



General Council Meeting of 15 February 2014: Annex to Billet

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Contents	Page
Papers for the General Council Meeting on 15 February 2014	
1 Formal communications from the University Court	2
2 Report of the Academic Standing Committee	2
3 Report of the Constitutional Standing Committee	3
4 Report of the Finance and Services Standing Committee	4
5 Report of the Public Affairs Standing Committee	5
6 Meetings of the Business Committee	5
7 Deaths of members of the General Council	5
Papers from the General Council Meeting on 22 June 2013	
A Presentation by Professor David Argyle, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies	14
C Presentation of the Report of the Business Committee	28
D Live Questions and Answers	30

Papers for the General Council Meeting on 15 February 2014

1 Formal communications from the University Court

The following Draft Resolutions have been received:

- 73/2013 Code of Student Conduct
- 74/2013 Foundation of a Chair of Epigenetics
- 75/2013 Foundation of a Chair of Medical and Social Anthropology
- 76/2013 Alteration of the title of the Robert Irvine Chair of Medical Microbiology
- 77/2013 Alteration of the title of the Chair of Accountancy and Finance
- 78/2013 Alteration of the title of the Regius Chair of Sanskrit Language, Literature and Philosophy, and Comparative Philology
- 79/2013 Alteration of the title of the Personal Chair of Drama and Performance Studies
- 80/2013 Alteration of the title of the Chair of History of Art
- 81/2013 Alteration of the title of the Chair of Strategy and Change
- 82/2013 Foundation of a Chair of Applied Hydrodynamics
- 83/2013 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Reproductive Steroids
- 1/2014 Foundation of a Chair of Infectious Disease Pathology
- 2/2014 Institution of new postgraduate Degree Master of International Affairs
- 3/2014 Payment of Debts to the University
- 4/2014 Foundation of a Personal Chair of Education and Social Stratification

2 Report of the Academic Standing Committee

for the General Council Meeting on 15 February 2014

Convener of the Academic Standing Committee: Dr Bruce Ritson

Since the last report The Academic standing committee has met on two occasions:

The meeting on 4 November 2013 planned the programme for the coming year in the light of priorities for 2013-14 identified by the Business Committee. We agreed to focus on:

- Student Experience including Learning & Teaching
- Creating communities within the University and engaging with the civic community.

The student learning and teaching experience and progress in the University's remediation plans would be addressed in our annual meeting with EUSA representatives and later with the Professor Ian Pirie Assistant Principal Learning and Development - Specific topics of interest for members were the encouragement of innovative teaching methods and reward systems, including professional progression for teaching quality. Dr Sue Rigby, Vice Principal Learning and Teaching, had also been invited for a return visit to give an update on the strategies being deployed to enhance the student experience and address the issues which have arisen from concerns in some sections of the National Student Survey. The important topic of engaging with communities and the part Alumni might play in this was a theme which would cut across all of these meetings.

Meeting on 21 November 2013 was devoted to a presentation from Mr Alan Mackay Deputy Vice Principal International and Director of the International Office to discuss the international and postgraduate student experience.

The presentation covered: global recruitment, the current situation, the shape of things to come, the student experience and the role of the International office now and in the future.

The University has a global strategy and proactively attracts overseas students. Thirty seven per cent of the student body were not from the UK and postgraduate research students were predominantly from overseas. There are regular “global events attended by alumni, parents and prospective students these are extremely successful and the department would like to take this further with a network of Global Ambassadors. “Alumni Engagement” supports these activities but more alumni involvement locally and overseas would be welcome.

The establishment of overseas offices was determined by local demand and initiatives from the University. It is envisaged that the relationship between higher education and industry would deepen. Overseas Campuses were not envisaged for Edinburgh favouring rather an active commitment to partnership working throughout the World. There is evidence amongst alumni of a desire to keep in touch at a local level and more effort will be put in to “friend-raising”. The global strategy should include peer support events, a Buddying Scheme and hospitality. A sense of connectedness should begin before students arrived, finding out what they needed and expected and introducing the idea that they would eventually become alumni leading to a lifelong partnership.

International Student Advisory Service provided: A welcome service and events; immigration advice and guidance; Emergency support; A hospitality scheme – local families invited students for a meal or outing.

Challenges included a need to adapt to the anticipated expansion and the increased diversity of undergraduate and postgraduate students while ensuring that the students and the experience offered were both of the highest quality. It was also essential that the University aimed for an appropriate balance in the ratio of overseas to UK students so that both benefited from the cultural diversity experienced. Many of the problems experienced by International students were the same as those faced by UK students in some respects all students were “international”.

3 Report of the Constitutional Standing Committee

for the General Council Meeting on 15 February 2014

Convener of the Constitutional Standing Committee: Mr Gordon Cairns

The Committee has met on three occasions since my last half-yearly report and I can confirm, for the avoidance of doubt, that thanks to the efforts of all my colleagues on the Committee, the updated and refreshed induction pack made available to the newly elected Members was approved at the meeting of the Business Committee on 11 July 2013.

This year the Business Committee tasked the Constitutional Standing Committee with considering the implications of potential changes in Scottish constitutional arrangements for the University.

Various matters of interest were noted at our meeting in November which resulted in certain topics being considered relevant for discussion at other Standing Committees including, for example, possible implications for the current and future staff and students of the University.

The possible financial impact on the University as a whole formed the basis of a very lively and interesting talk by Professor Sheila Riddell at our January meeting to which all Members of the Business Committee were invited.

The Committee hope to complete this exercise with the provision of a report by the end of this academic year.

My continued thanks to those who sit with me on the Constitutional Standing Committee, with a special mention for, and welcome to, our newest recruit, Mr Scott Peter.

4 Report of the Finance and Services Standing Committee

for the General Council Meeting on 15 February 2014

Convener of the Finance and Services Standing Committee: Ms Kirsty MacGregor

The Finance and Services Standing Committee has met once since the previous report to the General Council on the 7 June 2013.

At the meeting on the 5th December 2014 the committee met to consider the areas they would include in their programme for the year.

The Independence Referendum featured in the Business Committee's Priorities for this session, although it was appreciated that the University was apolitical and would remain neutral, and this topic would be a common theme for the FSSC meetings over the year.

- Mr Phil McNaull , Director of Finance had already accepted the invitation to speak at the next meeting on 28 January 2014 to discuss the *University Reports and Financial Statements to July 2013*.
- Dr Tracey Slaven, the Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning, would be invited to talk about the effect that the Referendum might have on the University's Strategic Plan and other strategic matters.
- The outcome of the Referendum might have issues for staff, for example in terms of changes in the attitude to immigration and possibly terms and conditions of employment. The Committee agreed to invite Ms Sheila Gupta, Director of Human Resources to cover this topic, and also the steps being taken to improve the student experience through staff reward and recognition systems.
- It was noted that Mr Angus Currie, Director of Estates & Buildings, had not met with the committee for some time and it was agreed to invite him.

General Council Budget 2013-2014

Points of interest:

- The budget included a small projected surplus which would be transferred to Development & Alumni as a contribution to the overall costs of the Half-Yearly Meeting and Alumni Events in Toronto in June 2014

The committee approved the Budget.

5 Report of the Public Affairs Standing Committee

for the General Council Meeting on 15 February 2014

Convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee: Mr Simon Fairclough

The Public Affairs Standing Committee has met three times over the past year, with thanks offered to retiring convener Neil Hynd at the conclusion of the previous academic session.

After consultation and usability testing, the General Council's new website was launched in the autumn. Given a cleaner, more contemporary look and feel by the University's in-house web development team, the re-design was geared to: improve the user experience through clearer navigation and layout; simplify and enhance content management for site administrators; and increase opportunities for user engagement, not least through the introduction of a regular blog. Now live, the new site will be monitored and refreshed frequently.

Plans for the half-year General Council meeting in Canada have had to be amended but, after further work and site visits by the Secretary and Director of Alumni Engagement, have now been firmly fixed. We now look forward, therefore, to a stimulating and entertaining programme of events and meetings, as well as to strengthening links with local alumni and the University of Toronto.

In recent years, alumni returning to Edinburgh during Festival season have been invited to a General Council-hosted reception. The great success of the first ever, biennial Alumni Weekend last June, however, has prompted a decision to schedule a fresh-format General Council gathering to coincide with the next Alumni Weekend in 2015.

In line with Business Committee priorities around engagement, a joint General Council/Chaplaincy/EUSA panel discussion is planned for this spring, given the theme, "Can the University afford values?"

6 Meetings of the Business Committee

The Committee has met four times since its last Report was printed, viz. 11 July 2013, 3 October 2013, 28 November 2013 and 23 January 2014.

7 Deaths of Members of the General Council

The deaths of the following members of the General Council have been reported during the year from January 2013 to January 2014. Names have been listed by year of first graduation from the University of Edinburgh.

Whimster, James, MA of 1929, LLB of 1930, died 2013

Fiskerstrand, Winifred Wylie Gordon, (née Ewen), MA of 1930, BCom of 1931, died 28/09/2013

McLeman, Margaret Miller Burnet (née Mackie), MA of 1931, died 2013

Fulton, Alexander Scott, MA of 1934, died 2013

Milligan, Algernon Bruce, MBChB of 1935, died 10/06/2013

Douglas-Wilson, Ian, MBChB of 1936, Dr hc of 1974, died 2013

Dow, Betty, (née Gamble), BSc of 1936, died 2013

Macgregor, Margaret, MA of 1936, died 2013

Patt, Jesse, MBChB of 1936, died 2013

Sainty, David, Livingstone, MA of 1936, died 2013

Perry, Robert, Morehead, PhD of 1937, died 2013

Stewart, Katharine, Jeanne (née Dark), MA of 1937, died 27/03/2013

McClements, Catriona Margaret (née Lowe), MA of 1938, died 2013

Nicolson, James Leslie, MA of 1938, died 2013

O'Brien, Frederick William Fitzgerald, MA of 1938, LLB of 1940, died 2013

Brown, Harry Morrow, MBChB of 1939, MD of 1950, died 22/08/2013

Cooper, William Henry, BSc of 1939, died 29/01/2013

Millar, Francis Robert, BL of 1939, died 01/02/2013

Robertson, Anne Elizabeth (née Boyd), MBChB of 1939, died 2013

Speirs, William, MA of 1939, BD of 1942, died 13/06/2013

Tait, Godfrey Beckwith, MBChB of 1939, died 2013

Dornhorst, Helen Mary (née Innes), MBChB of 1940, died 2013

Fleming, Richard Francis Scott, MA of 1940, died 02/03/2013

Gray, Elizabeth Gillam, BSc of 1940, PhD of 1942, died 2013

Townsend, Sam Fletcher, BSc of 1940, died 15/10/2013

Cowan, John Francis, MBChB of 1941, died 02/01/2013

Firth, Mary (née Peirson), BMus of 1941, died 25/09/2013

Stewart, Lucy (née Schacke), MA of 1941, died 2013

Arneil, Barbara Cranston, MA of 1942, died 2013

Bradmore, Rosemary Robertson Murray (née Robinson), MBChB of 1942, died 2013

Hendry, Archibald Hunter, MA of 1942, died 06/03/2013

Maciver, Donald Angus, MBChB of 1942, died 25/10/2013

Taylor, William Norman, MBChB of 1942, died 25/07/2013

Whiteford, Robert Stockbridge, MA of 1942, died 2013

Guthrie, Ida Mary Kirk (née Fenton), MBChB of 1943, died 2013

Parker, John Milroy Glen, MBChB of 1943, died 2013

Banister, Rachel Jean, BSc of 1944, 1948, died 15/02/2013

Burns, James Henderson, MA of 1944, died 2013

Finlay, Mary Nicol (née Peggie), MBChB of 1944, died 08/01/2013

Hughes, Violet Margaret (née Henderson), MA of 1944, died 2013

Maitland Moir, John Henry, MA of 1944, died 17/04/2013

Carvel, Mercedes Daisy, MBChB of 1945, died 2013
Jarosz, Maria Krystyna (née Englicht), MA of 1945, died 2013
Joyce, Thomas, MBChB of 1945, died 2013
Webster, Randolph, BSc of 1945, PhD of 1952, died 2013
Worrall, Gwen Smithson (née Clark), MBChB of 1945, died 22/02/2013

Blackett, William Logan, MBChB of 1946, died 2013
Crosby, William Scott, BL of 1946, died 2013
Davies, Patricia Mary (née McKeand), BSc of 1946, died 2013
Gaskin, Brenda Patricia Rachel (née Stewart), MA of 1946, died 02/01/2013
Henry, Malcolm Nicholson, MA of 1946, died 29/01/2013
Holden, John Stuart, MBChB of 1946, died 2013
Lapsley, Ann Christine Hughes (née Hallett), MA of 1946, died 2013
MacWilliam, Iain Coutts, BSc of 1946, PhD of 1950, died 2013
Mills, Sheila Inglis (née Haldane), MBChB of 1946, died 2013

Archer, Anderson, MA of 1947, BCom of 1949, died 2013
Kamte, Vasant Narayanrao, BSc of 1947, died 2013
Ramsay, Katherine, MA of 1947, died 2013

Atkinson, David, William, MBChB of 1948, died 28/06/2013
Harding, Margaret Davidson (née Armstrong), MA of 1948, died 2013
Holmes, John Cameron, BSc of 1948, PhD of 1961, died 2013
Houston, John, Finlay, MBChB of 1948, died 2013
Kastrati, Helen Millicent (née Livingstone), MA of 1948, died 2013
Kilpatrick, Allan, BL of 1948, died 2013
Maclean, Hamish, MBChB of 1948, died 2013
Miller, Duncan MacIntyre, MA of 1948, LLB of 1950, died 2013
Ward, Thomas, BSc of 1948, died 2013

Barlee, Edith Mary (née McLean), MBChB of 1949, died 2013
Jamieson, Marie Margaret, BSc of 1949, died 2013
Kilpatrick, Cecil Stephen, BSc of 1949, died 08/10/2013
McEwan, Peter James Michael, MA of 1949, PhD of 1963, died 04/04/2013
Murdoch, Mary Maureen, MA of 1949, died 25/09/2013
Paterson, William Stanley Bryce, MA of 1949, died 08/10/2013
Sime, Ian Falconer, BSc of 1949, died 2013
Smith, Alec, Porter, BSc of 1949, died 2013
Stewart, Jean Mary (née Borradaile), BSc of 1949, died 02/04/2013
Wallace, George McRobert, BSc of 1949, died 17/08/2013

Bone, John Brown, BSc of 1950, died 2013
Collings, Jean Munro (née Bruce), MA of 1950, died 2013
Colvin, Margaret Alice, MA of 1950, died 2013
Crookston, William Henry King, BSc of 1950, died 14/07/2013
Elliott, Austen Ernest, MBChB of 1950, died 22/09/2013
Grant, James Ballantyne, BSc of 1950, died 2013
Lorimer, George, MA of 1950, died 2013
Lowenstein, John Martin, BSc of 1950, died 2013

Mackay, Ann (née Stewart), MA of 1950, died 27/01/2013
Macpherson, John, MA of 1950, LLB of 1954, died 04/07/2013
Moncrieff, Peter Duncan, BSc of 1950, Dip Ed of 1951, died 2013
Watson, Jean Stewart, MA of 1950, died 26/01/2013
Weinshenker, Elodie Clare (née Crisson), MA of 1950, died 10/06/2013
Wilkinson, Norman William, MA of 1950, Dip of 1951, died 2013
Wray, Denis Gage, MBChB of 1950, died 05/05/2013
Young, Gilbert Bowie, PhD of 1950, died 2013

Barr, Macleod, BSc of 1951, died 2013
Brockie, William John, MA of 1951, died 2013
Collee, John Gerald, MBChB of 1951, MD of 1962, died 2013
Cook, Raymond, MA of 1951, died 2013
Edington, Patrick William James, BSc of 1951, died 2013
Farquharson, Allan, BL of 1951, died 2013
Ferguson, Joan Primrose Scott, MA of 1951, died 02/10/2013
Grassick, William, Patrick Campbell, BCom of 1951, died 26/08/2013
Hamilton, William, MA of 1951, died 2013
Hemming, Isabel Mary Pauline, MA of 1951, died 01/08/2013
Kaye, Myra Sylvia (née Kaye), MBChB of 1951, died 2013
Ross, Douglas Stewart, LDS of 1951, died 30/04/2013
Stuttaford, Pamela Christine (née Ropner), MA of 1951, died 2013
Whitley, Edward Wilson, MA of 1951, died 2013

Awuku Asabre, Timothy, MBChB of 1952, died 2013
Chant, Stuart Ralston, BSc of 1952, PhD of 1958, died 2013
Cheyne, Frederic Elton, BSc of 1952, died 09/06/2013
Gulliver, Raymond Curtis Pym, BSc of 1952, died 2013
Hendry, George Izatt, MBChB of 1952, died 2013
Hunter, John Langwill, MBChB of 1952, died 2013
Johnston, Alister Graham, MA of 1952, LLB of 1954, died 2013
Mackenzie Ross, Catherine Jane (née Tulloch), MBChB of 1952, died 2013
Macpherson, David Campbell, MA of 1952, LLB of 1954, died 2013
Reid, Jessie Fisher, BEd of 1952, MEd of 1966, died 08/08/2013
Smail, Thomas Allan, BD of 1952, died 2013
Thomson, Annette Greenwood Binnie (née Ronald), MA of 1952, died 2013
Thomson, Colin Hugh, MBChB of 1952, died 13/05/2013

Calder, James Byng, BSc of 1953, died 2013
Cooper, Mary Ellen (née Watson), MA of 1953, died 02/10/2013
Farlow, William, MA of 1953, died 20/05/2013
Garrett, Thomas Ralph, BSc of 1953, died 2013
Gillard, Isabel Ray (née Stratton), MA of 1953, Dip of 1955, died 2013
Hart, Murray Raeburn, BL of 1953, died 24/11/2013
Livingston, Elizabeth McLeod (née Bryce), MA of 1953, died 01/04/2013
Macpherson, James Ritchie, BSc of 1953, died 2013
Peploe, John William, BSc of 1953, died 2013
Vasey, Harold Fairbank, BSc of 1953, died 2013

Bowen, John Myles, PhD of 1954, died 16/06/2013
Cameron, Ewen Kennedy, MA of 1954, LLB of 1956, died 2013
Dean, Robin Brockley, BDS of 1954, died 18/03/2013
Holmes, Nancy Mitchell, MBChB of 1954, died 03/01/2013
Smith, Robert Francis, BSc of 1954, died 09/03/2013
Sykes, Alan Howarth, PhD of 1954, died 16/10/2013
Tadevossian, Hrair Asatoor, BSc of 1954, MSc of 1956, died 2013
Towner, David Henry, BL of 1954, died 2013
Venner, Richard Oswald, BSc of 1954, died 2013

Cameron, Donald Findlater, MBChB of 1955, died 2013
Constable, William Charles Bill, MBChB of 1955, died 07/07/2013
Doyle, Jean Dunn (née Garven), PhD of 1955, died 10/05/2013
Edwards, Robert Geoffrey, PhD of 1955, died 10/04/2013
Faed, Michael James Willoughby, BSc of 1955, PhD of 1959, died 15/06/2013
Griffith, Margery Mary (née Searson), MA of 1955, died 2013
Hochstrasser, Robin Main, PhD of 1955, died 27/02/2013
Regan, Catherine Andrew, MA of 1955, died 2013
Robertson, Kenneth William, MA of 1955, died 2013

Eunson, Claire (née Budge), MA of 1956, died 2013
Kennedy, Jack Reynolds, PhD of 1956, died 16/10/2013
Mackay, Iain Murray, MBChB of 1956, died 13/03/2013
McFerran, John Brian, BSc of 1956, died 2013
Spink, Spencer Charles Euan, MBChB of 1956, died 2013

Bradley, Anthony Terence, BVMS of 1957, died 09/03/2013
Brown, Peffers Watson, MBChB of 1957, died 2013
Dawson, John Robert Brotherhood, BVMS of 1957, died 08/10/2013
Macrae, William, MA of 1957, LLB of 1959, died 2013
Smith, Peter Hall, BSc of 1957, died 2013

Stewart, Kenneth McLaughlan, MBChB of 1958, died 2013
Walsh, Joyce (née Cragg), MBChB of 1958, died 2013

Brown, James Rainy, BSc of 1959, died 29/04/2013
Chadwick, Jennifer Lesley (née Stevens), MA of 1959, died 06/05/2013
Delaney, James William, MBChB of 1959, died 04/08/2013
Livingstone, George, MA of 1959, died 2013
Smith, Laura Robina (née Cruickshank), MA of 1959, died 2013

Cowles, Fiona Mary (née Fletcher), MA of 1960, died 02/10/2013
Dawson, Peter Stockdale, BVMS of 1960, died 26/03/2013
Fuller, David John, MA of 1960, died 2013
Robinson, Morag (née Macgillivray), MA of 1960, died 17/01/2013

Bannerman, Elizabeth Crichton (née Thomson), MA of 1961, died 2013
Crighton, David Barry, MSc of 1961, DSc of 1981, died 2013
Ewart, Robin Brodie Lockhart, BSc of 1961, MBChB of 1964, died 13/04/2013

Hackett, Norman Leonard, MA of 1961, died 2013
McMorran, Mary Elizabeth (née Mitchell), MA of 1961, died 2013
Mighell, John Stanley, BVMS of 1961, died 2013
Stewart, John Masson, MA of 1961, BD of 1964, died 14/04/2013

Board, Ronald George, PhD of 1962, DSc of 1984, died 13/03/2013
Hunter, Clifford Kennedy Horn, BSc of 1962, died 2013
Leckie, George Gillon, BSc of 1962, PhD of 1967, died 2013

Burt, Andrew Wallace, BSc of 1963, died 31/01/2013
Coates, Peter Thomas, BSc of 1963, died 2013
Downes, John, MA of 1963, died 2013
Duncan, Elizabeth, Blair (née Smith), BSc of 1963, died 21/09/2013
Forbes, Anne Brydon Sutherland, BL of 1963, died 2013

Levein, Charles Peter Alexander, MA of 1964, PhD of 1973, died 21/05/2013
MacDougall, Alexander Goodwill, PhD of 1964, died 2013
Miller, Hugh Craig, BSc of 1964, MBChB of 1966, died 26/02/2013
Steele, Ian Crosthwaite, BSc of 1964, died 2013
Wilson, Andrew John, BSc of 1964, died 2013

Goodwille, Angus, BSc of 1965, died 19/04/2013
Hannah, Helen Barbara, MBChB of 1965, died 2013
Pitulko, Wieslaw Franciszek, BSc of 1965, died 2013

McNeill, John Brown, BSc of 1966, died 2013
Parkin, Geoffrey David, BVMS of 1966, died 2013
Rebbeck, David, BSc of 1966, died 2013
Steele, John, BCom of 1966, died 2013

Davidson, Patrick George, BVMS of 1967, died 2013
Gillies, Neil William, BSc of 1967, MBChB of 1970, died 2013
Jenkins, David Vaughan, BSc of 1967, 1968, died 01/11/2013
Kaufman, Matthew Howard, MBChB of 1967, DSc of 1984, died 11/08/2013
McQueen, Iain Norman Fanshawe, BSc of 1967, MBChB of 1970, died 2013
Smith, Humphrey Graham, BSc of 1967, PhD of 1973, died 2013
Thacker, Vincent John, BSc of 1967, died 2013

Dunbar, Kenneth Watson, LLB of 1968, died 11/04/2013
Jurand, Jadwiga, PhD of 1968, died 2013
Rowe, Keith Leslie, MA of 1968, died 2013
Taylor, Leslie BSc of 1968, died 25/05/2013
Wilson, Brian James, BSc of 1968, PHD of 1971, died 2013

Bowden, Thomas Bryan Mitchell, BSc of 1969, died 2013
Brine, Francis John, PhD of 1969, died 2013
Craigie, John Robert, BSc of 1969, died 03/11/2013
Docherty, Brian Cameron, BSc of 1969, died 2013
Gardner, Michael Leopold George, BSc of 1969, PhD of 1971, died 09/07/2013

Lamont, Ian Kerr, MA of 1969, died 2013
Lummis, Trevor, MA of 1969, died 23/09/2013
McMillan, Alison (née Rae), MA of 1969, died 2013
Mooney, Gavin Hunter, MA of 1969, died 2013
Shaw, Anthony John, BDS of 1969, died 2013

Campbell, William David, MSc of 1970, died 25/07/2013
Dale, Elizabeth Anne, BSc of 1970, died 2013
Kenny, Joseph Peter, PhD of 1970, died 28/01/2013
Liddell, Howard Laurence, BAr of 1970, died 23/02/2013
Mallinson, Rodney, BSc of 1970, PhD of 1975, died 14/05/2013
Murray, James Anthony Stoddard, LLB of 1970, died 27/04/2013

Campbell, David, Lister, BSc of 1971, MBChB of 1974, died 2013
Lapsley, Margaret, Muriel, MA of 1971, died 2013
Lyall, Kenneth, John, MA of 1971, PhD of 1983, died 13/06/2013
Scullard, John, Frederick, MA of 1971, died 2013
Shearer, Thompson, MA of 1971, died 2013

Crofton, Richard Wenman, MBChB of 1972, died 2013
Evans, Robert Llewelyn, MA of 1972, died 2013
Hutchison, Robert Edward, Hon MA of 1972, died 07/01/2013
Morris, Gillian Mary (née Ralph), MA of 1972, died 2013
Muir, James Fraser, BSc of 1972, died 01/05/2013
Roberts, Joyce Esmee, MSc of 1972, died 2013

Ceredig, Huw, BMus of 1973, died 24/01/2013
Doonan, Frances Elizabeth, BSc of 1973, died 09/11/2013
Rendle, Edith Lilian (née Stevenson), LLB of 1973, died 2013
Ronald, Douglas Arthur Bruce, MA of 1973, died 2013

Armstrong, Andrew James Gordon, LLB of 1974, died 2013
Bell, Margaret Louise, MA of 1974, died 2013
Burgess, Robert Derrick, MA of 1974, died 2013
Macgregor, Charles Albert Andrew, BSc of 1974, died 2013
McLetchie, David William, LLB of 1974, died 12/08/2013
Sime, John Thomas, BSc of 1974, PhD of 1978, died 2013
Thomson, John Maxwell Watt, LLB of 1974, died 30/09/2013

Beeton, David Nicholson, MA of 1975, died 20/02/2013
Feasey, Richard Andrew, MPHIL of 1975, died 2013

Hall, Francis Roger, BSc of 1976, died 2013

Blair-Fish, John Andrew, PhD of 1977, died 04/09/2013
Gonet, Ralph Gerard, BA of 1977, died 2013

Pembrey, Susan Elizabeth Manthorp, PhD of 1978, died 2013

Ball, David Cameron, MA of 1979, died 07/01/2013
McKie, Andrew, MA of 1979, died 2013
McLintock, John Toddun, MA of 1979, died 26/05/2013
Rose, Caroline (née Smith), MA of 1979, died 04/03/2013
Sim, Nguyen, BSc of 1979, died 2013

Cameron, Ewen, BVMS of 1980, died 2013

Wallace, Gavin Alistair, MA of 1981, PhD of 1987, died 04/02/2013

Zrudlo, Leo Raymond, PhD of 1982, died 17/06/2013

Boa, John, MA of 1984, PGD of 1995, died 2013
Green, Gwendoline, MSc of 1984, died 09/07/2013

Farquhar, Marion Black, MA of 1985, 1986, died 2013

Beveridge, Alexander Hutchison, PhD of 1986, died 2013

Wirz, Sheila Leslie, PhD of 1987, died 10/05/2013

Churcher, Stephen, BSc of 1989, PhD of 1993, died 30/08/2013
Hudson, Mark Edward, MA of 1989, died 2013
Rochmankowski, Anthony John Alexander, MA of 1989, Dip of 1991, died 2013
Varker, Nicholas William, BCom of 1989, died 2013
Vermes, Geza, Hon DD of 1989, died 08/05/2013

Risk, Thomas Neilson, Dr hc of 1990, died 2013

Walsh, Patrick Gerard, Hon DLetters of 1992, died 16/01/2013

Curran, Maureen, BSc of 1993, died 2013
Ingram, Ian Charles Campbell, MBA of 1993, died 23/11/2013
Lawrence, Ewan Gordon, BSc of 1993, died 2013

McDougall, Marcia (née Van Der Plas), MBChB of 1995, died 2013

Bellany, John, Dr hc of 1996, died 28/08/2013
Joyce, Jonathan Park, MSc of 1996, died 2013

King, Rachel Angharad Clare (née Axford), MA(H) of 1997, died 2013
Pott, Alexander Andrew, BSc(H) of 1997, died 2013
Thomson, Bridget MA of 1997, died 2013

Anderson, William Andrew, LTh of 1998, died 11/03/2013
Davis, Cecil George, PGD of 1998, died 2013
Murray, Kenneth, Dr hc of 1998, died 07/04/2013
Schuchert, Thomas Joseph, LLM of 1998, died 21/02/2013

Bright, Mark Tristan, BSC(H) of 1999, died 15/04/2013

Sutherland, Alasdair James, BNG(H) of 1999, PhD of 2004, died 22/08/2013

Suess, Nigel Marcus, PhD of 2000, died 2013

McMenigall, Andrew Scott, MBA of 2001, died 02/07/2013

Mills, Sarah, LLB (H) of 2001, died 2013

Brown, Gavin James, BCOM(H) of 2002, died 2013

Roy, George Ross, Hon DLetters of 2002, died 19/02/2013

Oom, Sander Pieter, PhD of 2003, died 2013

Walsh, John MSc of 2005, died 01/02/2013

Wickerson, Paul James, BSC(H) of 2005, died 31/08/2013

Cakebread, Mark William Edward, MA(H) of 2008, died 2013

Brady, Lis, MSC of 2010, died 2013

Finnegan, Una Rachel, MSC of 2011, died 19/01/2013

Forfar, John Oldroyd, died 14/08/2013 (retired Professor)

Manning, Susan, died 15/01/2013 (Professor)

Strong, John Anderson, died 2013 (retired Professor)

Papers from the General Council Meeting on 22 June 2013

A Presentation by Professor David Argyle, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

at the General Council Meeting on 22 June 2013

Professor David Argyle: Thank you very much, General Council, colleagues, members of the University. Thank you very much for inviting me here to talk to you about the work that we do here at the Veterinary School. The observant amongst you will see from the gown that I am wearing that I am a Glasgow graduate, so I am here on missionary business in the east. Before I start, I am going to talk to you a little bit about what we do in terms of students, in terms of research and in terms of the front face of the University, which is our clinical work that we do here. Those of you who have been here before will notice massive changes on the campus and the investment that has gone into that, and I think it is worth saying at the outset we could not have done this without the excellent leadership and support that we have had from the Principal and from the Head of College, Sir John Savill, so it has been an incredible amount of support from the University, and we would not have achieved any of this without that.

Now they asked me to speak for four and a half hours, is that okay? It is worth asking, as you look around the campus, what are we about, and we feel that as a school, as an entity within the University we have an international reputation based on all of our activities, and those activities are all equal. That is teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, our clinical service and our research, and to be honest with you all of those are inextricably linked, we cannot have one without the other. We want to shape both animal and human health, and I think we achieve that. We want to attract and teach the very best students, and attract and retain, which is incredibly important, the very best staff. We believe in knowledge through research, it is a research-led organisation.

It is worth just reflecting on where we have come from though. Any of you going on the tours will see the large picture which is the original Vet School. The original Vet School was in Clyde Street, it was in Clyde Street because it was next to the bus station and it had to be there, because that was where the horses collapsed. That is where the Vet School was, on Clyde Street. The founder was William Dick, that is why we are called the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, and you can see he ran the school with his charming, fun-loving sister. William Dick was a great pioneer really, and he went off from Edinburgh down to London, the only veterinary school in the UK at the time was the Royal Veterinary College, and the course was six months, I think it is eight now at the Royal Veterinary College, but he came back to Edinburgh. It just shows actually, even at that stage, the Veterinary School was very intertwined with the Medical School, which was making significant advances, and the first set of lectures actually took place in the centre of town and finally it was set up as a school in Clyde Street. That was the original caste, if you like, in the large photograph there of the staff. I had intended this year to recreate that picture with the current staff, but I have not got anybody to sit on the horse yet, but we will do that.

As I said I am a Glasgow graduate. We have two schools in Scotland, the Glasgow Veterinary School and Edinburgh, and there is some history to that as you might appreciate. James McCall,

who is the man next to the William Dick statue there, James McCall was a student of William Dick's and went to practice in Ayrshire and they fell out. They fell out over Rinderpest. Rinderpest is a terrible disease of cattle that was ravaging Northern Europe at that time and Dick felt that what you should do is diagnose the disease and treat it, and James McCall disagreed, he felt you should diagnose the disease and slaughter the cattle, which is actually the correct way. So to distance himself from Dick he set up a Glasgow Vet School and that is how we have two schools in Scotland. Of course there is no such rivalry today, at all! Both men, incredible pioneers, and I think it is worth saying that probably of the research output of the UK veterinary schools, over 50% comes from the two Scottish schools, and I think that says an awful lot about the history.

It is also worth mentioning that we have spawned a number of other veterinary schools across the world. Graduates of this school went on to set up the Ontario Veterinary School, Montreal, Cornell, the Liverpool Vet School, Glasgow Vet School, and we have had major influence in setting up schools in other places such as Africa. So the School is really embedded in not only the University's history, but in the history of Veterinary Medicine.

As I said we have a long history of strong pioneers. If you look at the wall outside, you will see the previous Heads and Principals of the School. Another was Charnock Bradley. Charnock Bradley did Veterinary Medicine and just to show he could he went off and read Medicine here as well at the University and became the first chair of Comparative Anatomy and moved the School from Clyde Street to Summerhall. As many of you will know the Summerhall site was sold to move all of the School out here. The bottom picture there is a reflection of what it was like out here before the University took it over. Easter Bush was a small cattle farm, it was bought by the University in 1947 and was adopted by the Dick Vet in the 1960s and of course all the large animal surgery moved out of town at the time, and we had small animal surgery in town. A young Tim O'Shea on that cattle wagon I think there. It is worth reflecting that this is the estate today, and if I can move the pointer, you are around here, so you can see we have a significant amount of land to our farms around here. We also inherited another farm when we incorporated Roslin in 2007, so we had two farms which are streamlined into one now, that we use as a business but also fundamentally to teach the students as well.

In 2007 the Easter Bush vision was ignited and a decision was taken to co-locate all the Vet student teaching in one location, to close Summerhall and move everything out here. There was another very strategic decision to merge Roslin Institute within the School and to develop a Strategic partnership with BBSRC which is a major funding council, and also in clinical terms we wanted to expand animal cancer care as well. We had a vision for this campus to create a world-leading centre of veterinary research, education and clinical care, and a vibrant campus environment for both the students and for the people working here as well. What you see around you today and on the tours is a reflection of £100m worth of investment and the idea at that time was to have everything running by the end of 2012, which of course we have achieved. This is the building site that happened in April 2008 and when you put these slides together it is sometimes nice to see, you don't really realise when you are working here every day, how far we have actually come, but this was the building site. In 2009 we opened the Cancer Centre. I was responsible for that because I was appointed to the Chair of Clinical Studies and Head of Cancer. The big grey box there houses a linear accelerator, which is quite a significant piece of kit to treat animals with radiation treatment. You have to house it in a concrete bunker. It is very hard to hide a concrete bunker, so you paint it grey and put the University logo on the side and it becomes a listed building, that is how you retain buildings within the University! That was opened in 2009, it has been quite incredible. Our clinical income through the cancer service has increased about 70-

80% since we opened that, so it has been a very important service. The building that you are in was £42m, which was completed in 2010 and there was an official opening in 2011. You can see, you were in the atrium, this is quite incredible. We bring people into this building and they just go 'Wow!' It is quite stunning for students to work here. It is a great thing. The other important thing; I am a great fan of history, and having the stained glass windows from Summerhall reminds us just where we have come from and the history that we have behind us, and I think that is just really incredible, and sometimes I have William Dick looking at me disapprovingly from the statue.

The new Roslin Institute building; this was an amazing decision by the University. We are the envy of every veterinary school in the United Kingdom. I know this because I sit on the Royal College Council. Taking in the Roslin Institute and making that the research arm of the school was a great decision to take and we have grown from strength to strength, and I will talk a little bit about that as we move through the talk. The Roslin building has a very, very different feel to this building. It is all about communication and connecting people in research. From above it is supposed to be shaped like a metaphase chromosome, so if you are ever flying over just have a look and if you are a genetics expert that is quite good. The other thing that I had not appreciated until I started to put these slides together is how far we have come with the other things that we put in the campus, like new Campus Facilities Centre. This is what the campus looked like back in 2007, the road going through, terrible parking, mud baths everywhere, and this is today. We have put in cycle paths for the students, and a much nicer environment for people to work in and it really has become a vibrant place for both teaching and education; so we thank the University for contributing £11m to the expansion of these facilities for everyone to make them safer and more pleasant.

What we think we have at the moment is an infrastructure for excellence in teaching, clinical service and research, with all the things we have put together. I want to just explore that in a bit more detail, and just highlight some of the things we are doing in education, clinical work and research. We are enormously popular for people applying to Veterinary Medicine here and you can see that we have become even more popular with the kind of facilities and the people that we have here. We take that incredibly seriously. One of the major emphases we have had over the last couple of years is to enhance the student experience. Part of that has been the space and the space that we have now has really allowed us to build some really strong academic communities. It sounds a cliché, but there is a great buzz on the campus. There is a great feeling of interaction, with all the staff here, as well as the students, has been quite incredible. We have been reflecting on what we really want to achieve and we want to produce the next generation of vets, but those vets really need to be research literate, so they are able to use evidence-based medicine to make clinical judgements. We want to make them clinically confident, and we want also to allow them to be able to communicate to the general public, and that is something that we often forget. On the back of that I have to satisfy a number of things. We are visited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the European equivalent and also the American Veterinary Medical Association, because we are accredited by Europe, the UK and the United States, and that is incredibly important because we have an international base of students. At the end of 2014 we will have a week long visitation from all of these people to show them how good we are and be under scrutiny, so we have to make sure that what we deliver to the students is nothing short of excellent.

We are constantly innovating so we are trying to enhance the curriculum choice for students, although it is Veterinary Medicine, we are trying to allow students to, if they want to do fish. For instance we have now got a very good relationship with the University of Stirling to allow them to

go and do some fish work there, because we do not really cover that here. We have opened a clinical skills lab. You can see the horse there. This horse came from America about three or four weeks ago. It was great because I spent Friday afternoon playing with it. I don't like high horses, but ones that are models suit me down to the ground. We spend a significant amount of money on these kind of manikins to allow students to gain experience. This horse in particular can be induced to have colic, so we can fill the gastrointestinal tract with gases and liquids; they can rectal it, they can put their hands in, they can do all sorts, it has got interchangeable ovaries, things I never had when I was a student, but it is quite incredible. We also make sure that all of our students have exposure to research. It is no good having the Roslin on the doorstep without utilising that and we have a great system where students can do research summer projects, and they have a fantastic time. A student in my lab last year got a publication out of that, and that is what we aim to do. When they see their names on papers it is quite an incredible thing for them. And we provide national and international placements. As I said, the kind of things we are trying to achieve with the students is to keep up with advancements in technology, so we have been developing virtual farms here; the virtual abattoir, which would have been great when I was a student, because I hated doing abattoir work. Articulate Storyline in teaching is a new way of delivering information to students through tutorials; and also 3D printing technology we are about to invest heavily in, and this is the way of taking complex images and allowing students to be able to model that in anatomy, which is quite incredible.

As I said the other part of that, it is great giving them a good education, we also want to make sure they go away from here very happy, because our profession is incredibly small, and we want to make sure that our students go out and promote the school they were in as well as the University, so we have looked at this very carefully. I was interested to hear that you are keeping a watchful eye on the Personal Tutor system. This School has done quite a lot in this area. We appointed a significant number of people and reorganised our student support team. As my father used to say, if you surround yourself with good people you achieve great things. Of course he used to precede that with you may be useless, but... I am blessed with having great people in our Education Unit that have spent a huge amount of time and effort with us. We have appointed a Student Experience Officer and a number of Student Support Fellows for our increasing number of students. So in terms of enhancing the student experience we want to obviously give them excellent teaching and excellent facilities, but also make sure they can get help when needed through academic and pastoral support. Good feedback, and feedback as I am sure you will know is an issue for us that we want to rectify. A feeling of wellbeing, and also a feeling of being part of the Dick Vet family, is something that I try to reinforce to all of the students. So they see me as the wicked father that says no to things, but we are a good strong family out here at the Vet School. In support of our students we instituted our own Personal Tutor system, which did not exactly follow strictly the University system. We held a number of meetings with students and we allowed them to design their own system, what they wanted, mainly so that we could blame them afterwards. They came up with the system. We created a house system for them and a Student Support and Advisory Group and an on-campus Referral Service. So in the Personal Tutor System, each student is allocated a Personal Tutor, who gives academic and pastoral advice to the tutee; so there is a partnership through the degree, review, feedback and discussion of progress, the opportunity to talk about difficulties. They meet at least once per semester, and when required, and the Personal Tutor is normally the first point of contact for a student with a problem now. We created a house system, after listening listening to students, creating communities. We needed to name the houses, I wanted war ships, the students wanted hills, so they got hills, the Pentland Hills. This is our house system, so for instance Castle Law there. There are eighty tutees per house, with Personal Tutors seven per house and a Senior House Tutor as well. This is not just for academic

things, we go bowling and do all sorts of things with that as well. The students have been great with this, and the other thing they have done, they have started making logos for each of their houses. There is almost internal competition for this now, and I don't know why my wife is in charge of Spittal House, I think the students gave her that because of me. So the house system allows very clear access to support mechanisms, social integration, a very good impetus for staff/student social events, and it has certainly enhanced the camaraderie and family atmosphere within the school, so there are a number of things that we have done. The Halloween Party in October and pre-Burns Supper in January have become part of the tradition now, and that has been a fantastic success, as well as the first Dick Vet Bowling Tournament, which took place in February. The Halloween Party was 2012 was just great. We do work as well, that was me feeling blue. They even had a pumpkin competition and it was only me who didn't realise that was me! Unfortunately! We make sure that they have a good time. Study skills advice, advice, stress management, mental health monitoring and professional counselling are all on board here. We have a very good relationship with central services as well.

The students also have done things themselves, they have started their own Student Welfare Week, they had the inaugural one last year and it was repeated this year, and they invited speakers and ran it themselves. They did a fantastic job and we gave them support to do that. Is everybody still awake? Yes great.

I just wanted to talk now a little bit about our research environment because this goes hand in hand with our educational environment and it is really education in a research-led environment. This was a quote from Sir John Beddington, The Government Chief Scientific Officer at the time, that really highlighted the importance of the Agricultural Research and work that was done in Scotland, and we are incredibly well-placed to do this. The vision for this campus is a European Centre of Excellence in Animal Science. It is a very, very simple vision and in large part we have secured that. It is on the basis of two things; one Health, we take full advantage of the fact that we are strategically sited within a Medical School, and the other aspect of that is Food Security, which is really all about the livestock industry and making sure that we can feed the nation, and help our international partners. Our major areas of impact for this campus are in the areas of livestock and human genetics. I put 'and Human' there because we have a great relationship as I said with our Medical colleagues, and although often our Medical colleagues talk about animal models of human disease, I did point out to the Head of College recently that humans were actually a very good model for some cattle diseases, and we should use the Medical School more often. We also are interested in animal health, both livestock and companion animals, the biotech and of course human health is incredibly important to us. So please do not worry about reading this in any great detail, but it is all about enhancing animal health and welfare through knowledge, sustainability of livestock systems, food safety, enhancing human and companion animal health through understanding the basic mechanisms of health and disease, identifying new diseases and tackling that, and also enhancing the quality of life for animals by studying mechanisms and behaviours, associated with optimising their environment and life's experiences, and I do not think there is an endemic disease in the UK at the moment that is not studied on this campus, which is something that not many people can claim.

We divide the research into genetics and genomics affecting immunity, neurobiology, developmental biology and clinical sciences, and all of those are interlinked, people go across those divisions. Here is just a snap short of some of those things. Everybody thinks about Roslin and they think about Dolly, but there is a whole raft of other things that the Institute is world renowned in. In terms of our genetics capabilities at the moment, I think it is pretty much official

that we are second only to the Sanger Centre in Cambridge for sequencing technologies and sequencing output of genetics here. The other thing that we take full advantage of, of course, is that this campus houses one of the largest computer systems in Europe and we are allowed to capitalise on that by utilising it for data storage and data handling. We also have very strong partnerships locally here. I say we are an incredibly strong campus, we are also strong because of our partnerships. We have a close relationship with what was the Scottish Agricultural College, it is now SRUC (Scotland's Rural Universities College), the Moredun Research Institute, our partners in Glasgow, and some of our partners across Scotland, including Aberdeen and Stirling and the Scottish Government.

The other aspect our work of course is clinical service, and we really are the front face of the University here. We have three main hospitals; the Small Animal Hospital, the Equine Hospital and our Cattle Practice. We also have First Opinion Practice, so our clinicians and members of the University meet the general public every day. It is not just about treating dogs and cats, in all seriousness we satisfy the 'one health agenda' here. Everything we do can directly be reflected in human health. Just to give you an example, in terms of One Health One Medicine and One Biology, some universities do pay lip-service to this. I think we can put our hands on our hearts and say we actually do it, just to give you an example, the picture at the bottom there, and I am sorry you are seeing this just before lunch, but that is a set of donkey lungs. Donkeys get chronic fibrosis, and it is a very good model for human chronic lung fibrosis. We have just received a very large Medical Research Council Grant to develop the donkey for a model for human disease. That is quite incredible. So in the ideal world everybody is healthy, children are healthy, dogs and cats are healthy, but actually in reality for both species, chronic disease and diseases associated with ageing in humans and animals are incredibly common. There are a number of important diseases we work on here, cancer, liver disease, osteoarthritis and kidney disease, and these are as much a major cause of reduced quality of life or death in dogs and cats as they are in humans. Current treatments are aimed at symptom control rather than cure. So in terms of what we see in the clinic here we can take clinical observations and marry that to the human equivalent, but of course there are important advances in technology that allow us to take that a little bit further, because take dogs with cancer for instance, that behaves in exactly the same way as humans with cancer. Here are the human equivalents and the dog and cat equivalents, cancer is common. One in three dogs get cancer, one in three people will get cancer as well. The important thing is we can go far beyond clinical observation now; the fact that we have the Roslin Institute next door and we have access to all the genomic information means that we can go far beyond clinical observation and we can back all of our understanding of these diseases with hard genetic evidence. This is my own area, so that is why I am selling it today. We have done a number of things where we have tried to explore some of the mechanisms in cancer, and just to give you a little snapshot here, this is currently the linear drug development pathway that you see in human medicine for developing a cancer drug. If you develop a cancer drug you have to prove that it works in a mouse, okay. My mum can cure cancer in a mouse! Very easy to do, it is very good for shareholders, but if you cure cancer in a mouse, jumping then to human clinical trials, huge number of drugs fail, and they fail quite spectacularly and sometimes at very high cost. So we have this linear drug development pathway going from mouse to human, failure of drugs. In actual fact it can take up to ten to fifteen years to get a good drug into the clinics. Partnering with our medical colleagues, in actual fact if we look at parallel studies in dogs and cats, dogs often represent a much better model than the mouse, and if you conduct some of those parallel studies in dogs in true clinical cases through the clinics here, then potentially you could reduce a lot of the cost involved in drug development, but also more rapidly move drugs into the human field.

Just to give you an example of some of the things that are happening. There is a very large programme grant at the moment. This is led by Alan Murray who is Head of Engineering, Mark Bradley in Chemistry, myself here in Veterinary Medicine, Social Science and Human Cancer Medicine. It is a £5.2m grant that we got from the Engineering Research Council, and this is actually doing just that. I will give you a little snapshot of that. This is to try and improve the outcome of radiotherapy in patients. You know that some of these diseases are very bad and radiotherapy is used to treat them. Radiotherapy tends to be accurate between about 0.5mm. Some of the problems with radiotherapy and the reason it fails is because tumours are incredibly clever things and areas of hypoxia, no oxygen in the tumour, means that those tumours do not get irradiated properly and if we can identify those regions and we can hit them with more radiation then that would be an incredible step forward in human medicine. These hypoxic regions are not static, so you cannot just take an image of them and try to find them and hit them with more radiation, so we wanted to see if we could actually increase the success of radiotherapy by targeting these regions using implanted sensors. My colleagues in Engineering are developing these microsensors to be able to detect these regions. They need to miniaturise them so that we can place them into tumours and essentially place these sensors within patients, and all the pre-clinical studies before they go into man will be done through dogs and cats on this campus, because this is a huge challenge. Although that may seem slightly trivial, to try to improve this could have massive implications for survival of patients, and also the cost to the National Health Service, so a huge impact of research that could be fundamentally done in dogs and cats.

The other areas we are looking at in terms of diseases in humans are failing organ systems like arthritis, liver disease and cardiac disease, and part of that picture is showing us how we are trying to grow mitral valves in tissue culture to try to understand the basis of mitral valve disease in Cavalier King Charles spaniels, but of course direct relevance to human medicine. So the future, the idea behind our clinics really, although we provide a clinical service for Scotland and the North of England, we believe that we should not be here unless we are advancing knowledge and for us it is not just about translational medicine, but trying to transform clinical practice both in Veterinary Medicine and in human health, improved animal welfare and better understanding of disease.

Just to finish off on a few slides, I just wanted to highlight some of the challenges that we face and some of the things we are trying to do to mitigate that. There is absolutely no doubt that high on our agenda at the moment is concern over rising student debt, and recently at the Deans meeting in the United States for Veterinary School Deans, it was reported that in the United States student debt was only now second to credit card debt as a major national problem for Americans, and that is of concern to us as well and we want to make sure that students that come here can survive here. Clinical competition is important as well for us, so we want to make sure that our clinical services are excellent. We are trying to be competitive in postgraduate education and research income. It is all about maintaining the clinical edge for us and investing in people and investing in technologies. Other things that are changing for us as a profession; 80% of our graduates now go into small animal practice, which is a big change to how it was, even twenty years ago. 80% of our graduates are female as well, which changes the profession. There are awful economic pressures in equine and farm animal practice which is a knock-on from the agricultural sector, and there is a changing face of veterinary medicine internationally. We have to accept change, maintain excellence in research, teaching and clinical practice, and we think that all of these are inextricably linked to the success of the School. We are heavily investing in the clinics as a platform for translational research, maintaining the cutting edge, providing opportunities for our clinicians to change practice and lead innovation, provide key clinical questions to underpin research as well,

provide the next generation of veterinarians, and provide education opportunities to lead postgraduate education nationally and internationally, and I am sure that the Principal may have spoken to you at length about the kind of online things that we do and the MOOCs, Massive Online Open Courses, and certainly we have been heavily involved in that.

We have a number of initiatives on the campus at the moment which I am going to skim through. One is to coalesce all our Pathology into a Centre for Comparative Pathology, coalesce the hospitals into research hospitals, but also develop a network with our local practices that serve us and actually badge them as research partners. Clinical trials and imaging facilities are important and enhance our postgraduate education. Just as we leave I just wanted to show you what the future of Easter Bush is, because as I said to you we have invested £100m in this campus and the plan over the next four to five years is to spend another £80m. We have the Roslin Institute, the Vet School and the hospitals, and I will just show you some of the initiatives that are going on. This is the campus plan now, it is a 20 year plan, but I am a little bit more eager than that and I think we will do this a lot sooner. You can see that you are in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, we are looking at a Pathology Extension, Innovation Hub, new Avian Facilities, Large Animal Research and Imaging Centre, Large Animal Hospital, and a new SBF (Sustainable Biodiversity Fund) Avian Facility. Some of this is under way. At the back, the Roslin Institute, if you walk around there, is nearly completed now. This is our Conventional Avian Research Unit, or the 'Chicken Shed' this is where we keep the chicks, and incredibly important from our research point of view. We also were awarded the money to build this, which is starting in July, just along the road. This is a Specified Pathogen-free Avian Facility, or the 'very expensive Chicken Shed', which is part of the National Avian Research Facility. Poultry is incredibly important to us here, and it is important to the national economy and internationally. We have a whole raft of research which is just summarised there in terms of our output in poultry and diseases. We have recently achieved complete funding for this, in part through the Principal again with his matched funding from the Scottish Government. There is also matched funding from BBSRC to build an Innovation Centre and Campus Hub. This will have a ground floor, which is campus facilities, support for students again, outreach centre, gymnasium, EUSA shop, that kind of thing, but above it research labs and a hub for incubator and companies as well. The idea is to have more commercial tenants, spin out companies from the Roslin Institute and ourselves and co-location of some of our research and development partners. Zoetis was Pfizer Animal Health, which separated from Pfizer, Genus, BGI (Beijing Genomics Institute) we have very good relationships with all of these people. The next phase of development is a Large Animal Research and Imaging Centre, and this is to make us a national centre for large animal research and to have the imaging capabilities to really make us unique in the world and the British Biological Research Council again have looked very favourably on this and we will be going after some significant Government funding for this set-up.

The other area that we are developing, we have to change our equine facilities, they are currently in the most difficult state of the campus, we need to improve all of those facilities. As part of that we are creating a Centre for Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation for racehorses, to try and rejuvenate the whole equine industry and here are some of the things that will go in there. It will go right through clinical work, rehabilitation, education, imaging and research. This is just an artist's impression of what that might look like. We strongly believe that pathology is the core of our research activities, so again, with our colleagues in human Medicine we are creating what we call a Centre for Comparative Pathology, which includes diagnostic and experimental pathology, with strategic alliances. Again fundamental support for education and research, and closely integrated with our medical colleagues to make sure we take full advantage of our position within the College, again maximising our opportunities through imaging, data collection, clinical cases

and comparative pathology. We are the one place in the world that can really deliver on a 'one medicine' agenda. These are the stages of development, some of it is already completed, but as you will see we are incredibly ambitious as a campus, and I think we see ourselves as a 'Jewel in the Crown' of the University. I am going to finish there, I am very happy to take any questions. The concept behind us is enhancing both human and animal health with both science and compassion, and thank you for listening to me.

Rector: Thank you David. I think some of us will feel slightly short-changed on the promised four and a half hours. Are there any questions?

Ms Ethel Houston: The facilities are extremely brilliant. Could you say something about the student housing provisions?

Professor David Argyle: In consultation with the students actually, we took a decision not to house students out here, and part of that, and I strongly support this, is I do believe that the students need an Edinburgh University experience. If we housed all of our students out here we would almost become a separate college, and I don't think that is good for their education. So what usually happens is that students in their clinical years, or the more mature students, probably get local housing rented on the farms or around here, but certainly in the earlier years I think it is incredibly important that they are seen as Edinburgh University students and not just Dick Vet students.

Dr Alan Brown: Thank you very much for that magnificent over-view of what has happened here. It is as you say the 'Jewel in the Crown'. Can I raise a slightly mundane question? The sign-posting to this area is not good. We came out by taxi from Edinburgh on the Penicuik Road, and at the big round-about there is a sign to Easter Bush and there is not another sign until we get here. We passed the Technopole, we passed Moredun and you wonder whether you should be going in there. Can anything be done?

Professor David Argyle: Well, it is interesting that you say that. I recently wrote to the Head of College and said 'Dear Sir John Savill, I used to be a reasonably good veterinary surgeon, now I deal with the buses.' One, Estates & Buildings know about some of these issues, and we are trying to do something about the signage. The other thing, in terms of outwith the campus and the signage that goes with that we are working very closely with Midlothian Council. I have to say that we are having some very good support from the council, because the other thing that will happen as part of this estate development. They see this actually as the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Midlothian, they said it is the best kept secret in Midlothian for them, and there is discussion about how the road layout will actually change. We petitioned quite strongly that we wanted that road closed off to be a private road, but they wouldn't listen to that. But it is a major issue. The other major issue I have had, which is linked with your question, which is how do I get the students out here. That has been, as the Rector will probably know as well, what is colloquially known as 'Busgate'. It nearly finished my career, trying to sort out how we would deal with the buses. Just to say that the School pays Lothian Buses £200,000 a year, or something like that, just so that we can have a service. And we are trying to reduce that as the service is taken up. I think, and hopefully the Rector will agree with me, we have probably sorted that with the students, and I think we came to a very, very good amicable arrangement, and I have strongly supported the students financially as well, because some of them were finding it difficult to get out here, but hopefully we have sorted that issue. I take your point and I will pass it on to Midlothian, but I think it is something that they have already heard.

Ms Anne Paterson: Thank you for a wonderful talk, and you could probably spend the next three hours talking about this, but could you say briefly connections with developing countries, and African institutions, and what you are doing for the world?

Professor David Argyle: Yes, absolutely, on many levels actually. So from a simple level our students will have placements to work in African countries. In research there is a lot going on. You may recall that we used to have the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine out here, which was in the buildings right at the back. Myself and David Hume, who is the Director of the Roslin Institute, have made a strategic decision to reinvent the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, because it had a brand worldwide and coalesced a lot of the research that is going on here into one unit, and we are hoping to launch that in early 2014. A number of things that are going on; a major thing in infectious diseases and molecular epidemiology, particularly in areas like Tanzania. We are also involved at the moment in trying to support Malawi in setting up a Veterinary School, from an educational point of view. We have connections both through the livestock industry, but also with our colleagues in Stirling with fish. I think you name it we are probably involved in it. We have a very good relationship with GALVMed which are a development agency that translates research into practice in the African countries, and the other area would be in research funding with the Gates Foundation. We have support from them in terms of some of the research projects. So there is a lot going on. The other thing that we are part of, which cuts across the Colleges in the University, is the Global Academies; out of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine comes the Global Health Academy, and under that umbrella there is a lot that goes on in terms of both research and education. We launched this year an online distance learning course MSc in One Health, again mainly targeted towards the developing world, because we want people in federal countries to be able to have the Edinburgh experience. They can't afford to come to Edinburgh, but they want the Edinburgh experience and we want that to be excellent as well. That was a very brief over-view, but if you email me I can give you a lot more details, but there is a lot going on as there is in the whole university.

Mr Gordon Cairns: There is an email been received from Emma, she was Scot, now Rodrigues dos Santos, split into three parts, a couple of which I think you have already answered. She was querying what has happened to the Summerhall Building, what are the joint programmes between Roslin and Easter Bush, but perhaps most importantly is the poor water buffalo still trudging round in a circle to demonstrate draft power at Easter Bush? Emma was a graduate of the Dick Vet School in 1999.

Professor David Argyle: No nothing about the buffalo, and that is my official line on the buffalo. Summerhall is now a venue. It was sold. We did think that it would probably be converted into flats, but it has become quite a trendy venue, you can visit there and the students still have some functions in there, so it is nice to see it is still there. What joint programmes do we have with Roslin? None, because we really like to think that we are one and the same to be honest with you. We are totally integrated, I think. There are some times when we have to be separate, in some instances we are separate, but we like to think that all of our programmes are totally integrated.

Mr Alan Johnston: Thank you for a tremendous exposition of the fantastic facilities you have here, and of course you have very good people, and it is the people who make it. While I am sure you can attract very good people with the facilities that you have, but your best people must be in a world market looking at Australia, looking at North America and so on. Do you find that a brain drain is the competition?

Professor David Argyle: It is a very good question, it is high on the agenda. We have been very disappointed that a new veterinary school is opening in Surrey. We feel that the market is flooded. The heads of Vet Schools are very concerned about that, so as a profession we were very disappointed that the Royal College did not stand up and be a little more forceful in that area. There was a great deal of concern that of course a new school opening, the honeymoon period and large amounts of money going into these enterprises can attract staff away. Thankfully, and touch wood, we have not had that issue. The one thing that I think that we are blessed with here is that we have a very, very strong University; despite the size of it I think you still feel part of the University. Members of staff feel very proud to be part of Edinburgh University. We are very lucky in where we are; people like working here. We are incredibly supported by the staff here, and we have tried to create a strong feeling of camaraderie. Certainly the way I restructured things over the last couple of years we have tried to do that. We are the first veterinary school to achieve Athena SWAN status and there a number of other things that we are implementing on the back of that. So we can do our best. Largely speaking you are absolutely right we are in a world market. There are some times when we cannot compete on salaries, that is an issue, worldwide, but includes right up to the level of the Dean – I don't think I am paid enough. David Hume of the Roslin Institute says 'You need to threaten to resign more', and I said 'Do you know, I think they might accept, and I have a mortgage to pay', so we do our very best. I suppose if people are going to go they are going to go, and they were always going to go, so there some that decide to leave and they always leave with good grace here, and it is very amicable. But largely speaking we try to be as supportive to the staff as possible, we try to give them the clinical facilities that they like to work in and we try not to overload them. I think we had a 100% return on our appraisals this year, so we really looked at personal and professional development. I think that we probably could do better, but we are doing the best that we can to keep people. Interestingly, my last three appointments have been from the United States; so a new equine surgeon from North Carolina, my new internal medicine professor from North Carolina and my new radiation oncologist from Georgia. In fact the Dean of North Carolina phoned me and asked me to come and give a talk, and I said 'I'm not even on a recruitment drive, Paul, why would I come and visit you'. We have actually done quite well in attracting people, which gives me great confidence that we can probably keep them as well.

Mr Peter Austin: David could you perhaps help the general public, and perhaps the University students and professionals, to understand the difficulties that TB vaccination presents in various animals and cattle.

Professor David Argyle: Do you know I would love to, but it would be a very difficult thing for me to comment on, we could talk afterwards, but that is a very difficult question for me to talk about in an open forum. Thank you for raising it, I really appreciate that.

Professor Charles Swainson: Where do you think from a research perspective, and animal care perspective, it is a major health problem most of us have read about in newspapers, where do you think, there are lots of directions, where do you think the answer will come from?

Professor David Argyle: Okay, so this is my honest opinion at the moment, and it reflects the profession, if you like. If you look outside you will see the pioneers of the profession, on the wall outside, and I think the profession as it stands had a hay day in the last century, and had great influence on disease control and disease management. If I am honest I think that the profession has lost its way. If you looked at the Ministry of Agriculture as it was, the Ministry of Agriculture,

Fisheries and Foods, when I was an undergraduate, there were lots of vets that were involved in policy-making decisions and expertise, and if you look at Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) today, actually there is far fewer of our profession there. I do feel that we have lost our voice if you like, and I would call to the profession in actual fact that it is time for a renaissance, and a time for the profession to come back, and this is what I will be telling our students just before their graduation, that I will be looking to them actually to help drive things because I do believe that as a profession that we have lost our voice and I think that it needs to come back again. We need to have a stronger voice in some of these key decisions that tend to be made.

Professor Ann Smyth: Because of sitting on Court, I am interested in the political context for higher education at the moment. You mentioned that 80% of the student body are now women, but you did not say very much about the other characteristics of the students whom you now recruit, and I wanted to invite you to comment on the balance now between those from Scotland, from the rest of the UK and international students, and whether you have any concerns about the future dynamics, in a changing world.

Professor David Argyle: It is a very good question, and one that is very high on my agenda, because if I am honest, the funding councils, both HEFC (Higher Education Funding Council) and SHEFC (Scottish Higher Education Funding Council) keep changing the goal-posts, and the goal-posts mid-stream. Up until recently we were capped, so that the number of undergraduates we could take in direct from schools in the United Kingdom and northern Europe was at 72. Obviously with a change in structure we have a specific number of Scottish students, and a number of English students. That is a challenge, because we have to try to make sure that we are spot on with our numbers. And of course kids have to have very, very high grades to get in here, so we are putting a lot of faith in them; we do interviews and various things. There are a number of problems. We were told last year, again interestingly the cap had been removed, but essentially we are still capped, because financially we still cannot take more than 72 with the way the SHEFC grant works, so essentially we are not capped, but we are. I have been greatly concerned by the drop in Scottish applicants. That is something that we need to work on as a school. We have had some discussions about that and it also fits in with the widening participation agenda. That is another issue that is of concern to us, because in terms of how they have divided that up with postcodes; most of those postcodes are in the west and traditionally those students would go to Glasgow, and actually Edinburgh has that sort of elitist thing that trying to get kids to come over to Edinburgh is more of a challenge than it is in Glasgow. We would like to allow them to extend those postcodes to rural areas which are more important to us. A number of concerns; with the drop in the number of Scottish applicants, we have been talking recently about how we get the message out to a lot of the schools, and how we are going to do that, but it is a balancing act, and of course what always hits the press when the results come out is 'Edinburgh took English students, because they were paying' and actually we have to use the mantra that we are very particular in what we have to do and it is not set by ourselves as it were. Now obviously everything above 72 places we charge for, and that is very important to us because it pays for a lot of the things you see around you. It is an important part of our business plan, and I am not ashamed of that. It is part of the idea of making sure that the students get value for money for what they are paying. Veterinary medicine is a hugely expensive course, and the clinics do not make any money at all, interestingly, just to say that. I get hammered constantly by the College about our income through the clinics, because they think the vets have a license to make money, but we have to teach 180 students a year and when you are doing that, that is an important consideration, so we need our fee-paying students. There are a number of challenges with that. Largely speaking, the

number of extra students have come from North America. North American schools have expanded their in-state programmes so they have taken in more students, some of them have reduced their fees, and three new schools have opened up in North America. Denmark has gained AVMA (American Veterinarian Medical Association) accreditation, Dublin has gained AVMA accreditation. What I am aiming for here at this school is that this should actually be your first choice, not when you cannot get into some of the other schools; this is the place to be. That is the vision for the campus, why would you go anywhere else to do veterinary medicine if you could get in here, and that is my vision for attracting students. To go back to your original question, 72 home places, everything else are fee-paying. 180 students per year, and I would say about 60% of those, that fee-paying entry, are overseas and about 40% are (other UK). However, just to make my life even more difficult this year, and to nearly send me into apoplexy is that HEFC wrote to the English veterinary schools and told them that they could top up fees for graduates, and so currently the English veterinary schools are offering UK graduates a course at £9,000, and ours is £27,000, and I can't do anything about that. So again another game-change mid-stream.

Rev Dr Alison Fuller: I am interested in one of the things you were saying about Tutor system of support for students these days. I wondered how life here compares with other universities. It has made me wonder if there has not been much tutorial support between my time at university, when we did have a tutor, has there been very little support between-time.

Professor David Argyle: No, in actual fact, although we had introduced the Personal Tutor system, previous to that we had had a Director of Studies system here, which in fairness to all my colleagues worked incredibly well. It was a system of its time, when we had 50 or 60 students, now we have 180 students per year and that changes the dynamics considerably. There were specific concerns certainly about mental health issues, which are incredibly important, and actually there were a number of staff who were becoming very over-loaded with problems. The other concerns were to make sure that we had a streamlined referral system, when students really needed help they knew who to go to and where to get it. I don't think that the system we had before was terribly broken, I think we had a very good system, but I think you have to adapt to change and improve things. We did listen to the students and we did ask and took on board all their recommendations, but we have to adapt to a new environment. The other thing that we had to adapt to was culturally very different, because a lot of our students are from North America, and USA and the UK are two countries separated by a common language and culturally it can be very, very different and we had to adapt. Although I do not think the Director of Studies System was a major problem, we just had to adapt to new circumstances, and I think that was part of the University's self-reflection.

Mr Matthew McPherson: Thank you very much, David for that, I am very sorry about the active part I played in 'Busgate', but I am very excited, I never thought I would start a hache-tag on Twitter.

Professor David Argyle: You were the good one in 'Busgate'.

Mr Matthew McPherson: Was I, oh good! I actually considered building and driving the bus myself at one point. Thank you very much for that. I very much welcome genuinely and am warmly encouraged by all the work that is taking place across the school. I also very much welcome the holistic approach the Vet School is taking to the part it plays within the wider University community, and does not view itself as a separate thing. Now one of those is to do with finance; you mention fees, and you very much mention student debt as being an international problem

that is really touching every student in western universities actually, and around the world. You also mention there is a slight slump that you are obviously aware of in regard to Scottish applicants, from students in Scotland. Now of course Scottish students do not pay fees, but their education is far from free because of the fact that often their grant and other scholarships that are available, and their loans, are not enough to cover the cost of them actually being here. I was wondering what structural changes you are able to make. Transport is one of those, the fact that students studying Veterinary Medicine do not have time to have a part-time job, for example, unlike other degrees, is of concern, and so I was wondering what other structural changes you might be able to make to ensure that the Scottish students we do get are the best students, and not just the middleclass and above who can afford to come here with support from their parents?

Professor David Argyle: Yes, it is a really difficult question, that, because obviously we are constrained by our own internal finances. We try to do a lot, although you are absolutely right, because of the nature of the course sometimes they cannot get jobs. A lot of students do lambing and try to get placements where they are paid to do that. Certainly for the summer students that we have here through research we try to pay all of them, because it is usually paid up grants on which they come in to do that. Certainly the students in my lab, we will give them a stipend per week to make sure that we try and cover their living expenses during vacation. The other thing that we are trying to do, one of the other concerns for us was fee-paying students, who for some reason, not through their own making, may have to fail that year. There might be a tragedy at home or something has happened and of course then they may have to resit the year and we have worked out a mechanism I think with help from the University of how to offset those fees that they might have to partake. I think we have a resolution on how we are going to do that for them. We try and support them through giving them, through their induction weeks and through the course they have some aspects of financial management and support. Above and beyond that it is very difficult to do anything more for them, but we have tried to offset a few things within the school, simple things, costs of things, and you know what we did with the bus, was create a system for students who could not afford to do all that transport, we have actually borne the brunt of that within the School, and costed that in. Above and beyond that it is quite difficult to do, although we do have some hardship funds for people and try to support them. But I have to say it is a challenge for us all. The Principal has done a very good job and the team with creating I think what is one of the best bursary schemes in the United Kingdom to try to support students, but you are absolutely right. We try and do what we can and sometimes it is on an individual basis though.

Mr David Houston: Thank you very much for a fantastic presentation and I particularly encourage you to continue with the humorous vein that ran through it. I am also very impressed with the technology investment that there has been made at this facility, as well as just the wonderful buildings and everything. Having been looking at the potential for embedded chips in animals, both small and large, do you think that is an interesting area of research.

Professor David Argyle: Absolutely. Technology at all levels to be honest with you, and the one thing about working in Edinburgh; you are absolutely right, out here with our Vet School, but most of our research collaborations are not just on this campus, and the programme that I talked to you about, which was the implantable chips in dogs and cats as a pretrial to man actually stemmed from a conversation that occurred five years ago. It has taken us five years to get to that point, to get £5.2m and a group of us got together to think how could we really change clinical practice in that particular area. Of course embedding chips into dogs and cats is not new, because, I used to live in the United States and my two dogs came in fully chipped. Although I paid \$25 each for my two dogs in America, it cost me £5,000 to bring them into the United Kingdom and they had to be

chipped to do that. To keep abreast of everything we have to embrace that technology and use it to our best advantage.

Professor Ann Smyth: I nearly got deflected by your answer to the question before my previous questions. You said something about really hoping that the profession in the future would make its voice heard in the policy agenda. I suppose I wondered whether you saw any scope therefore for addressing some of that awareness in the curriculum, given developments elsewhere in the University to better ally our understanding of government and policy and the way in which our academics contribute thereto. Does that reach out to the Vet School and do you see a role in the education that you offer, bearing in mind from all that you have told us that it must be already very difficult? This is the counsel of perfection always, because there are the business elements, and so on. I was just interested in your reflection about how this centre of excellence could actually support those developments.

Professor David Argyle: Well, that is a very good question, and you are right it is incredibly poor. In fact my wife, who is a course leader here for third year told me she was going to reduce some of my lectures, which I thought was very brave. But in all seriousness, we do have a Vet School Council, in which our students are very active. We do have talks from the Royal College (of Veterinary Surgeons), from Government. One about careers and others would be about policy decisions that are taking place, so there is a little bit, but probably not enough. I am very encouraged by the fact that our students do take an interest. I opened the Veterinary Record this morning, which is the trade journal, and there is a letter from our Veterinary School Council slating the Royal College for allowing a new vet school in Surrey, and they have obviously taken it upon themselves, a very eloquent letter, very well-written and raising serious concerns about the future of the profession. To my mind that means we are training people not to be just insular clinicians but actually to embrace their profession and to try and make a difference, and I know the staff are trying to do that. I suppose the short answer is we probably don't do much officially but I think the way we approach everything we would like to think the students grow up and have a voice and can speak for their profession.

Rector: Thank you. David, do you have anything more to say.

Professor David Argyle: No just to thank you very much for listening to me this morning, it should be against the Geneva Convention that you are dragged here on a Saturday morning to listen to me drone on about the Veterinary School, but I am very pleased to be here. I would just like to thank you for your support as well, as I know that many of you are involved in support of the University, and I hope you enjoy the rest your day here at the Vet School. We have arranged a couple of tours for you. The good group will get me, the people who have not asked questions, get me. The naughty people who have asked difficult questions, especially about TB by the way, you get Professor Corcoran. So enjoy the rest of your day.

C Presentation of the Report of the Business Committee

at the General Council Meeting on 22 June 2013

Convener of the Business Committee: Professor Charles

Swainson

Rector, University Secretary, Professor Argyle and Members of the General Council. First of all, welcome to those Members of the General Council who have travelled to Edinburgh as part of this

Alumni Weekend. We are delighted to welcome you here and see you at this Half-Yearly Meeting. I am pleased now to present the Report of the Business Committee for the past six months since our last meeting in February.

Your Secretary, Mike Mitchell, on my right, has completed agreed guidelines for consultation between the General Council and the University, and these have now been approved by Court and are available on the General Council website. We said farewell to Kim Waldron, previous University Secretary at our Half-Yearly Meeting in February, and we had a Reception for her in March. We were delighted to subsequently welcome Sarah Smith, here, three along on my right, as new University Secretary and look forward to working closely with her and her team as we always have done. Your Business Committee benefits from a regular update from the Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs, Dr Ian Conn, and many members subscribe to daily news feeds that his team provide about the University. The range and the number of newsworthy events and the research that comes out of this University are staggering and give you a terrific insight into the daily life of this institution.

Gordon Cairns and your Constitutional Standing Committee have been producing new information for those wishing to stand for election to the Business Committee or as a General Council Assessor, and they have refreshed the information available for those who are elected, so that we hope their induction is improved. This makes the commitment expected clear and the way in which we operate to support your university. They have considered further whether our election procedures for a future Chancellor should be updated and I can report that no changes are proposed. Your Business Committee had already introduced new procedures for publicising the election, and other ideas have been discussed and so far rejected.

Bruce Ritson and your Academic Standing Committee are enquiring into the new student support for both Home and International Students. The University is investing heavily in single point of access services, and the universal Personal Tutor scheme, and we want to ensure that these are having their intended benefits. The students have reported to us that they can see changes, but they worry still that they are consulted very frequently, but perhaps not always heard. We hope that these efforts will be successful and we will continue to monitor that on behalf of the General Council.

Kirsty MacGregor and your Finance and Services Standing Committee have reviewed the excellent financial year past as described in the Annual Report for 2011/12, which is available on the website of the University, with the Director of Finance, Phil McNaull. It was very good to see the emphasis of the University being less dependent on Government Teaching Grants and seeking as broad an income base as possible, and on the importance of generating a surplus, because that will in future be the major resource for investment.

Neil Hynd and the Public Affairs Standing Committee are working on a major upgrade of the General Council website. Development & Alumni is a key partner in this and other related work. The new Executive Director of Development & Alumni, Kirsty MacDonald, whom I hope many of you met yesterday evening at the Reception in the Playfair Library, was welcomed to your Business Committee in January and gave us an excellent introduction to her new strategies for alumni engagement. Your committee is supporting one of these, which is the weekend we are presently engaged in and I hope that all of you enjoy the weekend events.

Your Committee has responded also to the publication by the Scottish Government of the new Post-16 Education Bill. In our submission we emphasised our objections to the potential removal of the General Council from the Governance of the University and to sweeping powers to direct an institution and its curricula proposed in Section 2 of the Bill. The evidence given to the Education Committee of the Parliament and the subsequent Parliamentary debate has resulted in the expectation that the Bill will look different when it comes back to Parliament at the next stage. We will continue to examine this closely until any new Bill becomes law. Meantime we are supporting the new draft Scottish Code of Higher Education Governance, which has been prepared by the Chairs of Court, and again in our response to that we have emphasised the role of the General Council, the election of the independent Assessors to the Court that you undertake, and supported the idea of elected staff and student members on Court.

This is the last Half-Yearly Meeting for a number of retiring Committee Members; Jane Kille, Ruthven Gemmell, Ian Sutherland, Neil Hynd and Shields Henderson. I thank them all for their contribution and am very appreciative of the time that committee members give freely when they take on this commitment. I would like to mention a couple in particular; Ian Sutherland, as Convener of the Academic Standing Committee from 2009-12, has been a member of the Business Committee since 2001. Neil Hynd has been Convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee since 2010, served as Vice Convener of the Business Committee 2004-8 and served a total of eleven years as a member of the committee. Between them these two men have given over 23 years to service of the Committee. I would like also to mention in public, and to thank our retiring General Council Assessor, Mrs Margaret Tait. Margaret has given an outstanding contribution to the General Council and the University for an astonishing 27 years. Margaret was elected to the Business Committee in 1986. She served on the Appeals Committee until 1990, she was Convener of Public Affairs from 1990-1992, she was Vice Convener from 1992-96, she was Convener of the Committee from 1996-2000 and at that time she was elected to the University Court, where she served from 2001 until this year, 2013. Margaret has given freely of her time, and of course of her opinions to us all. She has championed the causes of the disadvantaged, as she has seen them at different times during that period, and she has always held the torch aloft for students in particular. We have all in this university community much to thank her for and wish her well in her post-Edinburgh University life. We hope sincerely that her husband Haldane will continue to keep up as he always has done. I would like you to join me in a round of applause for our retiring Committee Member and General Council Assessor Margaret.

Rector, that concludes the report of the Business Committee.

D LIVE AND OTHER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

at the General Council Meeting on 22 June 2013

Ms Bron Spence-Thomas: A couple of years ago the University took the decision to promote and protect Gaelic, which was a wonderful decision to make and I wondered if there was a possibility that it might make a similar decision to protect other minority languages in Scotland.

Professor David Argyle: Obviously that is not a question for me, I am looking to the University Secretary. The one thing I would say is that if we cannot answer any questions today I think we will take contact details and we will email you.

Ms Bron Spence-Thomas: May I say specifically that I am concerned that the Caithness dialect is not very well protected and that it seems to suffer somewhat. Thank you.

**Post Meeting response from Professor Rob Dunbar
Chair of Celtic Languages, Literature, History and Antiquities
Head of Celtic & Scottish Studies**

The University has a long and distinguished record of support for Scotland's indigenous languages. The Gaelic language and its associated literature and culture has been taught at the University since 1882, when the first Chair of Celtic in Scotland was established, and Scottish literature, including literature written in Scots, is also taught and studied at the university. In 1951, the School of Scottish Studies was established to, among other things, record Scotland's rich oral culture, and a good deal of this outstanding material, including recordings in various dialects of Scots as well as in Gaelic, is now available on-line via the Tobar an Dualchais / Kist O Riches website (<http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/>). Most recently, the University has launched a website on which a wide selection of songs from the Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection, an important collection of songs from the North-East, is available (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/celtic-scottish-studies/news-events/greig-duncan-songs>).

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament to provide support to the Gaelic language, and the University of Edinburgh was asked by the body created under that legislation, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to create a Gaelic Language Plan under which particular measures of support for the language were articulated. Amongst the positive developments which have accompanied this process has been the recruitment of a Gaelic Officer for the University, Bria Mason, to assist in the implementation of the University's first Gaelic language plan. While there is no similar legislation for other minority languages in Scotland, the university will continue its support for Scotland's languages, literatures and cultures, and our experience in implementing our Gaelic language plan will undoubtedly provide a valuable basis for developing this support in the future.

Mr Gordon Cairns: I have one other question by email from William Keddie Law who was an MA in 1968, currently in Montrose. Does the Principal share my concern that in the Guardian University League Table for 2014 Edinburgh appears in 19th position, fifteen places behind St Andrews, and one behind Heriot Watt.

University Secretary: Thank you for that, and before I answer that, just to say thank you very much for your welcome to the Council at my first meeting three months into the role, it is a great learning experience for me to be here. The Principal has given an answer to this question, which I will read out which is 'The Guardian League Table is one of several league tables that the University monitors and in which we take an interest. All league tables consider different measures, and the Guardian approach does not include any measures reflecting our excellence in research, which is a key performance measure for a research-intensive university like ours. The table does demonstrate some of the strengths of our very comprehensive offering in that we are ranked in 37 of the 46 subject tables. We retain top place in the Nursing league table, in the top ten in eleven tables, but the University is aware that in many subjects our national student survey satisfaction scores need to be better and this is reflected in the Guardian table as the NSS drives 25% of these rankings. We are fully committed to improving the student experience, recently agreeing an investment of up to £4m to make a real difference in this area. Students will have a frame work of guidance and support that builds on best practice, meets contemporary needs and is of a quality and consistency appropriate to our high level of standing. Improvements are being

phased in and delivered over the next three years. The new Personal Tutor system has already generated lots of positive feedback from students regarding their access to advice and support. And if I could just add this whole area is of particular concern to the University. Within my own group we have been reorganising, restructuring and investing greater resource in this area to better align our efforts in support of the Vice Principal leading in this area, so it is something that we take very seriously.

Any member who does not have web access may request a copy from the General Council Office:

Mrs Mary Scott
Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council
The University of Edinburgh
Room B2.9, Charles Stewart House
9-11 Chambers Street

Edinburgh
EH1 1HT

(email: general.council@ed.ac.uk)