



General Council Meeting of 13 February 2010: Annex to Billet

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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Papers for the General Council Meeting on 13 February 2010

1 Formal communications from the University Court

The following Draft Resolutions have been received:

47/2009:	Foundation of a Chair of Systems Biology
48/2009:	Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Sedimentary Geology
49/2009:	Foundation of a Chair of Paediatric Clinical Neuroscience
50/2009:	Amendments to Resolutions 16/2009 and 41/2009
51/2009:	Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Mathematical Geoscience
52/2009:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Medical Imaging
1/2010:	Amendment to Resolution No. 7/2003 (Structure of Academic Year)
2/2010:	Foundation of a Chair of Vascular Biology
3/2010:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Veterinary Clinical Immunology
4/2010:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Clinical Health Psychology
5/2010:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Vertebrate Molecular Development
6/2010:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Veterinary Immunogenetics
7/2010:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Social Psychology
8/2010:	Foundation of a Personal Chair of Neuroanatomy
9/2010:	Foundation of a Chair of Oncology
10/2010:	Foundation of a Chair of Power Plant Engineering and Carbon Capture
11/2010:	Alteration of the title of the Chair of Respiratory Medicine
12/2010:	Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Cardiology

The following Draft Ordinances have been received:

209:	Amendment of Powers of the University Court
210:	Employment of Academic Staff

2 Report of the Academic Standing Committee

for the General Council meeting on 13 February 2010

Convener of the Academic Standing Committee: Professor Ian Sutherland

The Academic Standing Committee has met twice since its last report to the General Council in June 2009.

In May, it met with Professor Dai Hounsell, Vice-Principal for Academic Enhancement and Dr Susan Rigby, Assistant Principal for Taught Postgraduate Programmes in the College of Humanities & Social Science.

Dr Rigby explained that there were a relatively small number of postgraduate students, many of whom were part-time: 2,675 in the College of Humanities & Social Science, over 1000 overseas students and some taught by distance learning. Numbers were expected to grow over the next few

years; applications were up 60%, but it was not known how many of these would eventually come to Edinburgh. Overseas students presented special challenges due to their cultural differences: they needed a long induction period, for which there often was insufficient time. The taught postgraduate programmes often only lasted one year, and classes were small, usually less than 40, which allowed for better interaction. Courses normally consisted of two taught semesters followed by a dissertation.

From this academic year, feedback on courses would be obtained through the University's participation in the Higher Education Academy Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, which was similar to surveys for research students. Last year there were 600 responses (year-on-year the response rate was about 20%); most of whom were full-time, in the College of Humanities & Social Science, self-funding and studying for an MSc. Data was collected anonymously, online, and the sample was small and self-selected. Most students rated facilities as good or very good, but satisfaction with IT support was slightly lower. In terms of supervision 80% of respondents thought that they were well-supported, but only 39% were happy with the transferable skills training. Of the small number of students who responded, most thought they were well supported by the infrastructure and by academics in pastoral and teaching roles. However, only 19% had been offered training, transferable skills or careers advice, and this was clearly where there was most room for improvement. Information gained from last year's survey would lead to improving induction. The University was also trialling some innovative Transferable Skills courses, including a collaborative initiative with Glasgow. Professor Hounsell added that additional support would be provided throughout the first semester, and that a designated member of staff would be providing support for Chinese students throughout the autumn of this year. The University had reviewed teaching and learning across the board and the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Assessment recognised that taught postgraduate students were a distinct entity. The needs of taught postgraduate students would be highlighted in the University review of teaching and learning support.

The new role of Assistant Principal for Taught Postgraduate Programmes includes the responsibilities underpinning postgraduate teaching with a Guiding Principles document and the production of new Codes of Practice for starting and running PGT courses. The intention was to try to integrate postgraduate and undergraduate teaching. Four new Committees include a Learning and Teaching Committee to cover undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses and a Research Experience Committee to support post-doctoral fellows. The Senatus Quality Assurance Committee would become the Senate Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee to cover quality assurance as a separate entity, while a Student Recruitment Committee would cover that area.

Professor Hounsell agreed with a committee member that providing the right training across cultures and different subjects was a challenge. Other universities had a higher number of taught postgraduates as exemplified by Warwick University. Edinburgh University needed to invest more and provide better support. It was pointed out that there was a lack of central area spaces suitable for masters teaching. There was also increasing expectation of 'learning space' as well as 'teaching space'.

Asked to what extent the University had undertaken market research to determine demand and what was being done to establish how the University could compete, Dr Rigby said that work was being done to identify what makes Edinburgh attractive and valuable. A fair had been held last autumn by Communications & Marketing and Student Recruitment & Admissions, with the intention of finding out what employers were looking for. Asked about the extent of careers advice, Dr Rigby said that it was limited and focused mainly on undergraduates. Asked how good the University was at sustaining links and signing graduates up to a system of support, she said that Edinburgh still had some way to go, but that they were working with Development & Alumni to address the issue.

In its meeting in October, the Committee considered and, after discussion, recommended for approval a number of Draft Resolutions from the University Court. For its programme in this 2009-2010 session, it had agreed to consider several topics which might be described under the umbrella of 'the student experience'. This followed from publication in The Times newspaper of a table indicating that in very marked contrast to its high research ratings, student satisfaction with teaching

in Edinburgh was rather lower than at many comparable universities. As one of the key points of contact between staff and students is the Director of Studies, a future meeting will receive presentations from members of staff responsible for the appointment and support of Directors of Studies and also from EUSA to discuss this very important role. Another topic to be covered, in a presentation by Vice Principal Professor Stephen Hillier, will be Overseas Students, who in 2007/08 represented 17% of the student body. The Committee will also focus on Library provision and resources, an area of great interest and concern to both staff and students.

3 Report of the Constitutional Standing Committee

for the General Council meeting on 13 February 2010

Convener of the Constitutional Standing Committee: Mr Ralph V Parkinson

The Committee has met on three occasions since June 2009. The work on developing software to enable online elections to take place has begun and a meeting is to take place soon to discuss the matter with staff concerned. In order to enable electronic elections to take place, the Ordinance which specifies elections will require amendment and the University Administration on behalf of the Committee is in contact with the Privy Council with a view to simplifying the Ordinance, which would allow changes in procedures without recourse to the Privy Council on every occasion. Any change would still require the approval of the University Court.

The Committee has now received approval from the Business Committee for the proposal to rationalize the lengths of periods of office for members of the Business Committee and Assessor members and will be submitting the proposal to the General Council for approval in due course.

4 Report of the Finance and Services Standing Committee

for the General Council meeting on 13 February 2010

Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee: Ms Doreen Davidson

The Committee has met twice since the previous report to the General Council.

The first of these meetings took place on 3 June 2009, which was Mr Jeffrey's last meeting as Convener. Mr Young Dawkins, Vice Principal of Development had been invited to speak directly to the Committee. He had readily agreed to do so and had expressed his appreciation of this opportunity for the Development and Alumni group to engage with the General Council.

Mr Dawkins provided a very interesting presentation to the Council, which covered a number of issues.

It was stressed that considerable effort had been focussed on ensuring that the very important Campaign being managed by Development and Alumni was a success and that their office was regarded as one of high efficiency, professionalism and confidence. Despite budgetary challenges, which were unsurprising given the prevailing economic climate, efforts to date by the team of ca 35 staff towards achieving their objectives had been successful and the view was that the Campaign would meet its targets within the agreed timelines, which was excellent news to receive.

The Development and Alumni team remained optimistic that the economic climate would eventually improve, which would hopefully in turn encourage more confidence regarding investment in the Campaign. The team continued to put very significant effort into ensuring that the right people were being approached by the University in an effort to encourage more charitable donations and noted that ca 66% of the 164,000 alumni would receive a communication from the Development and Alumni office, which was a very impressive effort on their part. It was also hoped that their plans for introducing an 'e-mail for life' to allow easier ongoing communication would assist their efforts in future since much of what the Campaign was supporting was long-term investment.

The importance of alumni clubs should also be noted as they provide a sense of community and in 2006 16 major events had been organised via this route, rising to 26 in 2007 and 35 in 2008.

It was also reported that the University of Edinburgh raised money more efficiently than any other university which was very positive news and reflected the huge efforts of the Development and Alumni team. It is their view that the best way to encourage donations is to show people what the outcome of their investment produced. In terms of support, some notable projects for which funding had been provided included projects such as the Queen's Medical Research Institute (QMRI) and the Informatics Forum, which are outstanding achievements.

Fuller information on the Campaign was available within the document entitled 'The University of Edinburgh Campaign: Enlightenment in the 21st Century.

The next meeting was held on Thursday 15 October under the Convenership of Ms Doreen Davidson.

At this meeting, the programme of events and presentations was discussed for the forthcoming year.

A very interesting schedule was agreed which would include presentations from:

- Dr Jon Gorringe – Director of Finance in January 2010
- Mrs Sheila Gupta – Director of Human Resources in March 2010
- Mr Young Dawkins – Vice Principal, Development in May 2010
- Dr Alexis Cornish - Director of Planning, July 2010-01-20

This meeting also reviewed The General Council Budget for 2008/09 and projected expenditure for 2009/10 was tabled.

The General Council was expected to operate in the most efficient way, returning any unspent funds. However, from year to year its expenses could be variable, depending, for instance, on whether the additional expenses of an overseas meeting or of the election of Court Assessors, were being incurred. The budget was allocated from central University funds and was slightly less than the previous year, in line with all other University departments, due to the prevailing financial climate. All expenditures incurred were processed by the usual control and audit procedures of the University.

The largest expense was (75%) paid to Communications and Marketing to cover the General Council's contribution to the design, publication and distribution of *Edit*. The General Council's *Billet* within *Edit* had gone from being an independent insert to being a section within *Edit*, which had been well received by readers of *Edit*.

5 Report of the Public Affairs Standing Committee

for the General Council Meeting on 13 February 2010

Convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee: Dr Michael Mitchell

The Public Affairs Standing Committee has met three times since the report to the General Council meeting on 20th June 2009.

Following the June half yearly meeting Dr Philippa Gregory the author and historical biographer gave an excellent and entertaining after lunch address. The event was been successfully filmed and an edited version has appeared on the University website. It was held in the new Informatics Forum and the tours provided allowed many to appreciate the qualities of this award winning building.

As part of the Homecoming year there was a reception at the Talbot Rice Gallery on 20th August. This was successful and the Festival Exhibitions have been very highly acclaimed, one of film and photography by Jane and Louise Wilson, ‘the Wilson Twins’, and the other on the work of the conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth.

The Committee has continued to work closely with Development & Alumni to make all the preparations for a successful meeting of the General Council in Hong Kong in June 2010. Broadly following the successful programmes previously established in Paris and Washington a full programme of seminar and social events has been planned in addition to the General Council meeting on Saturday 12th June. The seminar will be on the very timely topic of the economics of climate change. The programme of social events is looking very attractive with some unusual and interesting venues anticipated. Full information is now available on the website and in the winter edition of Edit. Of particular interest to the General Council is the presentation of an honorary degree to Dr Ann Matheson, recently retired Secretary of the General Council. There has already been an encouraging amount of interest in this event, especially within Hong Kong and the surrounding countries.

As was mentioned previously the Business Committee has now prepared and endorsed a set of guidelines for the ‘‘Away’’ meetings of the General Council.

The Public Affairs Standing Committee has continued to monitor the work of the Media Group, the sub-group studying the future use of media promotion. The Policy on Media Provision has been fully discussed and finalised and is available on the website. It has been decided to continue the work of the Media Group. This will allow it to consider how best to utilize other new internet based technologies so that all members of the General Council are best able to be kept informed and to participate in the workings of the General Council. It will also assist with the implementation of the webcasting of all General Council activities and associated functions as appropriate. The live webcasting of General Council meetings will continue and will be further enhanced with live input from those who are connecting remotely. The webcast last June was a very good start with a good number of viewers participating from around the world and some very positive feedback.

After discussions with the University the sculpture ‘‘The Unknown’’ by Kenny Hunter has been placed in the Queens Medical Research Institute (QMRI). This was a gift from the General Council in association with its 150th Anniversary. It was unveiled at a ceremony at QMRI with Professor Christopher Haslett, head of QMRI in attendance together with the Convenor and many from the Business Committee as well as other donors. It has since been well received at QMRI and has generated much interest and comments.

The February meeting of the General Council on Saturday 13th February in Old College will welcome Anthony d’Offay the well known art collector and philanthropist as the after lunch speaker. Early booking is recommended. Information on the details of internet access will be made available.

6 Meetings of the Business Committee

The Committee has met three times since its last Report was printed, viz. 16 July, 1 October, 19 November 2009 and 28 January 2010.

7 Deaths of Members of the General Council

The deaths of the following members of the General Council have been noted during the year. Names have been listed by year of first graduation from the University of Edinburgh.

Short, John, MA of 1922, died 2009

Anderson, Margaret Ritchie,(neé **Henry**), MB ChB of 1926, died 2009

Jones, Catherine Heldwein,(né **Weber**), MA of 1928, died 2002

Ballantine, Mary Dorward Bell, MA of 1930, died 2009

Clubb, Augusta Stanley,(né **Monro**), MB ChB of 1932, died 2009

Mackinnon, Christina Macdonald, MA of 1933, died 27/01/2009

Normand, Richard John, MA of 1933, LLB of 1935, died 29/04/2009

Rouse, Margaret Stevens,(né **Adamson**), MA of 1933, died 2009

Cameron, Moyra Elspeth,(né **Smith**), MA of 1934, died 18/02/2009

Jackson, Mary Kinghorn,(né **Borland**), MA of 1934, died 09/03/2009

Waterston, John MacLaren, BSc of 1934, died 27/05/2009

Cooper, Magnus William, MA of 1935, died 04/12/2008

Fisher, David Noel, MA of 1935, died 27/01/2009

Geddes, Margaret Gilchrist,(né **Wilson**), MA of 1935, died 06/07/2009

Gordon, Janet Gifford,(né **Boyd**), MA of 1935, died 2009

Millar, Isabella Sangster,(né **Pirie**), MA of 1935, died 2009

Proverbs, Allan Graham, MB ChB of 1935, died 20/03/2009

Ross, John Buchan, MB ChB of 1935, died 24/01/2009

Crawford, Ainslie Sanderson, MB ChB of 1936, MD of 1948, died 31/07/2009

Findlay, Marie,(né **Cave**), MA of 1936, died 26/02/2009

Wilson, Peter James, BSc of 1936, died 27/12/2008

Airey, George Oswald, MB ChB of 1937, died 17/01/2009

MacKinnon, Lois Murray,(né **Dryer**), MA of 1937, died 08/05/2009

Rendall, Elizabeth Lilian, MA of 1937, died 2009

Runcie, James, MB ChB of 1937, died 31/05/2009

Thomson, Gordon Herd, BSc of 1937, PhD of 1939, died 04/02/2009

Budge, Martin Robertson, MA of 1938, died 2009

Craw, William Aldyn, MA of 1938, LLB of 1946, died 2009

Donaldson, Agnes Ditchburn,(né **Ferguson**), MB ChB of 1938, died 2009

Robertson, Donald Macpherson, MB ChB of 1938, died 18/02/2009

Sim, Myre, (né **Simenoff**), MB ChB of 1938, MD of 1948, died 22/08/2009

Toop, William James, MB ChB of 1938, died 25/06/2009

Young, Dorothy Sabina, MA of 1938, died 2009

Bradshaw, Hilary Joyce, MA of 1939, died 19/01/2009

Lumsden, Robert, BSc of 1939, died 15/04/2009

Robertson, Sidney Park, BCom of 1939, died 13/12/2008

Scroggie, Alan Ure Reith, BL of 1939, died 2009

Sinclair, Stuart Alexander, MB ChB of 1939, died 30/04/2009

Willatt, Ian Duncan, MB ChB of 1939, MD of 1946, died 23/03/2009

Willatt, Ruth Annette Janie,(né **Evershed**), MB ChB of 1939, died 27/03/2009

Ledermann, Walter, DSc of 1940, died 22/05/2009

Mackenzie, Frances Ramsay, MA of 1940, Dip of 1942, died 17/01/2009

Peat, John McDougal, BSc of 1940, died 2009

Watt, Agnes Taylor, MA of 1940, died 2009

Bryce, Peter Ross, MA of 1941, LLB of 1948, died 03/12/2008

Jaboor, Douglas, MB ChB of 1941, died 2009

Laing, John Archie, BSc of 1941, died 2009

Lauckner, Helena Carmichael McIntosh,(né **Taylor**), MB ChB of 1941, died 2009

Millar, John, MA of 1941, died 2009

Milner, Maximilian, BSc of 1941, died 2009

Ross, John Keith, BSc of 1941, died 06/07/2009

Baigrie, Richard Anderson, MA of 1942, died 12/02/2009

Jackson, James Kenneth, BSc of 1942, died 25/06/2009

McCormick, Alastair James Alan, MB ChB of 1942, died 2009

McCulloch, Archibald Bruce, MB ChB of 1942, died 2009

Webster, Thomas John, BSc of 1942, died 2009

Playfair, Beryl Gwynneth Maver,(né **Young**), MA of 1943, died 2009

Adams, Margaret Frances Berthe,(né **Thompson**), BSc of 1944, died 2009

Allan, Alexander James Phillips, BL of 1944, died 27/12/2008

Allan, Robert, MB ChB of 1944, died 08/01/2009

Blyth, Walter, BSc of 1944, died 2009

Chalfont, Mona, (né **Mitchell**), MB ChB of 1944, died 2009

MacKellar, Alasdair, MB ChB of 1944, died 2009

Milne, John Stewart, MB ChB of 1944, BSc of 1952, died 08/01/2009

Prior, Mary Elizabeth,(né **Moore**), MA of 1944, died 21/09/2009

Robertson, John Macdonald, BL of 1944, died 15/01/2009

Russell, John, BSc of 1944, died 2009

Stewart, Jeanie Heggie,(né **Buchanan**), MA of 1944, died 02/04/2009

Toop, Dorothy Margaret,(né **Walker**), MB ChB of 1944, died 2009

Walbaum, Philip Raby, MB ChB of 1944, died 2009

Di Marco, Norma, MA of 1945, BCom of 1947, died 25/06/2009

Jackson, James Graham, BSc of 1945, died 14/05/2009

Matthews, John Duncan, MB ChB of 1945, died 2009

McGrouther, Duncan Milton, MA of 1945,LLB of 1949, died 24/04/2009

McNaughton, Francis Finlay, BSc of 1945, died 2009

Pellew, Hilary Frances,(né **Pape**), MA of 1945, died 2009

Salisbury, Norman, BSc of 1945, died 2009

Waller, John Gamble, MB ChB of 1945, died 2009

Hutchison, Henry, MA of 1946, BD of 1948, died 12/03/2009

Richards, Emily Dorothy Jean,(né **Todd**), MB ChB of 1946, died 02/03/2009

Robertson, Mary Niven Nelson,(né **Redden**), MA of 1946, died 18/03/2009

Crowdy, Joseph Porter, MB ChB of 1947, died 2009

Drummond, John Scott, MA of 1947, died 14/01/2009

Masson, Alastair Hugh Bailey, MB ChB of 1947, died 2009

Murray, Colin William Angless, MB ChB of 1947, died 26/12/2008

Thomson, Ian Howie, MB ChB of 1947, died 19/06/2009

Todd, Andrew Stewart, MA of 1947,BD of 1950, died 2009

Wilson, John Mounsey, BSc of 1947, died 2009

Batty, Dorothy May,(né **Pargeter**), MB ChB of 1948, died 2009

Carnegie, George Watson, MA of 1948, died 2009

Munro, Janet Fordyce Messer,(né **Maxwell**), MA of 1948, died 2009

Ritchie, John Mitchell Paton, MA of 1948, died 2009

Thomlinson, John Reay, BSc of 1948, died 2009

Walker, Andrew Lockhart, MA of 1948, died 04/03/2009

Birrell, David, BL of 1949, died 2009
Burdett, Margaret Anne,(né **MacGregor**), MA of 1949, died 12/10/2009
Gullen, Malcolm Adam, BSc of 1949, died 24/04/2009
Loudon, Nancy Beaton,(né **Mann**), MB ChB of 1949, died 20/02/2009
Matheson, George Henry, MB ChB of 1949, died 23/01/2009
Matheson, Margery, MB ChB of 1949, died 02/01/2009
Stout, George Alexander, MA of 1949, died 10/08/2009
Taylor, Margaret Rosemary Thomson,(né **Cochrane**), MA of 1949, died 2009
Wardlaw, Elizabeth Johnston,(né **Stirrat**), MA of 1949,BD of 1952, died 2009

Bruck, Mary Teresa,(né **Conway**), PhD of 1950, died 11/12/2008
Davidson, Alan Smeaton, MA of 1950, died 2009
Everett, John William, BSc of 1950, died 2009
Grant, John, MB ChB of 1950, died 2009
Ireland, Antonia Marie, MA of 1950, died 17/01/2009
Jackson, Richard D'orville Pilkington, BSc of 1950, died 05/08/2009
Jones, Jennifer Provost,(né **Bland**), MB ChB of 1950, died 2009
Maynard, John Campbell, BSc of 1950, died 2009
McCorkell, Elizabeth, (né **Thompson**), MA of 1950, died 07/02/2009
Walker, William Glassford, MB ChB of 1950, died 2009

Barrowman, Thomas Jones, BSc of 1951, died 2009
Binns, John Kenneth, MB ChB of 1951, died 01/03/2009
Cooper, John, MA of 1951, died 25/02/2009
Davidson, Catherine Frances, BCom of 1951, died 21/02/2009
Fairlie, James Ramsay, BCom of 1951, died 2009
Johnston, Thomas Lothian, MA of 1951, died 25/03/2009
Macalister, James Alexander Stormonth, BCom of 1951, died 2009
Manson, James Scott, MB ChB of 1951, died 2009
Manson, Robert Lawson, MA of 1951, died 2009
McKelvey, Peter John, BSc of 1951, died 2009
Morwood, William Scott, BL of 1951, died 27/03/2009
Ness, John Richard, BSc of 1951, died 31/05/2009
Ogunbi, Oladeinde, MB ChB of 1951, died 2009
Young, John Lennox Houston, BCom of 1951, died 2009

Broom, Elisabeth Christine, MA of 1952, died 18/02/2009
Brown, James Boyer, PhD of 1952,DSc of 1970, died 31/10/2009
Buchanan, Isabel Joyce,(né **Huggan**), MB ChB of 1952, died 15/03/2009
Caw, James Joseph, MA of 1952, died 19/12/2008
Chalmers, Eric Brownlie, MA of 1952, died 2009
Dixon, John Thwaites, MB ChB of 1952, died 2009
Kidd, John Norman, BSc of 1952, died 10/04/2009
Paul, John Douglas, MA of 1952, died 23/09/2009
Russell, William, BL of 1952, died 2009
Waterston, Marjory Home,(né **Douglas**), BCom of 1952, died 24/12/2008

Affleck, Harry, BSc of 1953, died 2009
Bailey, David Earle, PhD of 1953, died 2009
Coppenger, Raymond Arthur, PhD of 1953, died 24/11/2009
Lyll, Walter Gerrard, BL of 1953, died 15/09/2009
Turnbull, Ian James, BSc of 1953, died 20/12/2008

Barlow, Richard Moyes, BSc of 1954,DVM&S of 1959, died 2009
Jardine, George Wyllie Howie, MB ChB of 1954, Dip of 1962,died 2009

Mackay, Alexander Ferguson, BSc of 1954, died 2009
Nicoll, Alexina, (né **Maclean**), MA of 1954, died 15/06/2009
Smith, Dorothy Lindsay,(né **Grieve**), MB ChB of 1954, died 30/05/2009

Greenshields, James Marshall, BMus of 1955, died 03/03/2009
Grier, Arnold Macfarlane, MB ChB of 1955, died 2009
Macphee, Iain Torquil, BDS of 1955, died 31/01/2009
McGillivray, Robert, BSc of 1955, died 18/04/2009
Sharp, John Clarkson Macgregor, MB ChB of 1955,Dip of 1958, died 2009
Whittaker, Evan, MB ChB of 1955, died 2009

Bridgwater, Keith, BSc of 1956, died 2009
Davidson, Charles Kemp, LLB of 1956, died 18/07/2009
Gregson, John William, BSc of 1956, died 2009
Maclennan, Donald Alasdair Calum, MA of 1956, died 2009
Martindale, Lawrence, BSc of 1956, died 23/12/2008
Nicholson, Gordon, MA of 1956,LLB of 1958, died 26/08/2009
Watt, Elizabeth Anne,(né **Brash**), BSc of 1956, died 17/04/2009

Belford, Dorothy Lindsay, LLB of 1957, died 19/10/2009
Tait, Alan Anderson, MA of 1957, died 19/10/2009
Whyte, Ian Archibald Campbell, BL of 1957, died 12/07/2009

Stewart, Alastair Iain Rankine, BSc of 1958,Dip of 1959, died 09/03/2009
Uduku, Walter Chukwuma, MB ChB of 1958, died 11/03/2009

Anderson, David Andrew Younger, BVM&S of 1959, died 2009
Clyde, James John, LLB of 1959, died 06/03/2009
Livingstone, Alexander George, MB ChB of 1959, died 05/03/2009
Macdonald, Mary, (né **Kinghorn**), MB ChB of 1959, died 2009
Maconochie, Alexander Kennedy, MA of 1959, died 25/10/2009
Macphail, Iain Duncan, MA of 1959,Hon LLD of 1992, died 23/10/2009
Mercer, Graham Allison, BSc of 1959,PhD of 1962, died 08/03/2009
Shannon, Kathleen, BSc of 1959, died 2009
Williamson, William, MA of 1959, died 2009

Calder, Sandra Catherine,(né **Wedderspoon**), MB ChB of 1960, died 2009
Calvert, John Anthony, BSc of 1960,MB ChB of 1963, died 04/10/2009
Forrest, Alasdair Millar, BSc of 1960, died 2009
Philp, James Ramsay, MB ChB of 1960,BSc of 1961, died 26/05/2009
Rowat, Marian Helen, BSc of 1960, died 12/03/2009
Rutherford, Harry Napier, MB ChB of 1960, died 18/06/2009
Valter, Sheila Anne,(né **Munro**), MA of 1960, died 2009

Bolton, Anne Maris,(né **Macdermid**), MB ChB of 1961, died 2009
Cairns, Alison Bayne,(né **Horn**), MA of 1961,PhD of 1968, died 14/02/2009
Finch, Lawrence Donald, MB ChB of 1961, died 2009
Goodwin, Brian Carey, PhD of 1961, died 15/07/2009
Hall, Ronald Kennersley, MA of 1961, died 22/01/2009
Neylan, Rosemary Diana, MA of 1961, died 2009
Paterson, John Munn Kirk, MA of 1961, BD of 1973, died 2009
Ure, Nancy Macleod, BDS of 1961, died 18/07/2009
Vickers, Douglas, MA of 1961, died 2009

Hunter, David Archibald, MB ChB of 1963, died 2009
Shea, Michael Sinclair Macauslan, MA of 1963,PhD of 1968, died 17/10/2009

Cavaye, Cecilia Christina, BMus of 1964, died 19/07/2009
Craig, Maxwell Davidson, BD of 1964, died 2009
Fisher, James Pringle, BDS of 1964, died 24/04/2009
Hathout, Hassan Mahmood, PhD of 1964, died 2009
Syer, John David, MA of 1964, Dip of 1965, died 10/08/2009
Wishart, Jean Mitchell,(né **Cooper**), MA of 1964, died 2009

Clark, Robert, BSc of 1965, died 26/10/2009
Cummings, Rowland Ralph Terence, BSc of 1965, died 2009
Bjornsson, Bjorn, PhD of 1966, died 2009

Elwell-Sutton, Alison Margaret,(né **Baxter**), MA of 1967, died 2009
Greig, Alastair, BVM&S of 1967, died 2009
Weir, Ronald Blackwood, MA (SS) of 1967, PhD of 1974, died 2009

Davies, Peter Arthur James, LLB of 1968, died 28/12/2008
Roberts, Ivanka Carla Rose,(né **Beck**), MA of 1968, died 2009

Jowett, Graham, MA of 1969, died 2009
Wilkinson, Richard Donald Bodsworth, BSc of 1969, died 2009

Duff, Samuel, BVM&S of 1970, died 2009

Davidson, Ian William James, BSc of 1971, died 2009
Taylor, Ian James, MA (SS) of 1971, died 06/02/2009

Geddes, Barbara Anna,(né **Dlugolecka**), BDS of 1972, died 26/03/2009
Train, Romaine Johan, MA of 1972, died 22/01/2009

Matthews, David Marshall, BSc (M) of 1973, MB ChB of 1976,died 2009

Shepherd, Ian Alexander George, MA of 1973, died 15/05/2009
Steven, William David, BSc of 1973, died 20/05/2009

Cameron, Ian Charles, BSc of 1974, died 2009
Medd, David Leslie, Hon DSocSc of 1974, died 07/04/2009
Pollock, Brian Welsh, BSc of 1974, died 26/03/2009

Baker, Terence George, DSc of 1975, died 2009
Conlon, Thomas, Hugh, BSc of 1975, PhD of 1997, died 23/12/2008

Brooks, Clive Luther, PhD of 1976, died 2009

Clark, Andrew Patrick Dewar, BDS of 1977, died 2009
Hood, Ian Campbell, BSc (M) of 1977, MB ChB of 1980, died 2009

Muirhead, Robert, BSc of 1978, died 2009

Gaunt, Charles Edward, BVM&S of 1979, died 2009

Asquith, Stewart, PhD of 1980, died 13/04/2009
Muir, Walter John, BSc (M) of 1980, MB ChB of 1983, died 2009

Johnstone, Ian Kerr, LLB of 1981, died 2009

MacCormick, Donald Neil, LLD of 1982, died 05/04/2009
Mackenzie, Moira Jean, MA of 1982, died 2009

Jones, Elizabeth Jean, MBA of 1983, died 03/05/2009
Klempner, June Allison,(né **Wynter**), MA of 1983, died 25/03/2009

Carter, Penelope, BD of 1984, MA of 1989, died 2009
Fraser, Walter McKenzie, MA of 1984, died 2009

Holdsworth, Stephen John, BD of 1985, died 17/03/2009

Cawsey, Alison Julia, MSc of 1986, PhD of 1990, died 2009
Hanlin, Alice, Ward, MEd of 1986, died 21/02/2009

Laing, Joyce Ann, MSc of 1987, died 2009

Shackleton, Alastair Michael, BSc of 1989, died 2009

Kennedy, Ludovic Henry Coverley, Dr hc of 1990, died 18/10/2009

Hillard, Sally Jane, BSc of 1991, died 2009
Wong, Celina, MB ChB of 1991, died 2009

Sinclair, Lorna Drysdale, BDS of 1993, died 06/03/2009
Wilkinson, Matthew Mansfield, MSc of 1993, died 2009

Fallows, Simon John, MSc of 1995, died 25/04/2009
Mackay, Kenneth Hugh, MSc of 1995, died 25/07/2009
Molyneaux, David Christopher, BD of 1995, PhD of 2001, died 2009

Emans, Gary Anthony, BSc of 1998, died 2009

Routledge, Daniel Morgan, BSc of 1999, died 2009

Maxwell, Eleanor Margaret, MA of 2000, died 06/04/2009
Williamson, Shirley Anne, MSc of 2000, died 2009

Downie, Anne Louise, MBA of 2002, died 31/12/2008

Patel, Sarju Dilip, BSc of 2004, PhD of 2009, died 2009

Raunu, Gurprit Singh, BSc of 2005, MSc of 2007, died 16/07/2009

Arkorful, Aaron Ato Kaye, BEng of 2006, died 2009

Cross, Miriam Cordelia Hope, MA of 2009, died 2009

Althaus-Reid, Marcella M, died 20/02/2009

Crofton, John Wenman, died 03/11/2009

Papers from the General Council Meeting on 20 June 2009

A Presentation by Vice-Principal Professor Nigel Brown, Head of the College of Science & Engineering

at the General Council Meeting on 20 June 2009

Vice-Principal Professor Nigel Brown

Rector, ladies and gentlemen of the General Council. This is actually a very good time to come and talk to you, because not only am I a relatively new Head of College, but also we are in the process of developing our Strategic Plan for 2009-2014 within the College. So what I would like to do today is tell you a little bit about myself, a little bit about the College, and then share with you some of the draft Strategic Plan and invite your comments. I am a great believer in open governance and I would welcome your comments on the Plan.

So who is Nigel Brown? I do not have the distinction of a degree from the University of Edinburgh, but I do share with the Principal the distinction of a PhD from the University of Leeds. I trained as a biochemist, I worked as a molecular biologist, I was then a lecturer at the University of Bristol in Biochemistry, and I had a research fellowship there. I then moved on to spend a delightful year in the University of Melbourne as a Visiting Fellow in Genetics. I was then for almost 20 years at the University of Birmingham where I think uniquely I was Head of Biology and then somebody discovered I had not cancelled my subscription to the Royal Society of Chemistry and invited me to be Head of Chemistry for a year. I then worked for one of the Research Councils which funds the research across the UK, so all in all it was a progressive development to now be in charge of a College of Science and Engineering and Professor of Molecular Microbiology within the University.

What do I think is important? What is important for this University - and for others - is skilled and productive people. Some people say that our staff are our greatest asset. I know that the Principal says that our reputation is our greatest asset, but the staff are a very close second. I also believe in world-leading multi-disciplinary research. The days when research could be done completely within the confines of a single discipline are over. You can make advances within a discipline, but the really exciting developments are to be done at the edges of the discipline and working with others. I also believe in high quality teaching, and in financial and intellectual sustainability. It is not enough just for a university to have a nice black entry at the end of its financial year, it has to maintain its intellectual sustenance through that time as well, and that is actually quite difficult in these challenging times.

The College mainly resides in King's Buildings in addition to the marvellous Informatics building and part of GeoSciences in Drummond Street. There are seven schools in the College ranging alphabetically from Biological Sciences through to Physics and Astronomy. We have people who are at the very cutting edge of stem cell research. We have engineers who are working on sustainable energy and on medical devices. We have physicists who spend their time out at the large Hadron Collider in Geneva. We are an extremely diverse organisation.

As a College we are also an extremely large organisation. We have about 2,000 staff: 500 approximately are academic staff. We have more than 650 postgraduate research students, mainly doing PhDs. So in terms of our size we are bigger than many of the smaller universities in the UK.

In terms of our finances we are also bigger than many of the smaller universities. Our turnover as a College is about £170m a year. Just under £40m of that comes from teaching activities, just under £110m comes from research, and then there is about £25m from other activities, such as knowledge transfer, funding from the Scottish Funding Council for various activities and other forms of academic endeavour.

We are actually very large, but we are not very large alone. We also participate in a number of so-called research pools: The Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (SUPA), which is a grouping across all the Physics Departments in Scotland, working together to maximum benefit, has recently been promised continued funding by the Scottish Funding Council.

We also have the University of Edinburgh and the University of St Andrews working together at Chemistry, (EaStCHEM), and ScotCHEM working together with other Chemistry departments elsewhere. The Edinburgh Research Partnership is between ourselves and Heriot-Watt University, mainly in Engineering and Mathematics, and particularly the Maxwell Institute, which is extremely well known internationally. And then I should mention the remaining three: Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (SAGES), the Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance (SULSA), and run from this building, the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA). All of these are led or jointly-led from the University of Edinburgh and I think that confirms our status as a research-leading college.

I believe in multi-disciplinary work, and I would like to draw your attention to some examples of multi-disciplinary centres that we set up within the College or between my College and others. The Centre for Systems Biology within the College gets biologists working with mathematicians and engineers and physical scientists to study Biology in a very new way. The Centre for Communication Interface Research (CCIR) fosters very close ties between engineering and the banking sector, and is funded by the banking sector. The Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology is *the* place in the UK to undertake academic cell biology research and it has a number of Wellcome Trust principal research fellows funded specifically by that charity to pursue this work.

We are also well known for our super-computing. The University of Edinburgh has certainly the UK, and, arguably, the European lead in high performance computing, and the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre, with industrial connections to Microsoft, Sun, IBM and the other big computing firms, is extremely well known internationally.

More recent developments, are the Centre for Regenerative Medicine, with the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. This is led by Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, and is taking stem cell research through into clinical application. There is also the Scottish Centre for Carbon Storage with Heriot-Watt University. Carbon storage is of course one of the big scientific questions: how do we manage the carbon budget when we are still using fossil fuels? Both the University of Edinburgh, and the School of Engineering at Heriot-Watt University, together with some of the industry contacts such as Shell, Scottish Power, British Gas and the Longannet power station on the Firth of Forth are very well placed to take this research forward.

What is the evidence for how well we are doing in research? It is found in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). In 2008, the College of Science and Engineering was top for Science and Engineering in Scotland, and is certainly within the top five in the UK. It depends how you use the figures as to what position we are within that top five, but we are certainly there. All of the seven schools in the College are in the top six in the UK by volume of their high quality outputs, and for those of you who are familiar with the RAE, the grading of four star is “world-leading”, three star is “internationally renowned”, and the College is certainly in that category. More than a fifth of our outputs are world-leading according to the RAE, which was UK-wide, and almost half of the world-leading science in Scotland is done at the University of Edinburgh. I mentioned our liaisons with Heriot-Watt University and with the University of St Andrews: we actually put forward to the RAE Chemistry jointly between the Universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews, and Maths jointly between the University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University, and they are recognised jointly as being superb research institutions.

But our success leaves us with some challenges. We had a very successful RAE in 2001. We made a considerable investment and had a very successful RAE in 2008; so the challenge is, how do we maintain that upward trend? It is no longer possible, if it ever was, to stand still and rest on your laurels. Our funding for research comes mainly from the Research Councils and the charities, and their success rates are decreasing. They have less money available for research, the competition is becoming greater in volume. So how do we improve as a College our already significant research income? And the Government has, quite

rightly in many people's view, emphasised needs and economic and societal impact. That means collaboration with industry in many cases for economic impact, and how do we do that during an economic downturn? How can we increase, and how can we demonstrate, the impact that our research has? These are big challenges for me, as a Head of College, and for my colleagues.

But we have also got challenges in learning and teaching. We are teaching much larger class sizes and so our lecture rooms, our library and study facilities need improving. How do we provide better facilities for the approximately 5,000 undergraduates that I have just in my College, let alone the rest of the University? And I know that was one of the Rector's points for his platform during his election.

In this regard I would like to mention the proposed King's Buildings Learning and Resource Centre. This is effectively a new library facility: a new open study facility where a cafeteria is put in the library so that students can study much more easily in a social environment. I can remember librarians turning you away if you had a bottle of water in your hand entering their library. Things have changed, and this new proposed centre has got the go-ahead; we are now just trying to get the full financial support for it.

But, in addition to the new challenges of better facilities for bigger classes, the type of teaching has changed quite significantly: doing what I am doing now - standing in front of you and, in effect, lecturing - is rapidly going out. We are getting more group learning, more peer learning, students helping educate one another and getting more independent learning. Setting the task and letting the students run free to learn about a subject is increasing. So how do we generate the appropriate learning and study space for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of this type?

With respect to this, I am very pleased to say that in the James Clerk Maxwell Building there are going to be new teaching and learning clusters in which you have a small table around which half a dozen or so students can sit, and learn together with a large computer screen, so that they can generate information there. The tutor can take control of all the machines, so that if something crops up in one group it can be shared across all the groups. That sort of learning and teaching space, of which we have one small example in the James Clerk Maxwell Building already, is used incredibly heavily by large numbers of staff in all the disciplines, and we see these becoming more and more required, and, we hope, more and more available across the University teaching space.

Finally student skills have changed. You will have heard scientists bemoaning the lack of mathematics, and whereas elementary calculus used to be done at 'O' Level, it is now part of a university degree course. That, to a certain extent, is true. Students come to us with different skills from what they used to have. I could not say lower skills: they may not be as expert in calculus, but as a biologist, I cannot remember the last time I did a differential equation or had to do some complex bit of algebra, but I have to do what many of our students are very good at, and that is standing up and presenting their ideas, discussing ideas, getting into intellectual groups with quite challenging things and discussing them with their peers. I cannot personally speak for the undergraduate experience at the University of Edinburgh, but the undergraduate experience in the University of Leeds did not require that and did not necessarily encourage it.

Things have moved on and we need to adapt the way we work with students to the new skills they have. And so how do we design our learning and teaching to allow for this? Those are some of the challenges: how are we going to address them? What is the headline feature of the College of Science and Engineering Strategy and Delivery Plan for 2009-2014. I would be very happy to receive your feedback by email or other means. It is aligned with the University Strategic Plan, so we are looking at the same broad headings: excellence in education, excellence in research, excellence in commercialisation and knowledge exchange, and doing that through the same enablers of quality people, quality services and quality infrastructure.

Accordingly, in education, we will continue to improve our high quality taught courses and improve the student experience. Some of you will have seen that some of the feedback that we received from students in the National Student Survey was not as good as we would aspire to at a university like this. So, this is something we are addressing quite seriously at the moment through the College Learning and Teaching Strategy, which has been adopted by all the schools.

We will attract the highest quality students. We do not have much difficulty in doing this, but ensuring that participation is wide and the students come from diverse backgrounds, irrespective of educational advantage or disadvantage, is actually quite a challenge for a College and a University. The important thing for us is to have bright people, not necessarily to select them on the basis of their educational advantage. Moreover, we also want our students to develop skills that will serve them through life; therefore being independent and reflective learners is important, and that again is embedded in the College Learning and Teaching Strategy.

We achieve our goals by working with the students. I think we are actually blessed at Edinburgh that the Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) officers are very heavily engaged in the University, and in my very limited experience of one year of working with Sabbatical Officers and having met some of the new ones, I feel that we have very high quality officers, and we can work with them within EUSA and also within the College's Schools.

Offering programmes in major new areas is also quite important. There are new skills required in the workplace, and making sure that our students can have the appropriate programmes - quite a lot of these at the postgraduate level rather than the undergraduate level - requires working across traditional disciplines. I used to teach on a course for biochemical engineers which brought in about 50 per cent of the students from Biology and 50 per cent from Engineering, and the joke was, 'how do you tell the difference?' You ask them what the sphere is, and, if they say " $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ ", then they are an engineers, and if they say "what is a sphere?" they are biologists.

We will lead research of the highest quality, not just engage in it, but lead it internationally and maintain our international excellence. It is not enough to be up there with everybody else, you need to be leading everybody else; this is the ambition across the disciplines.

Again, coming back to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, the aim is to develop major areas across the boundaries of traditional disciplines. One example is Synthetic Biology, where you take the principles of engineering and apply them to biological questions. That is something that the University of Edinburgh is taking a lead in and where have got some very good people. But interestingly, the phrase 'Synthetic Biology', has a certain cachet to it that does not fill you with a warm glow, so we need to engage with the social scientists. We do not want to have the problems in this area that plant scientists had with genetically manipulated crops, whereas the stem cell scientists did not have problems to quite the same extent in developing stem cell research and its applications. So engaging engineers not only with scientists, but also with social scientists to address societal issues is very important.

We have research pools in Scotland; we need to work with others. The School of Informatics here at the University of Edinburgh has something called the Stanford Link where we are working with Stanford University in the United States. I have a phrase which is 'the best working with the best'. I do not really mind too much where our collaborators are located, as long as the collaboration is of a very high quality.

We also need to lead in something that is often forgotten about. Everybody talks about taking the research and putting it out and making sure it has an impact. Relatively few people talk about asking the question 'What does your industry need? How can research help?' It is feeding the user requirements back into the research environment that I think is very important and something that will take Edinburgh forward. We do need to invest in our staff and students to make sure that they develop as researchers and as innovators. From a purely personal point of view I had an opportunity to spin out a company many, many years ago before it was a popular thing to do, before it was really anything other than a very, very difficult thing to do as an academic. I decided not to; I decided to focus on my academic business. A colleague in the United States had exactly the same opportunity, I discovered a few years later: his tax bill at United States tax rates was four times my salary as an academic, so there was a lesson for me there. I still think I made the right decision!

Commercialisation and knowledge exchange are increasingly important for the university sector, so we need to increase awareness of this and of opportunities available among our staff and our students. For example, I have asked the biologists to make sure that this year they put a team in Biotechnology YES (Young Entrepreneurs Scheme) that runs every year. The students, staff and post-doctoral staff that enter will receive some limited, but essential, entrepreneurial training through entering that programme.

We need to exchange knowledge with the local community and local bodies. Now I say 'exchange'. There is a great phrase in science, which is the 'public understanding of science'. I also have a phrase, and that is 'the scientific understanding of the public': it has to be a two-way process, you actually need to engage and discuss what the issues are. We need to be effective in knowledge transfer. The saying is that the best way of doing that is on two feet, having people going into industry, and having people come from industry into academia. These knowledge exchange initiatives and the income that they generate are hugely important for the College.

In particular, we have a lot of engagement commercially, particularly with the energy industry: the oil industry, carbon sequestration, power generation, sustainable power, and so on.

We need to ensure that as a university our Human Resources practices allow time for these developments. I think there is great tendency in the University to say 'How many lectures are you giving? How many grants have you got?' and then to forget the rest. I have asked every Head of School throughout the College to develop a work load model. If somebody is doing a lot in one aspect of the academic discipline then that person may be relieved by his or her colleagues from doing a lot in the other academic roles – they should all work extremely hard, of course!

The outstanding performance of the 2,000 College staff is absolutely critical to delivering the College's Strategy and Delivery Plan. I see my role as supporting my colleagues in their work in doing that: recruiting, rewarding and retaining high quality staff at all levels. Let me just take a particular problem. We have very good technical staff in our mechanical workshops. They are all of an age. You do not find people who were traditionally fitters and turners in the present workplace environment, but we do need to build specialist bits of kit. Thus, together with the technical service managers in the different schools, I am grappling with how we might address this question as these very important technical staff come up to retirement age. I think this is something we need to resolve as a University.

We need to ensure that our management and reward structures are fit for purpose, and I have been having discussions with Human Resources about that, and am pleased to say that in the last round of professorial promotions we promoted somebody on his ability to commercialise his or her output and to actually interact with industry, rather than on the number of papers he has produced in the very highest quality journals. Many of you will have heard Simon Bates' Inaugural Lecture - he was promoted largely on his innovation in teaching in Physics. Making sure the reward structures are appropriate is terribly important.

I hate the word 'appraisal'. In an organisation that spends most of its life examining people below the age of 21, 'appraisal' sounds like an examination. 'Performance Development' is what I prefer to talk about, but also 'Reviewing' the performance of people: making sure that they can take the next step in what they want to do and getting better communication. We are a huge organisation as a University and, like all organisations, communication is an issue and doing that properly helps you maintain your quality staff.

We also need quality services. We really need the people to provide expert and general technical support and good administrative support, to ensure that we develop as a leading international University. We must develop sustainable means of providing the services that meet the needs of the College. At present, in an environment where the Research Councils will fund 80 per cent of the full economic costs of research, we must make sure that services are provided for things like the Library; part of our research budget indeed goes on supporting the Library and IT facilities, in order to allow us to support our research.

We must ensure that staff are trained and can develop professionally, that people meet their ambitions, and that there are not too many terminal or 'glass ceilings' for their particular roles in an institution. We need to ensure that the University, the College and the Schools work effectively together in order to achieve this goal.

We also need very high quality infrastructure if we are going to do research and learning and teaching at the very highest level. There is usually not too much of a problem in getting the latest bit of kit from the Research Councils - he said glibly, knowing that it is actually quite a challenge. If there is some innovative

piece of research equipment that you need, there are mechanisms for applying for it. The difficulty is maintaining the equipment you have already got and that is actually crucial to your research. Therefore we need to work with Estates and Buildings to implement the King's Buildings Framework Plan. We have a plan going forward about the site that I think many of you will agree is, shall we say, an interesting curate's egg of an environment of old and new buildings of varying fitness for purpose.

We are implementing robust plans for sustaining the research infrastructure, challenging our colleagues: 'If you need to use this service, then you need to apply for the funding to pay for it'. Taking advantage of all opportunities to fund teaching space and equipment, to obtain funding for the equipment you need for research is much easier in some ways than getting the funding you need for the equipment for teaching. Generating this can be quite a challenge. We are working with Information Services in order to have the very specialist scientific information technology we need, but also the general IT support we need across the University.

The College's Strategy and Delivery Plan will align with the remaining aspects of the University Strategic Plan 2008-2013: enhancing the student experience; engaging the wider community; building strategic partnerships and collaboration; advancing internationalisation; promoting equality, diversity, sustainability and social responsibility; and also building our alumni base and seeking something that happens very successfully in the United States - philanthropic giving from a variety of sources. All of those themes were in the University Strategic Plan; they are also in the College Strategy and Delivery Plan.

I would like to discuss some new developments, just to whet your appetite to the sort of things that we can do.

In Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, the University of Edinburgh actually has quite a significant lead. We are trying to develop with Heriot-Watt University the Edinburgh Climate Change Centre. We have engaged Scottish Government with this initiative: we have got the skills we need to understand the issues of climate change resulting from human behaviour (which a lot of climate change is about), right through to things like carbon sequestration and storage in order to mitigate the effects of using fossil fuels. Just three weeks ago, Scottish Power agreed that they would work with us; they have been working with us for some time, but in this case they will be funding a chair in Carbon Capture and Sequestration, which will be filled in the next few months.

In the matter of drug discovery, which traditionally has been the remit of the large pharmaceutical companies, in November we welcomed Professor Manfred Auer who was from Novartis in Austria. He brought with him a large amount of equipment that Novartis sold to us at a knock-down price. This actually allows us to do something that large pharmaceutical companies do not do. What they do is they select a disease - and it tends to be a disease of the developed world because the profits tend to be better there - and then they look at a huge range of compounds and say 'What will affect this disease?' Manfred's strategy is different. He says 'We have this limited range of compounds that we know affect the way that human cells behave. Let us look at those in animal models, and then let us develop those in association with the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and with the hospitals, both human and animal hospitals, and see what diseases we can treat.' So it is the inverse of the way that pharmaceutical companies work. And, I quote Manfred on this, he says that the University of Edinburgh is the best placed institution to do this that he could possibly think of and that is one reason he is here.

I have mentioned Synthetic Biology already: bringing engineering to biology, but also engaging the social scientists. We have one of the leading UK networks in the College, led by relatively early career staff. It is a new development: they can see their careers developing that way, and we are supporting them in that. We have also got a new Wellcome Trust Centre for Immunity, Infection and Evolution and that is a great one to start out in the year of Darwin's bicentennial, as evolution is core to their studies. The Centre is combined across the College of Science and Engineering and the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. We have the UK's world-leading e-Science Institute in South College Street; that currently comes under the School of Physics and Astronomy, but we are moving it this year to the School of Informatics, in order to change the flavour of it, and allow it to develop its research in the environment of Informatics.

I mentioned SUPA2 earlier. Part of the proposal is an initiative in Physics and Life Sciences. This is bringing the principles of physics - and doing really exciting physics - but in a life sciences background: how cells behave, how organisms work. Maths pooling, is one of the pools we do not yet have and we are trying to pool the Schools of Mathematics across Scotland. I put this up there just to alert you to it, but also to use a very cheap joke. I wanted to call it the Scottish Universities Mathematical Sciences Pool, but apparently the mathematicians do not like being called SUMS. All of these are cross-college and cross-institutional centres, with an emphasis on multi-disciplinary working.

I will finish by asking 'How will we know if this strategy has been successful?' In five years time, we will hope that we will be standing up in front of you and saying we are a world-leading centre, addressing the grand plan challenges of climate change, renewable energy, global security, life-long health and well-being. These are all challenges put forward by the UK Government; they are all challenges that this University is well able to address. We will have developed our already broad research base to have innovative, inter-disciplinary research, both within the University and with other institutions in the UK and overseas. Finally we will be the institution of choice for global industrial, commercial and academic partnerships. And, with that, thank you very much.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Rector: Thank you very much Professor Brown for that fascinating and inspiring insight into the achievements and successes of Edinburgh's College of Science & Engineering, part of the University I had very little acquaintance with until I stood for Rector, in fact that was the first time I was ever down in King's Buildings. I had no idea how big King's Buildings actually is. It is fascinating the way in which the other remarkable development in the last 30 years is how the student experience is now centre stage and how so much care is taken to provide an environment that students find congenial. Now, questions and comments from members to Professor Brown.

Cecily Giles: I would like to start by saying what an absolutely superb lecture. Now you may not have thought of it this way, but that was an absolute lesson in how immense the value is of a large lecture to a large class, because each of us will have taken away something individual from you about this occasion. I totally understand the importance of study group activity, obviously it is essential, but I go back to the war years and when in Arts we had the old tradition of first ordinary classes where the professor took them, and I had Kemp Smith, for Philosophy, I had most importantly John Dover Wilson in English Literature, and Vivien Galbraith in History, and also Sir Alexander Gray in Economics. I felt each time that they were speaking just to me and I could tell you today many of the things they told me which were absolutely wonderful, so do not ever underestimate the influence that somebody like you can have on a big group, even if it is just for one hour once a fortnight, because it is a direct thing and from there I went on the Bletchley Park and I think they all helped to make me a fit person to go and work there in the last two years of the war. So please keep some big lectures from people like you, thank you.

Professor Brown: Thank you for that comment. I think that the big lecture has not disappeared entirely, but everything that you look at there, it is that inspirational aspect, it is setting the scene, it is not necessarily always addressing the individual student need. We do still do it, and in fact one of the things that I did do the first time I addressed the College in an open forum, is I said that teaching is not an optional activity, we should all be standing up in front of the students, and our research stars, who quite legitimately can spend all their time doing research to justify their existence, actually need to stand up and the students need to be exposed to them, so large lectures are still an important component. The difference between this large lecture and other large lectures is I am not going to give you a handout to assess me at the end of it.

Mr James Murray: Thank you Vice Principal. My background is in Science and Engineering, so I am no stranger to feeding research into applications and encouraging start-ups, and I was very encouraged to hear about your continued involvement and approach to that. It is my perception, it may be false, that Government funding is currently attempting to direct research funding to areas that they think in their opinion must yield commercial success. I feel that may be a mistake. So I have got two points that I would like to make to you. The first is, I would like to ask you if you consider that the public should be persuading Government to support 'blue sky' science and engineering research in a much greater way than it does, simply by backing

very good people. And the second point is, a sort of silly example I will give to you about this, many years ago the people who funded fundamental research into single crystal technology and materials would not have known that this would have led to the application of these enormous turbo fans in jet engines that have contributed to the success of Rolls Royce. So I would be interested to hear your view on this point.

Professor Nigel Brown: That is a very good point, well made. You are absolutely right, there is, I would not call it a pressure, but a direction that we should look at the applications of our research much more carefully. So if I write an application to one of the Research Councils these days I have six pages to describe the science, as of last year I get an additional two pages to describe the potential impact of my research. Now, the peer review committees that award grants are actually made up of people like me and my colleagues, also industrialists, and so on, so I am very clear to colleagues that we are the Research Councils if you like, and that we can actually protect in that environment the really innovative 'blue skies' research and you do see that happen, you still see very, very exciting science of potentially limited application being funded and I would be very sorry if we ever moved away from that. What we do not know at the moment, because it is too new, is the effect of the recent change in UK Government, and the move back of the Government Office for Science as it is now called, it used to be in the DTI, it then moved out to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, it has now moved back to the Department of Business Innovation and Skills under Lord Mandelson with two Secretaries of State, so how that is going to resolve we do not know, and what pressure that is going to put on the research budgets, we just do not know at the moment, but there is no doubt there is a very, very clear message and you can understand it. The funding for research has doubled over the last ten years and so Government, the tax payers, ourselves are saying, well what is the output of that investment, so I think we have a requirement to say what that output is and examples such as the one you used, or examples such as the one I often use which is where César Milstein discovered something called monoclonal antibodies. He wrote to the then, I can never remember what it was called, but it was the UK body to look at the exploitation of UK science who told him that there was absolutely no interest in this. Monoclonal antibodies now are the way of doing all blood group typing, all tissue typing across the whole of the UK, and across the world. That would have actually funded UK science plus some other things, if they had understood that there was something patentable there, so I think there are plenty of examples of where 'blue skies' research has come through.

Rector: Do you feel any pressure though, as the question suggests, from Government, is this increasing now?

Professor Nigel Brown: Yes, and I think in my former role as a member of a Research Council I had to write, with colleagues, the biggest grant I have ever written, which was £1.5 billion to fund my Research Council over the next three years. We were very clear what the messages were, and you know, we had to address the Treasury objectives, which were ageing, virtue is more concerned with pension funds, but of course for a biologist healthy ageing is the way to address that. There were various other things, we have got a Systems Biology Centre here, apparently ministers liked Systems Biology, they did not understand what it was, but they thought it was the changing of the behaviour of scientists, therefore it was a good thing.

Professor Ann Smyth: Ann Smyth, one of the General Council Assessors, and I would like to echo my appreciation of an outstanding presentation, but because we are members of the General Council I think the question of the many I could be asking after such a stimulating over-view is to invite the perspective from a College Head, for us in General Council, about how we might assist you in achieving that culture change that we see the University seeks in developing its relationships with its alumni and how we might constructively work with the University going forward to achieve the ends that you would like in that area.

Professor Nigel Brown: Well, thank you for that question, I hope some of the others you are going to ask are a little easier, because that is quite a challenge there. One of the things that I am very keen to do, and I have asked each of the Schools to do, is develop its alumni base, for two reasons. Edinburgh does have an alumni body that is still very interested in the University and the activities of that University. We also have a student body that should be going out to do all sorts of things. As an academic I am actually very good at producing other academics, but I do not have the knowledge base to really advise people who want to go out, not so much at undergraduate level, because we have a very good Careers Service, there are lots of opportunities there, but people let us say who have done research for a few years and then want to go out and

do something different. It is actually very, very difficult to know what the opportunities are there, and having some alumni who have either been that route themselves or worked with people who have those research skills is actually hugely important. One of the things that I have sometimes said is that I think that universities as a whole have not served themselves well by encouraging people to pursue research careers for which there are not sufficient jobs, so what you end up with is a cohort of very, very bright people who are, I usually put it more crudely than this, but are more than slightly annoyed with the universities. They then move into influential positions elsewhere, thinking that maybe universities are not all that they should be and I think we serve ourselves very badly there, so having that sort of thing would be very, very beneficial. Then just encouraging my colleagues as well when you do see them, that all these aspects are important, the interchange with the public, the development of research with industry, influencing policy-holders, is actually a very good thing and that is something that Council can do as well as the academics. Making sure that people of influence understand what the university is trying to do and I think that is a very, very important role for General Council members.

Dr Michael Mitchell: Mike Mitchell, also on the Business Committee. Thank you again for an excellent lecture, tremendously inspiring, but I would like to take advantage of having you and our new Rector here to raise something about the public engagement with science which you have mentioned. One of the problems is that the level at which science is conveyed to the general public and the media is pathetic in this country to be quite honest. I lived in Spain for a little while and there is a newspaper there called La Vanguardia and every single weekend there was a serious section in La Vanguardia on science and medicine, and it was at the level not far short of, say, something like New Scientist, and it was not just reading it in the foreign language that was a challenge, it was actually challenging with information and ideas, which was intellectually stimulating. Now I just do not see that, I do not even see it in the London newspapers, I certainly do not see it in the Scottish newspapers, and I would like to see if you, in your position of scientific excellence here at Edinburgh could actually do something to improve the level of communication we have of science to the general public.

Professor Nigel Brown: I will let the Rector answer questions about the media.

Rector: Absolutely, there is a deep institutional bias against science in our popular culture, there is no doubt about that. I spent most of my career in the BBC and you would think the BBC would be very enthusiastic about precisely what you are doing, provoking stimulating debate about new ideas, and it does it to a certain extent, but it always lapses back into a very crude popularisation of science, you know, blowing things up, or something like Tomorrow's World, which does not actually exist any more. There are no real science programmes at all apart from the Open University on the main channels. You have Brainiac Science for kids, but you do not have any real promotion of scientific understanding. And the papers are appalling, however, I should say, Edinburgh University is one of the most successful universities in the country, in fact in the world, at getting its message across and generating popular excitement and interest in what is happening in Edinburgh University, particularly in science. You have a very effective media operation here, I do not know if you are aware of that, I have spoken to them all at great length, they are very good and very effective. They go out and they trawl for stories amongst all the various colleges, but particularly in science. Only when I became Rector did I realise how many of the scientific stories you see day after day in the papers come from Edinburgh University. So Edinburgh University is doing extremely well, but if you are going to move beyond that then I think perhaps universities like Edinburgh have to take advantage from the collapse or the difficulties rather in the press and start developing its own, perhaps online, activities which are somewhere between formal academic teaching and popular science. I know this is happening at other universities like Melbourne. I am very interested in it myself and I think there is a tremendous amount of expertise, and just what we have heard today has been absolutely fascinating, and there would be a very great and very wide interest in it. It is just a question of getting it across, and I said the change over in the media could be an opportunity there.

Professor Nigel Brown: That is very helpful. I think there are some things happening, and I would certainly value the advice of General Council on this. For example we do have, within the College itself as well as University-wide, Sci-Fun, which is an organisation which gets out to schools. There is a College Public Engagement Officer, who does a lot of activities around that. I agreed last night, which I may ultimately regret, to actually sit with Simon Gage on the International Science Festival, as adviser representing the

University to try to get that communication across. We also have one of the big Beacon Projects, big public engagement projects run by Vice-Principal Mary Bownes, which is the Beltane Project, which does public engagement across Scotland. That has now brought in all the universities. So there is a lot happening in disparate activities, but I do agree with you that the quality paper public communication could be better, as it is in some other countries.

Rector: In PR terms you must be very pleased at the number of stories that appear in the press week after week, everything from oceans under the Arctic.

Professor Nigel Brown: Absolutely, Professor Martin Siegert, who I think you heard from last time hit the front page of the Independent on Sunday. I was down in London on a family occasion at the time and saw this article and thought 'I recognise that'.

Dr Paul Kinnear: Do you have any worries about the inability of Scottish universities to top-up their income stream with tuition fees in relation to English universities.

Professor Nigel Brown: Yes, it is a concern. In departments of chemistry around the country I know for example that some of the big bits of kit which are very expensive to run, they are using their top-up fees to help run those. The issue is, the PhD students need to use these pieces of kit, PhD students are not fully economically costed, and so that money has to be found from somewhere. What we are doing about that is making sure that people are aware of it. Up to ten months ago, when I was working in the Research Councils, I was not as a UK funder as appreciative of the difference between a Scottish institution and an English institution in terms of their ability to co-fund research in quite the same way, and every time that I have seen former colleagues from the Research Councils I have hammered this point home. It is an issue, and it may well become an increasing issue if the cap is lifted on fees in England.

Rector: Are you finding it any more difficult to attract staff, quality staff?

Professor Nigel Brown: Not noticeably at the moment, but I think that is something that we need to keep an eye on for the future. It depends on what the world differential is. Edinburgh of course had a very successful Research Assessment in funding terms. Imperial College is still squealing. I think only Oxford did better overall in the UK than Edinburgh, so at the moment we are fine.

Dr Alan Brown: You touched on the difficulty some schools have with feedback, could you give us a little more information about what is being done to improve that?

Professor Nigel Brown: Yes, it is formally part of the College Learning & Teaching Strategy. Every Director of Teaching in each School has been asked to address the issue, and that has been done in a number of ways. One is getting the timing of feedback appropriate, so that we actually feedback to students much more quickly than we have necessarily done in the past. Also, actually making sure that students understand what is and what is not feedback. There are informal comments to the class, like 'You have been a very good and quiescent audience, thank you very much', which is actually a form of feedback rather than anything else. Also, the timing at which we collect data and making sure that we collect it from the maximum number of students as well, so there a number of things in place, it is something of which we are very, very conscious.

Professor Ann Smyth: We hear on Court and elsewhere across the University about the student experience and about the research profile, and I suppose I regularly ask about the potential for there being a 'lost tribe' of the taught postgraduates who are with us for a relatively short period of time, and yet who pay significant fees and have rather distinct needs and expectations relative to the undergraduates, and I wondered if I could invite you, although you did in your talk very carefully word it in such a way that I understood you were referring to and including the postgraduates, but I wonder if I could invite you just to say a little bit more about how the College views that particular group, who are important to the University, we are looking to increase their numbers, but who tend, if one is not reading between the lines, to get rather overlooked when we talk about students.

Professor Nigel Brown: I think that certainly was the case, that they were overlooked. One of the things that I was very keen on, when I first came here, I think it was one of the three, you always have three things when come into a new job, and one of them was professionalising the postgraduate taught component. The history of postgraduate taught students tends to be, I sometimes put it rather cynically put it as individual academics deciding what the world really needs is eight more copies of them every year, whereas in fact what we need is to address the requirements of industry, commerce and the peoples' particular ambitions. So a good case in point was the Masters in Carbon Management, which even before it appeared in the prospectus was over-subscribed, and so ensuring that we do actually take these courses seriously, that they are not hobbies of individual academics, that they are part of the process. So the entry requirements we manage at College rather than individual School level. The Schools themselves know that they have to manage these and report on them, and new Masters courses we will actually put through quite rigorous review of whether they are something that is desirable or not, so I think we do take it much more seriously than we did. What I would say on the other side of the coin is many of the students who come do actually have strong expectations, and they do actually drive change. I have seen that happen in previous roles and I think that is a good thing, it actually gives them a sense of ownership of the course, what they are embarking on and I thoroughly approve of that.

Jean McCallum: My name is Jean McCallum, I am an Arts graduate of 60 years ago, therefore there is at least a two generation gap in my question perhaps. I would like to know a little bit more about how you might handle the ethical implications of the work that you are doing. You did make some reference to interdisciplinary work with the Social Sciences, and I wonder if that is the area in which you might explore ethical implications. I think perhaps particularly as an example of Regenerative Medicine and the ethical implications of that.

Professor Nigel Brown: That is absolutely right, we are very fortunate at Edinburgh that we have an organisation called Innogen in the School of Social Sciences, and this was set up specifically to look around some of the issues of innovation in science and the ethical and societal implications of that. In fact I am about to take away with me for the weekend a long list of candidates for a Chair of Innovation in Sciences, which is specifically to address some of these problems. I actually have somebody leading a research team in the area of ethics. Interestingly the ethics of animal experimentation, the ethics of use of stem cells is probably not so important in some ways, because that is well-rehearsed in the public. Some of the implications of other things we do, like if we are going to put tons and tons of carbon dioxide down below the Firth of Forth, what happens if there is a slight seismic shift, and this gas that is currently liquidified decides to expand mightily, and a lot of things about risk in society that I think we also need to address, and that requires social science as well as scientific understanding. So you are absolutely right, that is the main thrust. Having a very good friend who is a Professor of Risk Management, she addresses these questions in a whole variety of fields, and it is a discipline in itself and it is something that we do need to engage in through the social sciences.

Rector: Thank you very much again Professor Brown for that inspirational address and for fielding those questions so eloquently.

B Presentation of the Report of the Business Committee

at the General Council Meeting on 20 June 2009

Convener of the Business Committee: Dr Alan Brown

Vice Principal, Members of the General Council. I am sure you will agree that it is a pleasure for the General Council to meet in this magnificent new University building, the Informatics Forum. This award-winning project is the latest jewel in the crown of our University's architecture. It has about 500 researchers and postgraduate students, concerned in the fields of artificial intelligence, computer science and cognitive science, which are collectively described as Informatics. We shall see in this afternoon's tours that there are many open spaces which allow researchers from different disciplines to meet and interact in ideal surroundings. It is also my great pleasure to welcome our relatively new Rector to his first official meeting of the General Council. His election this year was widely acclaimed and already he is making a significant

impact on student affairs. The General Council wishes him well over the next three years and we will support him in every way. This meeting and the address by our after-Lunch Speaker, Dr Philippa Gregory, is being transmitted as a live webcast for those members not able to be here. We hope they will contact the General Council Office, as this technology will be used at future Council meetings. Video clips of today's activities will be available later on the General Council website.

Over the last year the work of the Business Committee and its four Standing Committees has been worthwhile and illuminating. The Academic and Finance & Services Committees have had regular, stimulating sessions with Heads of College and senior University management. The Constitutional Standing Committee has been working hard putting all necessary arrangements in place for the introduction of online voting for General Council elections, and the Public Affairs Standing Committee and its Media Group have been involved in setting up this morning's live webcast and in preparations for our next away Half-Yearly Meeting in Hong Kong in June 2010. The planning for Hong Kong is progressing and members should keep watching the General Council website for programme details. Following last February's meeting guidelines for Council's away meetings have been developed and approved by the Business Committee and they are available for members today and also on the General Council website. I am very grateful to the Conveners of the Standing Committees, Dr Charles Swainson, Mr Ralph Parkinson, Mr Ewan Jeffrey, Mrs Marjorie Appleton, and also to the Chairman of the Media Group, Dr Mike Mitchell, for their sterling leadership of these committees. Their reports are in *Annex to Billet*, which is available today and are well worth reading. The Business Committee has recently begun to explore whether there are ways in which the General Council can support the University further in these testing times for higher education and young people seeking to enter higher education, for example by providing much needed scholarships and bursaries for undergraduates. I will keep you informed of any initiatives which are proposed. Forthcoming activities of the Business Committee include attending pre-graduation receptions for the graduates and their families in the Chaplaincy Centre, and the graduations themselves. Also to encourage members to come with their friends, who are visiting Edinburgh during the Festival or for Homecoming Celebrations, to the now traditional General Council Festival Reception in the Talbot Rice Gallery, which this year is called the Homecoming Festival and Exhibition Viewing on Thursday 20 August. Tickets are only £10 per person.

This is the last Half-Yearly Meeting for four Business Committee members, three of whom are Conveners of Standing Committees. The intake to the Business Committee in 2006 was clearly a vintage year. We are most grateful to Dr Charles Swainson, Mr Ewan Jeffrey, Mrs Marjorie Appleton and Mrs Ann Sutherland, for their significant contributions to the Business Committee and Standing Committees over the past four years and we look forward to their continuing support at future meetings. This is a particularly memorable and sad occasion, as we are saying farewell to Dr Ann Matheson who is retiring as Secretary of the General Council at the end of July. She is the rock on which the highly successful Business Committee has been based over the last eight years. During that time I am sure there has never been better co-operation and rapport between our University and the General Council and the credit undoubtedly goes in large measure to Dr Matheson's stewardship. Her supreme administrative skills, sensitivity, far-sightedness, diplomacy and knowledge of Edinburgh University and its personnel have combined to make her a truly effective and outstanding Secretary to the General Council. We are most grateful to Ann for the commitment she has shown over the last eight years. I could go on but Ann would strongly disapprove, therefore, with her permission I will read from the letter she received recently from the Chancellor. Quote, "I know that all Members of the General Council would like me to express their gratitude and appreciation for your dedicated service during the last eight years. As you appreciate the Council is a very important element in the structure of the University and your part in maintaining a healthy relationship with the University is widely recognised. Yours sincerely, Philip." Thank you Ann. We wish you well and look forward very much to seeing you regularly at future gatherings.

They say that every cloud has a silver lining, and in this case it is in the form of Dr Simon Cunningham. Provided the first motion is passed shortly he will be appointed Secretary of the General Council for four years from August 2009. Dr Cunningham's first degree was from Oxford and he gained his PhD from this University in 1986. He had a distinguished career at the United Nations working for the Department for Economic and Social Affairs until he retired to Edinburgh last year. We welcome him to the post and wish him well. That concludes my report. Thank you.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Rector: Dr Brown, if I could add my own expression of gratitude to Dr Matheson, since I have only had a very brief experience of working with her, but I can see that she is going to be very sorely missed, and she is going to give us a few words just now, I think.

Dr Ann Matheson: Thank you very much, Rector. Thank you Alan for these very kind and quite undeserved remarks. I would if I may like to thank a few people without making it seem like the Oscars. I would like to thank first of all the three Conveners that I have worked with, Peter Freshwater, Alan Johnston and now Alan Brown, and my colleagues in the Office, Jean Gibson and now Mary Scott with whom I have worked so happily. I would like to thank my predecessor, Alastair Weatherston, for leaving everything in such good order for me, and I wish my soon to be appointed successor every enjoyment in the post. I would like to thank very warmly indeed all the staff of the University who have been such a pleasure to work with over the years. A special word of thanks goes to the University Secretary, Melvyn Cornish, whose integrity of approach and unfailing courtesy has smoothed many a path over the years. In his absence I would like to thank the Principal for his clear and ambitious vision for our University and for the tremendous way in which he combines vision and hard work and by that means spurs others to achieve. And I would like to offer a special word of thanks to our Mace Bearer, Bob Smith, and to all his colleagues in the University who make the wheels go round and the University work for us. And last of all, and most importantly, Members of Council I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Rector: And the University Secretary, Melvyn Cornish.

Mr Melvyn Cornish: Thank you Rector. If I may I will put my University Secretary hat on rather than Registrar of the General Council and perhaps say a few words that I know that the Principal if he had been able to be here would have wanted to say. I think that what I want to say is very much to echo what Alan has just said about the way in which Ann has contributed to the relationship between the General Council and the University. It has been a tremendous pleasure and a privilege to work with Ann over the last eight years. She is a tremendously able person and, if you can forgive me saying this, I can find no finer tribute I think than to say she would make an excellent University Secretary. Ann has made a tremendous contribution, as has been said, in cementing relationships between the Council and the University to our mutual advantage. Over my time at Edinburgh, of now 31 years, I can think of no time when the bond between the University and the General Council has been stronger. So much of that is due to Ann's efforts and contribution, and some of that you will understand is not necessarily visible. At times it is what happens behind the scenes that can make such a valuable contribution as well as what is seen publicly. So we are very sorry that Ann's period of office has come to an end and we want to extend our very warm gratitude and appreciation to her. I am absolutely delighted to be able to share with the General Council this morning the fact that the Senate of the University has decided to confer on Ann the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa, and we very much hope that this degree will be conferred at an appropriate point in the coming year. Thank you Rector.

[NOTE: Film coverage of the meeting in video form can be found in the Video Gallery on the General Council website at: http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/video_gallery_meetings.htm.]