



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The General Council

Billet

SUMMER 2020



Welcome to *Billet* Summer 2020

Here at the University of Edinburgh our priority is the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and visitors. The General Council shares that view and, equally, gives priority to the health and wellbeing of our members.

Recognising the rapidly evolving impact of Covid-19 we have regretfully taken the difficult decision to **cancel the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council**, scheduled for Saturday June 13, 2020. This issue of *Billet* contains the papers and information intended for that meeting, as well as reports about the work undertaken by the Business Committee up to the time that social distancing measures were introduced.

Please consult the University's Covid-19 webpages for detailed advice and support which are updated regularly: www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19. In the March issue of *Enlightened*, the Principal sent out a special message to all alumni that can be viewed on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR5ckaZ27wA&

Edit magazine is available online at www.ed.ac.uk/edit-magazine

The General Council provides graduates with a continuing voice in the management of the University's affairs, and every graduate automatically becomes a member. Academic staff and members of the University's governing body, the University Court, are also members of the General Council. It meets twice a year and has the right to comment on matters affecting the University's prosperity and wellbeing. For more information on the work of the General Council, visit www.general-council.ed.ac.uk

Pictured on the cover: an aerial image of Edinburgh showing the Central Area Campus, the Meadows, Arthur's Seat and the Firth of Forth.

This publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact: communications.office@ed.ac.uk

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Report

by Professor Stuart Macpherson
Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council

I am writing this at an exceptional time for the country and, indeed, for the world. The situation is unique and brings with it huge challenges. We have already cancelled two Standing Committee meetings and I have no doubt that more will follow until we are able to return to a normal pattern of living. However, much as this is difficult for the Business Committee and the General Council, it is a much greater issue for the University in general. Just when we thought that Brexit difficulties were bad enough, they have now to add a coronavirus pandemic to their tribulations. However, we know that the University of Edinburgh is well prepared. We have a sound financial background and a highly competent team of individuals to lead us through these difficult times.

In more stable times we held our Half-Yearly Meeting on Saturday 1 February, 2020. This took place in the Bayes Centre in Potterrow. The morning began with a fascinating and greatly instructive tour of the Robotarium. The highlight of the statutory meeting, which followed, was the Principal's Annual Report. The Principal, Professor Peter Mathieson, outlined the principle features of the past year, of which there were many, but did not delude us into thinking that there were no challenges ahead. I am delighted to report that the meeting was webcast to several centres around the world and, as at last year's meeting, members from London and Brussels joined us. Lunch followed in the adjacent Informatics Building and, after lunch, our speaker was Professor Sethu Vijayakumar. Professor Vijayakumar held his audience enraptured by his talk on the future of interactive robotics. He was joined by two members of the Business Committee to participate in a practical demonstration of the capabilities of robotic hands.

At the February Half-Yearly Meeting the result of the ballot for membership of the Business Committee was announced. I am delighted to note that Krystyna Szumelukowa and Steve Hillier, two very valuable members of the Business Committee, will be returning for a second four-year term. In addition, I am very pleased that Frances Dow will rejoin after a short absence. The Business Committee will include new members – Graeme Reid, Almira Delibegovic-Broome, Peter De Vink and Frances McManus. I am confident they will enjoy their time on the committee. After having provided prolonged and very valuable service David Munro, Kirsty MacGregor and Hamish McKenzie will leave the Business Committee. Their contribution will be greatly missed. I extend my grateful thanks to each of them.

This will be my last *Billet* report as Convener of the Business Committee. As most know, the General Council Secretary carries out the majority of the hard work. I have been very fortunate to have had two extremely committed Secretaries in Mike Mitchell and



Ann Smyth. I am very grateful to both of them for the work they have done, which has been so ably assisted by Alison MacLeary. In addition, I have been lucky to have had such a splendid Business Committee to convene. Membership is diverse in terms of experience, age and gender, and all have worked tirelessly for the General Council. There is one legacy, which I hope shall come to fruition. I have always thought that General Council members were very willing to help current students in whatever way they could, and there is now a scheme underway to promote this. Of this you will hear more in the future. It is a great privilege to have been Convener. I wish the committee, led by my successor, well for the future.



Reports by the Conveners of the Standing Committees

Academic Standing Committee

by **Professor Stephen Hillier**
Convener, Academic Standing Committee

Student and staff wellbeing remain high on the Academic Standing Committee (ASC) agenda. This report covers meetings held early in 2020 to receive information from the University Chaplain, Reverend Dr Harriet Harris (23 January), and the Edinburgh University Students' Association President, Mr Andrew Wilson (24 February).



Chaplaincy

At the meeting with Reverend Dr Harris, ASC learned how the Chaplaincy provides a welcoming drop-in space for staff and students, where one-on-one personal conversations can be held in a relaxed and friendly environment. Importantly, the service collaborates with University counselling services in managing mental health issues. The Chaplaincy mainly assists students who benefit from open-ended counselling, as opposed to those requiring more focused support for specific study-related issues. Staff with work-related issues benefit similarly.

The committee was extremely impressed with the valuable service provided by the Chaplaincy, which is a largely unsung resource within the cross-University student/staff support network.

Edinburgh University Students' Association

Mr Wilson informed the committee that the student body currently comprises approximately 43,000 students of multiple ethnicity, diverse personal characteristics and background. The Students' Association's priorities include tackling elitism, widening participation, freedom of expression, sexual health and guidance (NoExcuse), mental health and wellbeing (TakeTen), living on a budget, and sustainability. The University launched the Student Experience Action Plan in September 2019, with an investment of £15.3 million over three years, to deal with these and other ongoing concerns, such as 'how to make it affordable to be a student in Edinburgh?' Sustainability is an overriding concern, which should be embedded in the curriculum, supported by climate activism from within the student body.

The committee enthusiastically received Mr Wilson's take home message that the students themselves are increasingly taking ownership of the student experience agenda, which bodes well for the future.

Constitutional Standing Committee

by **Professor David Munro**
Convener, Constitutional Standing Committee

The Constitutional Standing Committee (CSC), chaired by David Munro, completed its review of the Constitutional Arrangements for the Working of the University of Edinburgh General Council and its Business Committee which was approved at the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council held on 1 February 2020. The revised Constitutional Arrangements can be viewed on the General Council website: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/constitutional-arrangements



An amendment to the standing orders regarding the twice-yearly meetings of the General Council was also approved by the General Council.

The committee was pleased to report to the Business Committee that University Ordinances 213 and 214 on General Council related matters had finally been approved by the Privy Council on 12 February 2020.

The CSC will be reviewing two additional amendments made by the University Court to Ordinances (numbers 208 and 216) relating to the appointment of academic staff and academic freedom. Following the usual practice, there will be a consultation period on these amendments (6 April–1 June 2020), allowing opportunities for the Business Committee and individual alumni to make comments.

Finance and Services Standing Committee

by **Dr William Duncan**

Convener, Finance and Services Standing Committee

The year began with a meeting on 20 January with Lee Hamill, Director of Finance, and Laura Robertson, Senior Financial Accountant, to discuss the *Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31 July 2019*. This comprehensive, well-illustrated report both fulfils an essential statutory function, as well as being a key communications document aimed at a broad audience, including members of the General Council. It is skilfully structured to cater for those who only wish to know the key issues, as well as those who want to get well behind the headlines. Case studies throughout the document give real examples of how the University creates value from its resources and has a positive impact on society, and I encourage General Council members to read these. Although fewer printed copies are now being produced as part of the University's sustainability agenda, it is readily available on line at www.ed.ac.uk/finance/accounts

Pleasingly, the accounts showed a strong underlying financial situation, including:

- income was now just over £1 billion and income growth was 12 per cent; 5.5 per cent of total income had been reinvested;
- good performance by the endowment fund, which at £460 million is one of the biggest outside North America, and was invested in staff, students and maintaining a world class estate;
- net capital assets of £2 billion;
- the City Region Deal has helped deliver key infrastructure to keep the University's lead in digital and IT research and there would be significant funding in future years.

This positive picture was most welcome given the challenges and risks identified in the report, especially surrounding pensions and Brexit. Pension deficits have a huge impact on whether the accounts show a surplus or deficit. The 2018/19 accounts were required to include a non-cash provision of £195 million for potential pension liabilities. This was largely responsible for creating an overall accounting deficit of £162 million. If these technical non-cash provisions were excluded, there was an operating surplus of £61 million – an increase of 5.5 per cent.



In February, we had the privilege of an extraordinary meeting with Anne Richards, the outgoing Vice-Convener of Court. She informed us about the new arrangements for the organisation of the University Court. We would particularly like to thank her sharing her insights with us and for the outstanding service she has given to the University over many years.

The March meeting with Gary Jebb, Director of Estates, had to be postponed due to the coronavirus restrictions and we look forward to meeting him later.

International Standing Committee

by **Ms Krystyna Szumelukowa**

Convener, International Standing Committee

The most recent meeting of the International Standing Committee (ISC) took place on 6 February shortly after the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council Business Committee on 1 February, and an additional meeting on 31 January with guests from alumni clubs in London and Brussels, the day that the UK left the EU and entered the period of transition to 31 December this year.



It was timely, therefore, to receive presentations from Andrew Scott, Professor of European Union Studies, Dean International (Europe), and co-Director of the Europa Institute, and Helen McMillan, Regional Director for Europe. Brexit mitigation has been addressed by the University since the referendum in 2016 to safeguard its current engagement and future association with the EU, as well as consolidating and embarking on new partnerships within Europe. The latest example is the new European University project, UNA EUROPA, which partners Edinburgh with universities in Berlin, Bologna, Kraków, Leuven, Madrid and Paris. Future UK and Scottish Government legislation will materially affect student and staff retention and recruitment. Resources are in place at the University to support the consequences of Brexit and in this regard there is genuine added value that can be given from alumni in Europe.

There is potential to improve the exchange of information in advance between the University and alumni clubs, within the clubs themselves and between alumni clubs, through the development of facilities such as Platform One. The University of Edinburgh is 'Open to the World' and alumni can offer on-the-ground support to students and staff via the many varied partnership and research programmes, not only in Europe but also in connections across the world.

The ISC will be looking to play its part in delivering on this potential and is hopeful that this approach will engender the values of solidarity and compassion, especially when the University and its alumni are faced with the consequences of other less welcome challenges such as Covid-19.

Public Affairs Standing Committee

by Ms Sophie Marshall

Convener, Public Affairs Standing Committee

The Public Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) began the new semester with a workshop session to review the development of the new General Council website, which is a work in progress. In February, the committee met with Stuart Tooley, Community Relations Manager, and Gavin Donoghue, Deputy Director of Stakeholder Relations, to discuss the University's integration into the city and its relationship with local communities.

We heard about lots of great developments, including how far reaching the Community Grant Scheme has been, with £200,000 awarded to local projects since 2017. We also heard about the promotion of Edinburgh Local as the digital front door of the University, which is an ongoing piece of work to ensure that communities feel involved, reciprocally, with the University.

We also learned about the continuing engagements that are ongoing, both externally and internally, regarding the new Community Plan, aligned to the University's *Strategy 2030*. The launch date is later this year with a focus on the key theme of civic and social responsibility. PASC will continue to monitor this important area of engagement and continue to ensure that this is a regular standing item on our agenda going forward.



Since my last update, we have had the February Half-Yearly Meeting, which began with a tour of the Robotarium. This was a great opportunity to learn about the world of robots, the emerging technologies that the University is investing in and the impressive range of collaborations that are taking place on both a local level, with close-by universities, and globally, with ongoing work with NASA. In a time when technology can have a mixed reputation, this provided a fascinating insight into a world that is rapidly changing the face of human interactions and how assistive technology can be a force for good.

Report

By Ann Smyth

Secretary of the General Council

Covid-19

With mounting concern about Covid-19 the decision was taken to postpone meetings of the standing committees of the Business Committee from 19 March for an indefinite period. The Conveners' reports in this issue are consequently shorter than they might otherwise have been.

With all but essential workers now working from home the General Council Office is unmanned at the time of publishing. Mail is not being delivered to the General Council Office and accumulated mail will be dealt with as soon as possible when normal working is resumed. Phone calls are not being recorded. Members wishing to contact the General Council Office during this period are asked please to do so electronically to General.Council@ed.ac.uk.

With uncertainty about the duration of the requirements for social distancing we have regretfully decided to take the unprecedented step of cancelling the Half-Yearly Meeting scheduled for Saturday 13 June, 2020.

We have included the agenda and papers for this meeting as usual but have inserted into the agenda the information which would have been presented orally at the meeting. Members are invited to submit comments and questions to the General Council Office, electronically if possible, about any matter arising from these papers. Questions and comments will be dealt with by the Secretary and reviewed at the next meeting of the Business Committee, when normal working is resumed.

In recent years the business agenda for the June meeting has been followed by a programme of events designed to showcase some aspect of the University's work. This year we had planned an exciting programme considering the opportunities and challenges the University faces in its work in China and with Chinese partners. The outline of this programme is given with the meeting papers. We hope to be able to reschedule this event at a later date.

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the world and dramatically changed the challenges facing the University, along with many other organisations and most individuals. At times like this we need the expertise and knowledge that universities produce. Their role in creating solutions and understanding has never been needed more. We can take pride in the way the leadership team are steering our University through this crisis and the important role so many of our staff, students and alumni are playing in supporting others, finding solutions and enhancing understanding. Further information about the University's response to Covid-19 is available at

www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19



New Convener of the Business Committee

Professor Stuart Macpherson's term of office as Convener of the Business Committee ends on 31 July 2020. He has indicated he does not wish to serve for a second term. Accordingly, the procedure for electing his successor was initiated, as laid out in *The General Council of the University of Edinburgh Regulations for General Council Elections*, which can be found at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/business_committee

Current members of the Business Committee are responsible for nominating and electing the Convener. Those eligible for nomination are current members of the Business Committee and those who have served on the committee in the past two years. All those eligible for nomination were notified of their eligibility.

By the closing date of 25 March only one nomination had been received. Sir Philip Mawer, nominated by Gordon Cairns, Vice-Convener of the Business Committee, and seconded by Ann Smyth, Secretary, was duly appointed to serve as the next Convener of the Business Committee from August 1 2020. The appointment is for four years.

Philip Mawer was a member of the Business Committee from 2014–18, during which he convened its Finance and Services Committee. An experienced chairman, his career includes spells as a senior civil servant, Secretary General of the General Synod of the Church of England, Westminster's Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests to two Prime Ministers, and Chair of Allchurches Trust, a major grant-making charity. He will seek to draw on the skills of all members in order to maximise the effectiveness of the General Council's contribution to the continued success of the University of Edinburgh.



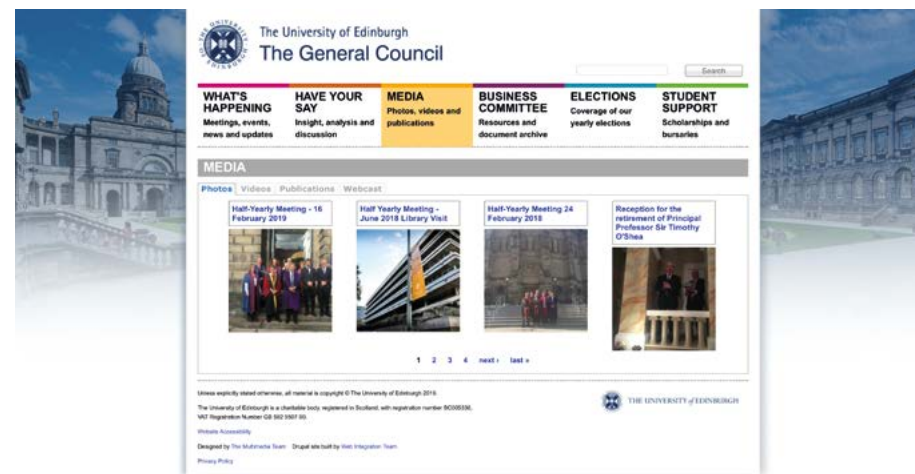
Vice-Convener of the Business Committee

Gordon Cairns' term of office as Vice-Convener of the Business Committee also ends on 31 July 2020. He is eligible to stand for a second term and is willing to do so. The Business Committee has the opportunity to consider other nominations and, if necessary, to hold a ballot to determine the Vice-Convener. That appointment will be announced in the next issue of *Billet*.

Have your Say — Livestreaming the February Half-Yearly Meeting

General Council members are invited to comment on our arrangements for the February Half-Yearly meeting. Those who are unable to attend the February Half-Yearly Meetings in Edinburgh to hear the Principal's report are particularly invited to comment.

Currently, we livestream the event to enable remote viewing of the event. This enabled 50 people to join online in real time this year. Many more viewed the recording of the event in



the days immediately following. We have a facility for questions received by email during the event to be put to the Principal or other speakers at the meeting. No such questions came in during either of the last two February events.

We recognise that the timing of the event is inconvenient for General Council members in some parts of the globe, notably the Americas. However, available analytics suggest that the majority of those who accessed the recorded event this year were in countries where the time difference was less of an issue, such as the UK or Europe.

We pay a commercial company to provide our livestreaming. While we want as many General Council members as wish to, to be able to join our meetings we also want to make best use of our resources. Video-recording the event for later viewing is available more cost effectively using in-house resources.

We should therefore welcome feedback from General Council members to tell us whether they favour simply recording the Half-Yearly Meeting so that members can access the event wherever they are in the world, at the time of their choosing, or whether access in real time really matters to them. If the latter, we do need to consider greater flexibility in the timing of future meetings. It would, however, be good to see some greater evidence of the desire for live engagement from afar before embarking on that.

Do please send your thoughts about this to the General Council office:
General.Council@ed.ac.uk

Agenda for the cancelled General Council Meeting

Scheduled for Saturday 13 June, 2020

Cancelled due to social distancing restrictions imposed to control the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19).

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Lecture Theatre G.03, Bayes Centre, Edinburgh, on 1 February 2020 (Paper A)**
2. **Matters arising**
3. **Report of the Business Committee**

Members can view published Business Committee minutes on the General Council website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/business_committee. A recent report from the Convener is on page 3 of this issue of *Billet*.

4. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting will take place at 10.30am on Saturday 6 February, 2021, in the Informatics building, followed by lunch in the Playfair Library. Any motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 18 November 2020.

The following statutory Half-Yearly Meeting will be held in Edinburgh on Saturday 12 June, 2021 in the McEwan Hall. Details will appear in the next issue of *Billet*. Any motions for discussion at that meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 24 March 2021.

5. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There will be an election for four members of the Business Committee in February 2021. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office or its website should be received in the General Council Office by 18 November 2020.

6. **Any other competent business**
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Engagement with China: opportunities and challenges (Paper B)**

Paper A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Edinburgh on 1 February 2020.

Present:

Ms Ann Henderson	University Rector, in the Chair
Ms Sarah Smith	University Secretary
Professor Peter Mathieson	Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Professor Ann Smyth	Secretary of the General Council
Professor Stuart Macpherson	Convener of the Business Committee
Rev Dr Harriet Harris	Chaplain to the University

66 Members present

1. Result of the Elections of five Members of the Business Committee

The Chairman announced that the seven new members of the Business Committee elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2024 were Mrs Almira Delibegovic-Broome, Mr Peter Henry John De Vink, Dr Frances Dow, Professor Stephen Gilbert Hillier, Professor Francis McManus, Professor Graeme Alexander Reid and Ms Krystyna Szumelukowa.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the McEwan Hall, Teviot Place, Edinburgh

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2019 were approved.

3. Matters arising

The Chairman reported that there were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Report of the Business Committee

The Convener introduced the meeting by welcoming those members from overseas who were able to join via the livestream and the delegates from London and Brussels who attended for the second year in succession.

The Convener began by reporting on the activities of the recently established International Standing Committee, chaired by Krystyna Szumelukowa. An important priority for this committee is to support international students and staff, and an early meeting with the Deputy Secretary, Student Experience, was the impetus to explore ways in which General Council members can engage with an initiative that will assist students who are new to Edinburgh.

Many members of the Business Committee hosted tables at a Christmas lunch and dinner arranged by the University for the benefit of those students who were not

returning home for the festive season. The Convener congratulated the members of the Business Committee who show their commitment to the University in a number of ways apart from attending meetings.

An important meeting the Business Committee held early in the session related to the University's recently published *Strategy 2030*, which is available at www.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy-2030

The Convener also reported on the varied activities of the standing committees. Top priorities for the Academic Standing Committee, led by Professor Steve Hillier, included education technology, ethnicity and faith, and student and staff wellbeing. The University Chaplain gave a presentation to the committee talking about the opening of the new Wellbeing Centre in Bristo Square. The committee also heard from Professor Sian Bayne, Assistant Principal Digital Education, who reported that Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have now attracted 2.5 million students worldwide and one third of taught postgraduate courses are now delivered online.

Professor David Munro led his Constitutional Standing Committee through a review of the Constitutional Arrangements for the working of the General Council and its Business Committee, prompted by the changes made to University Ordinances arising from the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act of 2016. Resulting from this, two motions for approval by General Council members at this meeting related to changes to the timing of Half-Yearly Meetings and revisions to the General Council's Constitutional Arrangements.

The Public Affairs Standing Committee is chaired by Sophie Marshall. As this committee is responsible for the General Council's communication strategy they have been involved in the redevelopment of the council's website as well as holding meetings about affordable housing for students and the student networking site Platform One.

The Finance and Services Standing Committee is now chaired by Dr William Duncan and has had meetings with the University's Director of Human Resources about the industrial action happening at the time and with the Director of Finance who discussed the Annual Accounts for 2019.

To conclude: The Convener stated that he is encouraged by the high degree of interest among General Council members in standing for membership of the Business Committee and delighted to see valued colleagues re-elected as well as looking forward to welcoming new members.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener's remarks is contained in the *Annex* to *Billet*.

5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting will take place on Saturday 13 June, 2020, in the John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh (now cancelled). Any Motions for discussion at this meeting should have been received in the General Council Office.

The following Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting will be held on Saturday 6 February, 2021, in room G.07, Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton Street, Edinburgh and any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 18 November, 2020.

6. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There will be elections for four members of the Business Committee in February 2021. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office and on the website should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 18 November, 2020.

7. Motion – Amendment to the Standing Orders

The Motion was approved.

8. Motion – Revisions to the General Council's Constitutional Arrangements

The Motion was approved.

9. Presentation by the Principal of the Annual Report of the University

The Principal's presentation focused on reviewing the academic year 2018/19. He reported that the University is one of the biggest in the UK with more than 40,000 students and 15,000 staff and that in terms of the composition of those students, the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences is more than half of the University in terms of student numbers, and the University remains a very undergraduate predominant organisation.

Twenty-eight per cent of all students are Scottish-domiciled and 26 per cent are from the rest of the United Kingdom, therefore just over half of the student population is from the UK. Thirty-four per cent are from overseas outside the European Union (EU), and 12 per cent from the EU. The Principal commented on the huge increase in applications from mainland China to both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, and he reminded members of the University's long history of recruiting students from North America. He mentioned also that the UK government's restriction on post-study visas has meant a decrease in applications from India. Applications for places are still 10 times oversubscribed.

The Principal stated that the annual income of the University has passed £1 billion, and went on to explain that this is not reflected accurately in the way that the accounts

are reported under the legislation, which has to make provision for the University's contribution to the Superannuation Scheme.

Professor Mathieson highlighted a number of members of staff who had been awarded prizes and honours before going on to talk about the City Region Deal, which includes a number of projects to benefit economic growth across the region and has enabled the development of hubs, such as the Bayes Centre and Edinburgh Futures Institute.

With uncertainty still surrounding Brexit, the Principal reassured members that the University has plans for mitigation and will continue to maintain relationships with government and existing partnerships, while building new ones, such as the launch of a new alliance called UNA Europa – a collaboration with eight universities from eight different European regions.

Strategy 2030 is a 10-year strategy document that sets out the University's agenda, principles and aims, and defines its values, with a particular emphasis on people. This can be viewed online at www.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy-2030

The Principal concluded with mention to the coronavirus outbreak, stating that the University is listening to the advice from the Scottish Government, from the UK Government, and from the World Health Organization. The Principal also made mention to the fact that there are a number of experts in the University on this virus, and other viruses, and public health more generally, who are contributing to government advice.

The full text of the Principal's remarks, as well as the record of the discussion that followed the presentation, are contained in the *Annex* to the *Billet*. The presentations can also be viewed at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media

10. Any other competent business

There was no other competent business.

11. Adjournment

The Motion by the Convener of the Business Committee that, for the purpose of considering matters which may be transmitted to the General Council by the University Court or any other business of a competent nature, the Business Committee be empowered to act on behalf of the council, and that this meeting be adjourned to a date to be fixed by the Business Committee, was approved.

Rev Dr Harriet Harris closed the meeting with a benediction.



Paper B – Programme for cancelled General Council event

The University of Edinburgh: Engagement with China – opportunities and challenges

To be rescheduled for General Council at a later date.

I. Morning session: Opportunities and challenges in partnership with China

11.15am–12.30pm Panel discussion chaired by the Principal, Professor Peter Mathieson

Speakers:

- Dr Juliette Macdonald, Edinburgh College of Art and Donghua International College of Fashion Innovation;
- Professor Jane Hillston, School of Informatics, and Huawei;
- Professor Sue Welburn, Edinburgh Medical School, and Zhejiang University, Haining;
- Ed Craig, Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, and China-UK Low Carbon College

12.30–1.45pm **Light lunch and exhibition**

II. Afternoon session: Opportunities and challenges in Edinburgh

1.45–2:50pm Chaired by Professor Natascha Gentz, Assistant Principal, China

- The Confucius Institute, Professor Natascha Gentz, Director
- Chinese students in the UK, Dr Sophia Woodman, School of Political & Social Science

2:50–3pm Closing remarks from Professor Stuart Macpherson, Convener, Business Committee

The *Annex* to the *Billet* containing supporting papers for the agenda, including communications from the University Court, full Standing Committee reports, a transcript of the Principal's presentation, and the Business Committee's report to the meeting on 1 February 2020 is available at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media. General Council members may also request it by post from:

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 E: general.council@ed.ac.uk

Officers

Chairman:	HRH The Princess Royal	
Secretary:	Ann Smyth, BSc, MPhil (Clin Psych), PhD	2022
Registrar:	Sarah Smith, University Secretary	<i>ex-officio</i>

General Council Assessors on the University Court

	Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD	2021
	Mr Jock Millican, BSc, FCILT	2023
	The Hon Lady Wolffe (Sarah Wolffe QC)	2023

Business Committee

Convener:	Stuart Macpherson, OBE, MBChB, FRCS, FRCP, FRCGP	2020
Vice-Convener:	Gordon D Cairns, LLB	2020
A	Convener of Academic Standing Committee: Stephen Hillier, OBE, DSc	2020
C	Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee: David Munro, MBE, BSc, PhD	2020
F	Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee: William Duncan, BSc, PhD, CIPD	2022
P	Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee: Sophie Marshall, MA	2023
I	Convener of International Standing Committee: Krystyna Szumelukowa, BA Hons, MPhil, MRTPI	2020

Members

Chancellor's Assessor:	Sheriff Principal Alastair Dunlop QC	<i>ex officio</i>
F	Kirsty MacGregor, MA, MBA, DipEd	2020
F	Hamish McKenzie, MA	2020
I	Andrew Miller, CBE, BSc, PhD, DUniv FRSE	2021
A	Judith Drake, MA, MSc	2021
P	Brian Smith, MA, MLitt	2021
I	John Clifford, MA, MSc, FRSA	2021
F	David Houston, BSc, MBA, PhD, FSITM	2022
A	Ario Santini, Doc(hc), PhD, DipFMed, BDS, DDS, FDS, FFGDP, DGDP, FADM	2022
P	Candice Donnelly, LLB (Hons), Dip LP, NP, WS	2022



F	Arron Ashton, BSc	2022
P	Moyra Forrest, DL, MA, MCLIP	2023
A	Bruce Ritson, OBE, MD, FRCPE, FRCPsych	2023
A	Lady Joyce Caplan, BEd	2023

Assistant to the Secretary: Alison MacLeary, MA

'A' denotes a member of the Academic Standing Committee;
'C' a member of the Constitutional Standing Committee;
'F' a member of the Finance and Services Standing Committee;
'I' a member of the International Standing Committee; and
'P' a member of the Public Affairs Standing Committee.

