai O'Doherty – Vice-President Activities & Services*

34. Last Semester:

- Gender-neutral toilets. Along with the #ToiletSquad in the Students' Association Kai worked to find appropriate toilets that can be converted to gender-neutral toilets; this has been gratefully helped by working with colleagues in Estates to ensure provision or plans for provision across the campuses.
- Enhancing inter-society collaboration has also been a focus of Kai's. In this vein they have been working tirelessly with society office bearers and Activities Reps to enhance this aspect of the Students' Association.
- Postgraduate engagement. The election of our Postgraduate reps highlighted a core challenge of the Students' Association is developing good, effective and positive engagement and communication with the postgraduate community. Along with the Postgraduate Society, a working group has been set up to keep this focus and impetus behind this important development.

35. Next Semester:

- Improving society room bookings and space access. With almost 300 societies the demand for space, especially in the Central Area, is colossal. Kai is working to explore ways of resolving this issue.
- Addressing economic and other barriers to students' access to activities. Through the Participation Grant we know that there is a great economic barrier to students participating in activities, societies and sports. We are currently exploring routes to find a more sustainable model for funding this, we are exceedingly grateful to the Senior Vice-Principal for his support in this regard.
- Improving the sustainability of the Students' Association's commercial services (Including food waste and coffee cup waste).

*Esther Dominy – Vice-President Welfare*

36. Last Semester:

- Sexual violence on campus: Mapping existing policies and processes for students who report sexual assault or harassment to the university to identify areas of improvement.
- Special Circumstances: Feeding into the Service Excellence project on Special Circumstances, Concessions and Extensions to improve processes and provide more consistency and fairness for students.
- Wellbeing Centre: Feeding in student interests into this project that will deliver an enhanced space for the Student Counselling Service and Student Disability Service.

37. This Semester:

- Sexual violence on campus: Continuing work on improving processes of reporting sexual assault and harassment. Consulting with students about the No One Asks For It campaign to create a successor campaign.
- Special Circumstances: Working with Academic Services to make Special Circumstances policies more inclusive of student parents and carers and survivors of sexual assault and harassment.

**Resource implications**

38. There are no resource implications for this report because this report is retrospectively outlining existing projects.

**Risk Management**

39. Not applicable.

**Equality & Diversity**

40. Equality and Diversity considerations are implicitly included in this paper. Edinburgh University Students' Association represents the interests of a diversity of student groups and exists to maintain the equal representation of students and student groups.

**Next steps/implications**

41. None

### **Consultation**

42. All relevant Association Sabbatical Officers, staff members, student staff and members of our organisation. Any items relating to partnerships with other organisations or branches of the University include information provided by all participating stakeholders.

### **Further information**

43. Author

Patrick Kilduff  
Edinburgh University Students'  
Association President  
January 2018

Presenter

Patrick Kilduff

### **Freedom of Information**

44. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Exception Committee Report

**Committee Name**

1. Exception Committee.

**Date of Meeting**

2. The Committee considered business via electronic communications concluded on 15 December 2017.

**Action Required**

3. To note the matters approved on behalf of Court by Exception Committee.

**Key points**

4. The following requests for approval were granted:

*High Performance Computer purchase*

5. The purchase of the DiRAC 2.5x High Performance Computer system to the value of £4.5 million inclusive of VAT – funded by a grant awarded by the UK Science & Technologies Facilities Council – and the delegation of signing authority to Professor David Robertson, Head of the College of Science & Engineering.

*Paragraph 6 has been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

*Hua Xia Healthcare*

7. The proposed arrangement for the establishment of the Joint Venture and delegation to the Director of Corporate Services, together with the University Secretary, the authority to conclude and execute the legal documentation in line with the principles outlined in the legal summary and the risk management strategy.

**Full Minute:**

8. Papers considered are available at:  
<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/UCC/Exception+Committee>

**Equality & Diversity**

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

**Further information**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 10. <u>Author</u><br>Dr Lewis Allan<br>Head of Court Services | <u>Presenter</u><br>Ms Anne Richards<br>Convener of Exception Committee |
|---|---|

**Freedom of Information**

11. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Court City Deal Sub-Group Report

**Committee Name**

1. Court City Deal Sub-Group.

**Date of Meeting**

2. 19 January 2018.

**Action Required**

3. Court is invited to note the key points.

*Paragraphs 4 - 5 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Further information**

6. Author

Ms Kirstie Graham  
Deputy Head of Court Services

Presenter

Ms Anne Richards  
Vice-Convener of Court

**Freedom of Information**

7. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Court USS Sub-Group Report**

**Committee Name**

1. Court Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) Sub-Group.

**Date of Meeting**

2. Electronic meeting from 11 January to 15 January 2018.

**Action Required**

3. Court is invited to note the key points.

*Paragraphs 4 - 6 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Equality & Diversity**

7. Equality and diversity implications were considered in developing the University's response.

**Further information**

8. Author

Dr Lewis Allan  
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Mr Alan Johnston  
USS Sub-Group Convener

**Freedom of Information**

9. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Nominations Committee Report**

**Committee Name**

1. Nominations Committee.

**Date of Meeting**

2. 19 January 2018.

**Action Required**

3. Court is invited to note the key points.

*Paragraphs 4 - 6 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Equality & Diversity**

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

**Further information**

8. Author

Dr Lewis Allan  
Head of Court Services

Presenter

Ms Anne Richards  
Convener of Nominations Committee

**Freedom of Information**

9. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Knowledge Strategy Committee Report**

**Committee Name**

1. Knowledge Strategy Committee.

**Date of Meeting**

2. 19 January 2018.

**Action Required**

3. Court is invited to note the key points discussed at the meeting.

**Key points**

*Committee Membership*

4. The Convener congratulated Assistant Principal Professor Jeremy Bradshaw on his appointment as Pro Vice-Chancellor (International & Doctoral) at the University of Bath from February 2018 and thanked him for his service to the Committee and to the University more broadly.

*Information Services Planning: Strategic Programmes*

5. The Chief Information Officer presented the emerging key components for the Information Services Group's annual planning round submission. The proposed strategic programmes are: Learning, Teaching and Student Experience; Digital Research Services; Core Systems Strategy; Digital Transformation; Information Security; and, Library: National and International Leadership. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Important to prioritise while recognising challenges in doing so;
- Assess the appropriate level of information security standards required for different areas of the University;
- Sub-divide the student experience programme into projects intended to benefit current students and future students;
- A project planning unit is assessing likely staffing requirements to deliver the programmes;
- Moving towards an integrated model for planning and improving references to the University's strategic objectives in the submission.

*Core Systems Strategy – Procurement Update*

6. Stages for the Core Systems (Phase 1) procurement project and associated governance engagement plan and timeline were reviewed. The intent to prioritise the replacement of the HR, Finance, Payroll and Procurement management systems with a single vendor Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solution was noted. Approval for the procurement award will be sought from Court, with delegated authority requested for the detailed competitive dialogue phase prior to the issue of the Invitation to Submit Final Tender. The Committee noted the procurement timeline summary, approved the procurement governance engagement plan and timeline and noted the intention to seek delegated authority for budget approval.

### *Lecture Capture Consultation*

7. The Assistant Principal Online Learning summarised the draft Lecture Recording Policy, currently the subject of an open consultation. Noting the intent for the new policy to come into effect for the 2018/19 session, coinciding with an integration of the lecture recording service with the timetabling system and an expansion of the service provision to cover nearly 300 rooms, members made the following points:

- The proposed move from an 'opt-in' to an 'opt-out' system, with Head of School agreement required for an 'opt-out' was welcomed;
- Lecture recording can reduce the likelihood of lectures over-running, assisting students who have successive lectures scheduled;
- Longer term, lecture recording could assist in improving the quality of lectures;
- The proposed policy and large-scale implementation can place the University as a leader in the field.

### *Library Materials*

8. The Head of Library Academic Support outlined a business case for an uplift to the Library materials budget to be considered within the annual planning round. Members discussed the above inflation price increases set by publishers offering journals on a 'bundled' basis, increasing student demand for library materials, taking a University-wide approach to the Library budget including managing currency fluctuations, incorporating philanthropic support into the business case and setting the business case in the context of the University's Strategic Plan.

### *Library Committee Governance*

9. Following Court's agreement in principle in June 2017 to revoke two outdated Ordinances governing the Library Committee and their replacement by a new Resolution, a new draft Resolution and Terms of Reference for the Library Committee were considered. Noting the intent for the draft Resolution to contain general principles and for the Terms of Reference to contain specific details on the operation of the Library Committee, the draft Resolution was endorsed and the Terms of Reference approved.

### **Full minute**

9. The full minute and papers considered are available at the following link: <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/UCC/Knowledge+Strategy+Committee>

### **Equality & Diversity**

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

### **Further information**

11. *Author*

Dr Lewis Allan  
Head of Court Services

*Presenter*

Ms Doreen Davidson  
Convener, Knowledge Strategy Committee

### **Freedom of Information**

12. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Senatus Academicus Report

**Committee Name**

1. E-Senate.

**Date of Meeting**

2. 16 – 24 January 2018.

**Action Required**

3. To note the key points from the e-Senate meeting.

**Key points**

*Senate Assessor Election Regulations*

4. Senate approved the Regulations for the Conduct of the Senate Assessor Elections to be held on 21 and 22 March 2018 and the constitution of the Scrutinising Committee. Nominations for the two vacancies arising for Senate Assessor, at least one of which must be for a non-professorial member of the academic staff, are now open. The deadline for nominations is 28 February 2018.

*Draft Resolutions*

5. No observations were received on the draft resolutions:

Draft Resolution No. 1/2018: Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed)

Draft Resolution No. 2/2018: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Languages and Classroom Education

Draft Resolution No. 3/2018: Foundation of a Chair of Biochemical Engineering

**Full minute**

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

**Equality & Diversity**

7. No key implications for equality and diversity were raised by Senate. All paper authors are asked to consider and identify equality and diversity implications.

**Further information**

8. 

<u>Author</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Theresa Sheppard	Professor Charlie Jeffery
Academic Services	Senior Vice-Principal

**Freedom of Information**

9. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

Resolutions

**Description of paper**

1. This paper invites Court to approve Resolutions in accordance with the agreed arrangements and the requirements set out in the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to approve the Resolutions presented in final format.

**Background and context**

4. In accordance with the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, Court has powers exercisable by Resolution in respect of a number of matters. The Act stipulates that Senate, the General Council and any other body or person having an interest require to be consulted on draft Resolutions throughout the period of a month with the months of August and September not taken into account when calculating the consultation period.

**Discussion**

5. With no observations having been received from Senate, the General Council or any other body or person having an interest, Court is invited to approve the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 1/2018: Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVetMed)

Resolution No. 2/2018: Alteration of the title of the Chair of Languages and Classroom Education

Resolution No. 3/2018: Foundation of a Chair of Biochemical Engineering

6. The full text of the Resolutions is available on the Court wiki site:

<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/UCC/University+Court>

**Resource implications**

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

**Risk Management**

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

**Equality & Diversity**

9. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with this paper. However equality and diversity best practice and agreed procedures are adopted in appointing individuals to Chairs.

**Next steps/implications**

10. Senate and the General Council will be informed of the approval of the final Resolutions. The list of approved Resolutions is annually reviewed and published on the University's website.

**Consultation**

11. Senate and the General Council are asked for observations on Resolutions and a notice displayed on the Old College notice board and published online to enable observation from any other body or person having an interest to express observations.

**Further information**

12. Author

Ms Kirstie Graham, Court Services  
January 2018

**Freedom of Information**

13. Open paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Donations and Legacies to be notified**

**Description of paper**

1. A report on legacies and donations received by the University of Edinburgh Development Trust from 11 November 2017 to 19 January 2018.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. Court is invited to note the legacies and donations received.

**Background and context**

3. This report sets out the legacies and donations received by the Development Trust from 11 November 2017 to 19 January 2018.

*Paragraphs 4 - 5 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Resource implications**

6. 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**

7. There are policies and procedures in place to mitigate risks associated with funding activities including the procedure for the ethical screening of donations.

**Equality & Diversity**

8. 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**

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

**Consultation**

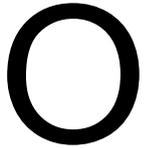
10. This paper has been reviewed and approved by: Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy & Advancement and Executive Director of Development & Alumni.

**Further information**

11. Author  
Gregor Hall  
Finance Manager,  
Development & Alumni

**Freedom of Information**

12. Closed paper.



UNIVERSITY COURT

5 February 2018

**Rosalind Franklin Institute – Joint Venture**

**Description of paper**

1. This paper provides a summary of the legal arrangements relating to the University's proposed involvement in the Rosalind Franklin Institute (RFI), to be established at the Harwell Campus, near Oxford. The RFI is a proposed new national research centre working at the interface between the physical, engineering and life sciences. It will act as a focal point for the development, testing, integration and commercialisation of disruptive new physical technologies to underpin future advances in life sciences research and industry. It is intended that a Joint Venture (JV) is established to coordinate RFI. Ten universities and one research council, the Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC) will initially be the JV partners. The RFI is an excellent opportunity for the University to lead emerging interdisciplinary research areas. It also establishes a substantial base for the University on the Harwell site with its unparalleled array of world-leading physical science technologies.

**Action requested/Recommendation**

2. On the basis that the final legal agreements reflect the principles described in this paper, Court is requested to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to conclude the legal agreements, with signing authority granted to the University Secretary.

*Paragraphs 4 - 17 have been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Risk Management**

18. We consider the risk to the University to be reputational rather than financial, and to be mitigated by the quality of the other partners involved. The core partners will, through their representation on the Board, have a voice in the future direction and focus of the RFI.

**Equality & Diversity**

19. The joint venture agreement contains a requirement that in making appointments to the RFI Board, the parties shall have regard to the need to have a Board which is appropriately balanced (having regard to equality and diversity).

**Next steps/implications**

*Paragraph 20 has been removed as exempt from release due to FOI.*

**Consultation**

21. Vice-Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Finance, Head of College of Science & Engineering, Professor Andy Mount, Director of Legal Services

**Further information**

22. Author  
Nicky Day, Legal Services

Presenter  
Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services

31 January 2018

**Freedom of Information**

23. Closed paper.