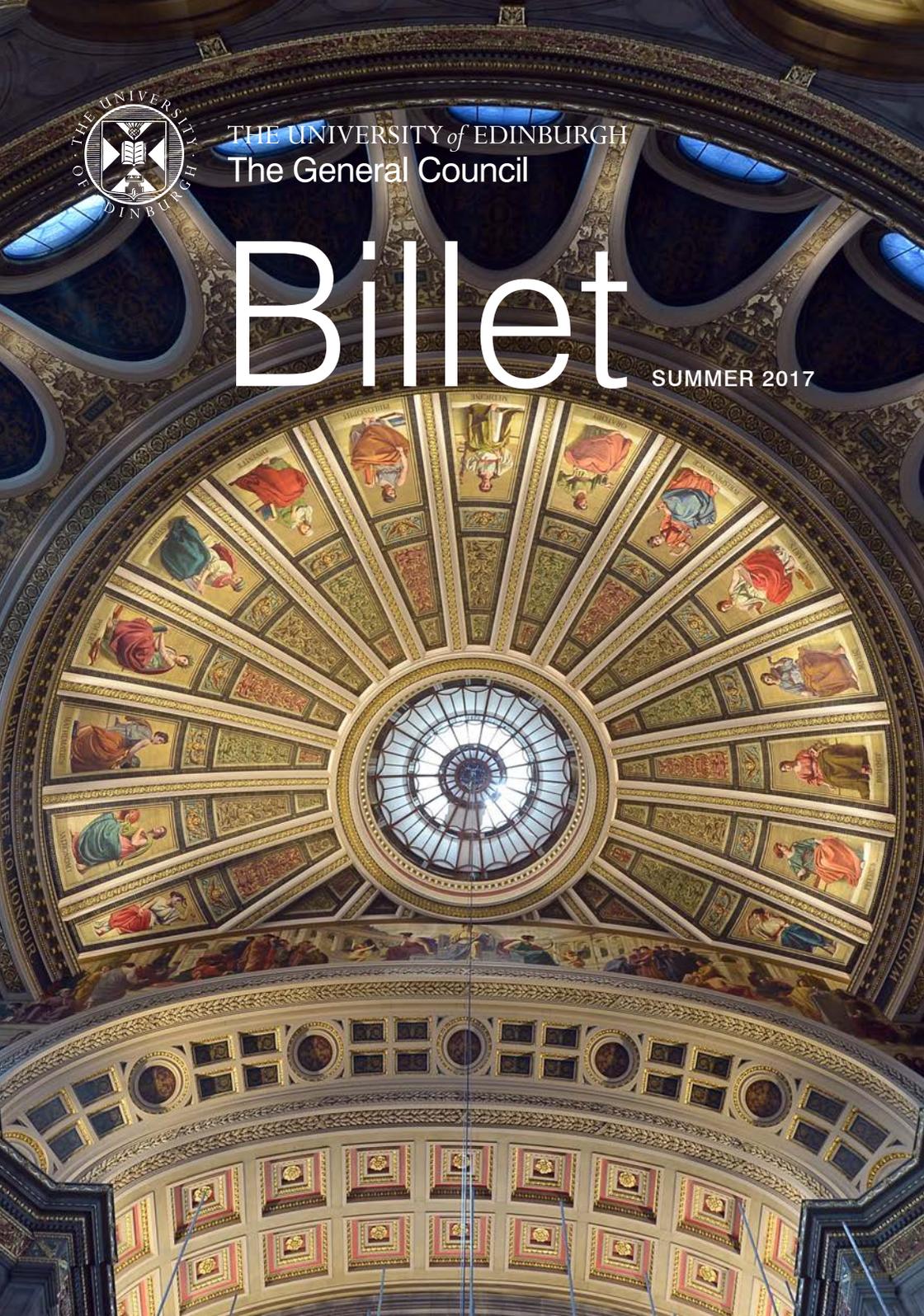




THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The General Council

Billet

SUMMER 2017



Welcome to *Billet* summer 2017

We hope that you enjoy this issue which also contains the papers for the Half-Yearly Meeting to be held on Saturday 10 June 2017.

Edit, the magazine for alumni of the University, is printed every summer. The electronic version 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.

Report

By **Professor Stuart Macpherson**

Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council



The February Half-Yearly Meeting was an enjoyable, entertaining and informative gathering. We had an excellent attendance at both the formal proceedings and the lunch. Both held in historic University venues but one recently transformed. Lunch was in the Playfair Library with its traditional surroundings. The meeting was held in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation. This Georgian building served as the Royal High School of Edinburgh from 1777 to 1829 and subsequently the surgical hospital of the Royal Infirmary. The University recently redeveloped this building.

It has retained the external historic structure but completely refurbished the interior which as the Principal says provides “the most energy efficient Georgian building in the United Kingdom”.

The highlight was undoubtedly the Principal's valedictory annual report which was very well received by a full house. The report – the Principal's 15th – reviewed the current excellent state of the University delivered in an entertaining but informative manner. He demonstrated his usual encyclopaedic knowledge of the University's departments and staff and quoted many statistics regarding the current position and future challenges. These included the fact that there are currently 38,000 students compared to 21,000 when his term of office began. We receive on average ten qualified applicants for every place with the most popular courses being Veterinary Medicine, Law and Medicine. The University is booming with a wide diversity of students, staff and academic and non-academic activities. We undertake world leading research, have a strong company formation record and have established five important Global Academies. We enjoy cordial relations with the Scottish Government and are coping with the consequences of Brexit.

Following lunch, the talk by Ken McIntosh, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament was equally entertaining. Ken graduated in 1984 and although not a student politician he did join the Labour Party then and as an undergraduate “learned a lot about himself apart from studying History and English”. In his current role he has experienced the effect of social media on politics and public opinion. Social media is used by people to talk to others with like-minded views thus narrowing rather than broadening outlook. His plea was that universities should promote objectivity and fair mindedness amongst future graduates. He hoped for strong universities instilling in their students' wisdom, compassion and integrity.

Although this meeting was undoubtedly the highpoint of General Council activity over the past six months the work of the Business Committee and its Subcommittees continues unabated.

The Academic Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Steve Hillier heard from Vice-Principal James Smith regarding the University's Global Engagement Plan. We currently rank 13th in the world's universities with an International staff/student population of 20,000. Professor Smith talked of the Global Community, Exchange and Partnerships. During discussion Professor Smith identified India as a target country for the future and commented on making our international online learners experience stronger links with Edinburgh.

The Public Affairs Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Matt McPherson, has discussed the University's relationship with the Consular Corps in Edinburgh. Kristen Hannesdottir a member of the Business Committee and the Icelandic Consul led this. They also began a discussion on the University's transport policy which is an issue which has been raised by the Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA). This arises as the university is spread over many sites. The University will be invited to meet the Subcommittee to discuss this issue.

The Finance and Services Standing Committee met with Professor Richard Kenway Vice-Principal High Performance Computing who outlined his strategic vision for data science under three headings. These were the background surrounding Big Data, the Alan Turing Institute and industry partners.

As usual there is no lack of topics for the Subcommittees to discuss and no reluctance on the part of senior university personnel to engage.

This summer we say goodbye to three members of the Business Committee Dorothy McLeod, Scott Peter and Matt McPherson. The input of all three will be missed but I would particularly like to thank Matt for his work as convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee.

I am delighted that recent General Council elections saw John Clifford, a valued member of the Business Committee, returned along with a new member Janet Currie. Doreen Davidson was returned as a Court Assessor, welcomed not only by the Business Committee but also by the University Court where she has been a valued contributor. Following the February Meeting, Professor Andrew Miller, formerly Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Stirling, offered his services to the Business Committee who have co-opted him enthusiastically. Professor Miller's experience will be of great benefit to the Committee and we warmly welcome him.

News

February Half-Yearly Meeting 2017

On Saturday 18 February 2017 the Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting was once again held in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, High School Yards. The Principal presented a very positive and exciting Annual Review for the year 2015-2016, as reported below and verbatim in the *Annex* to the *Billet*. There were many probing questions, which the Principal answered with his usual enthusiasm and humour. A video of the Meeting can be viewed on the General Council website at: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media.

After lunch in the magnificent Playfair Library Hall, guests were informed and entertained by our after-lunch speaker, Mr Ken Macintosh, fifth Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. Before entering Parliament in 1999, Ken was a television producer for BBC News working on programmes such as *Breakfast with Frost*, the *Nine O'Clock News* and election and budget specials. Highlights of his successful political career include Ministerial Aide to the then First Minister Jack McConnell and in 2011, and again in 2015, he ran to be the Leader of the Scottish Labour Party.



It was an illuminating description of Ken's life and career and illustrated the impact the University had on both. There were clearly many shared values as well. It has been too easy to be jaded by the goings on in public affairs in recent times but this was someone who upheld the best traditions of public service.

Key themes for the Business Committee this last Session

You might be interested to know that this year the Business Committee used the following themes for guidance as to its priorities.

The Student Experience and in particular, Teaching & Learning, to help ensure that levels of excellence and consistency are achieved across the University: This included having updates on the introduction and progress of the initiatives led by Senior Vice-Principal Charlie Jeffrey. The implications of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) now working in England and Wales were also investigated. The whole area of student wellbeing was a related interest.

Reviewing the University's Strategic Plan 2016 and its implementation: We continued to review the final version of the new Strategic Plan and to maintain an interest in its implementation.

Assessing the possible implications of Brexit and the University's planning for this: We had concerns over the possible impact on both students and staff and wished to see what steps the University were taking to ameliorate this. We were also interested in the potential financial impact on the University's overall position as well as the impact on research projects and their funding in particular.

Impact of external changes on the University's Governance: This included the impact of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016 and also the planned Revision to the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance. We participated in all the public consultations.



The General Council Meeting and Programme of Events in Edinburgh, 10 June 2017

The next Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting will take place on Saturday 10 June 2017 at 12.30pm (buffet lunch available) in the Queen Margaret Research Institute (QMRI) building, Little France, Edinburgh.

For directions, visit: www.wtcrf.ed.ac.uk/QMRI.

Professor Moira Whyte, Head of the Medical School, will give an overview of the work of the School, followed by four spotlight sessions which demonstrate an aspect of this activity. This will take the form of a tour around the various facilities to show how teaching and research at Edinburgh aims to provide the best possible care for patients and their families and will include:

1. **Human imaging facilities** These facilities help clinicians and researchers to see inside the body without the need for surgery. New techniques 'see' how diseases develop, how treatments are administered and how the body reacts over time. These techniques are being used to help develop treatments for a wide variety of disorders in a number of body systems, including the nervous system, cardiovascular system and reproductive systems.
2. **Zebra fish** These remarkable animals have interesting properties for medical research. They are transparent and can reproduce quickly and scientists can create genetic 'models' where they can see how a human disease can manifest, but in miniature, and in 'fast forward'. Unlike humans, zebra fish can actually repair some body systems, and investigating how the fish naturally resolve disorders such as heart or liver problems can hold clues as to how to switch on these repair mechanisms in humans.
3. **Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic** This new facility was funded by alumna, Joanne Rowling. It is a clinical facility that treats patients and where researchers also work with patients to attempt to understand what is causing neurological disorders and what can be done to repair damaged nerves.
4. **Big data** A term that refers to extremely large data sets that may be analysed computationally to reveal patterns, trends and associations and where the results could help to predict diseases before they even happen and to implement preventative therapies sooner in patients.

We hope this will be an interesting and memorable day and look forward to a good turnout from our graduate alumni, who are all members of the General Council.

Book online at: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening

Closing date for booking: **Friday 2 June 2017**

Meet the team

Here we profile three members of the General Council Business Committee.

Name: Stephen Gilbert Hillier OBE

Education: Hayes County Grammar School, West London; Leeds University (BSc honours 1971 and MSc (1971); University of Wales Cardiff (PhD 1975); University of Edinburgh (DSc 1992)

Home town: Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon

Current home: Edinburgh

Current role or interests: Busily retired since 2014, mixing among other things committee work for the University of Edinburgh, local school governorship, 'scholarship' and the casting of flies on Scottish lochs as often as possible. (Fortunately, my wife Haideh enjoys fishing too...)

Favourite student memory: Being at The Who Live at Leeds concert in 1970 while I was a student at Leeds University. Although never an undergraduate student at Edinburgh, I am hardwired into the University by the DSc degree that I was awarded in 1992. Apart from anything else, it gave me the privilege of wearing the exotic scarlet gown, which comes with an Edinburgh 'Higher Degree'.

Most memorable staff member: Dr Robert (Bob) E Oakey, Reader in the Steroid Unit at Leeds University, who taught me everything I know about steroid biochemistry.

Favourite social venue: The Playfair Library, Old College, University of Edinburgh. It is one of the most beautiful building interiors I have experienced anywhere in the world and a stunning setting for formal occasions.

Most valuable lesson: Bring solutions to problems, not problems to be solved.

I came to the University of Edinburgh as Senior Lecturer in Reproductive Endocrinology in 1985, having previously worked at the Hammersmith Hospital in London with Professor (now Lord) Robert Winston, in setting up one of the UK's first test-tube baby units. Before that, I had done a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, and then worked several years as Senior Lecturer equivalent at Leiden University Medical Centre in the Netherlands.

At Edinburgh, I juggled directorship of the Lothian NHS Reproductive Medicine Laboratory with basic research on ovarian cell biology and more and more University administrative work. Eventually, I finished up as Vice-Principal International, which I always felt to be the most privileged and enjoyable of jobs in the whole University.



Name: Krystyna Szumelukowa

Education: Newland High School, Kingston upon Hull; King's College, University of London (BA Hons Geography 1967); University of Edinburgh (MPhil Archaeology and Ancient History 2006). I was elected as a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1977.

Home town: Kingston upon Hull

Current home: Edinburgh

Current role or interests: My main focus is the promotion of connections in civic society between Scotland and Poland.

Favourite student memory: The occasions when I was not seen as a student by others but as the workshop leader at an induction session; the lecturer waiting to set up a power point; the tutor of a student group and another student's mother!

Most memorable staff member: I have many to choose from but I would like to honour the recently deceased Professor Edgar Peltenburg who guided me through my MPhil in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh agreeing to take me on as a mature student. He not only edged me away from writing government style reports to academic essays but also gave me the opportunity to take part in excavations in Cyprus and Syria.

Favourite social venue: The Department of Archaeology with its numerous tiny rooms and mesmerising corridors was a social hub in my time but has been now transformed into the magnificent Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation which is a great venue which the university can share.

Most valuable lesson: No pluck, no luck, and the harvest is reaped by sweat not by the dew.



I am honoured to become a member of the The General Council Business Committee especially as the next four years will be challenging indeed following the EU Referendum. The University of Edinburgh is long established and is a stabilising and motivational force for us all now and for future generations.

I started my higher education at the University of London which led me on to a career in local government and private consultancy in the fields of town planning, economic development, personnel and corporate management in England and Scotland. Alongside, I have fostered links between the UK and Poland; was a member of the Scottish Committee of Marie Curie Cancer Care; a trustee of Edinburgh World Heritage; and a founder member of the Wojtek Memorial Trust. For a number of years I undertook International Election Observer work for the OSCE and I am a member of the Asia Scotland Institute.

I loved being a mature student taking on the subject of archaeology and receiving the degree of Master of Philosophy in the McEwan Hall in 2006. It was a memorable day and as important to me as receiving my first degree in the Royal Albert Hall in London. I will always be grateful to the University of Edinburgh for being there for me.

Name: Bruce Ritson

Education: Edinburgh Academy; University of Edinburgh (MChB Medicine 1961 and MD 1967); Harvard Medical School (One year postgraduate course in Community Mental Health 1967).

Current role or interests: I worked as a consultant psychiatrist in Nottingham before returning to Edinburgh as a consultant and part-time senior lecturer.

Now retired, I am active in policy development in prevention of alcohol related problems. I also served on the Parole Board. Other interests are art with some very amateur painting.



Favourite student memory: Almost all are bound up with lasting friendships formed while working together, for instance in the anatomy dissecting room or clinical teams. Holiday work experience in hospitals in Germany and Denmark arranged for us with the help and reputation of the Medical School.

Most memorable staff member: Some outstanding lecturers; Sir Derrick Dunlop and Professor Alexander Kennedy. Subsequently, I was inspired by Professor Morris Carstairs to see mental health problems and medicine in general from a much broader anthropological and sociological perspective.

Favourite social venue: Evenings at the Royal Medical Society (then in Melbourne Place) followed by convivial gatherings in a nearby hostelry.

Most valuable lesson: Learning first and last to listen to the patient and question received opinions.

The University and the city itself remain an inspiration to me. The University as part of the local community is very important.

I was involved in several international projects mostly concerned with the prevention and treatment of alcohol problems often with the World Health Organization in Europe and further afield. I also worked for a time in Australia and USA. Working with teams of different professional and national backgrounds made me realise the value of the training I received and the reputation of Edinburgh Medical School.

We have more international students than ever across all our Schools and their experience must remain of the highest quality. They are our ambassadors for the future. As the University expands it is important that it retains a focus on the quality of the students' experience whether they are undergraduates or PhD candidates.

This is my second term on the Business Committee and I have found it a great opportunity for learning the concerns of the current generation of students and keeping informed of the plans for our future. The Business Committee faces a challenging but fascinating role as an interface between the University and the General Council.

“From Molecule to Man: Research and Teaching at Edinburgh Medical School” – incorporating the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting

Saturday 10 June 2017

Queen’s Medical Research Institute, Little France, Edinburgh

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 12.30pm | Light lunch on arrival and opportunity to learn about some of the projects in Medicine funded by Innovation Initiative Grants |
| 1.15pm | General Council Business Meeting |
| 1.35pm | Edinburgh Medical School 2017 Overview with Professor Moira Whyte |
| 2–4.45pm | Four revolving sessions covering Big Data and the impact of Health Science, Human Imaging, Zebra Fish project and a visit to the Ann Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic |
| 4.45–5pm | Summary of the afternoon |

The event will finish around 5pm, after a short presentation summarising the afternoon and the importance of involvement by alumni.

Agenda for the General Council Meeting

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, High School Yards, Edinburgh on 18 February 2017 (PAPER A)
- 2 Matters arising
- 3 Report of the Business Committee
- 4 Dates of future meetings of the General Council
- 5 Notice of forthcoming Elections
- 6 Any other competent business
- 7 Adjournment
- 8 From Molecule to Man: Research and Teaching at Edinburgh Medical School



Paper A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Edinburgh on 18 February 2017

Present:

Sheriff Principal Edward Bowen	Chancellor's Assessor, in the Chair
Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea	Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Dr Michael Mitchell	Secretary of the General Council
Professor Stuart Macpherson	Convener of the Business Committee
Rev Dr Harriet Harris	Chaplain to the University

60 members present

1. Result of the Elections of five Members of the Business Committee and one Court Assessor

The Chairman announced that the two new members of the Business Committee elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2021 were Mr John Clifford and Ms Janet Currie. The remaining three vacancies will be filled by co-option by the Business Committee.

The Chairman announced that the one Court Assessor elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2021 was Ms Doreen Davidson.

2. Minutes of the meeting of the General Council held in New Hunt's House, Guys Campus, London, on 18 June 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2016 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 congratulated the Chaplain, Rev Dr Harriet Harris, on her award in the New Year's Honours List. Given that this was Professor Stuart Macpherson's first meeting as Convener of the Business Committee, he thanked the Business Committee for his election and expressed gratitude to his predecessor Professor Charles Swainson. His commitment has been shown over the past eleven years to a committee which worked actively on its members' behalf and which comprised a wide diversity of members. The Convener lauded the varied skills and positive contributions from new members and those who had returned to serve a further term.

In the recent elections in February, only two candidates had been nominated for the five vacancies on the Business Committee, resulting in the need for the co-option of three other members. The Convener congratulated the two successful candidates, Mr John Clifford and Ms Janet Currie, and said that he would be keen to hear from those members who have the time and interest to participate in the Business Committee.

The Convener noted the recent death of Business Committee member Anne Paterson and that a note of sympathy had been sent to her family on behalf of the General Council.

The Academic Standing Committee, and its Convener, Professor Stephen Hillier, would look at areas of importance including reviewing the University's strategic plan and its implementation and assessing the implications of the result of the referendum on membership of the EU and the University's planning for Brexit. It maintained its focus on excellence in teaching and improving results in surveys of student satisfaction. Further discussions with Senior-Vice-Principal Charlie Jeffery, demonstrated the high priority given to this matter. It was clear that while the University has already taken action to improve many areas relating to the student experience, this had not always been reflected in the student comment. Meetings with Edinburgh University Students' Association were encouraging and confirmed that ongoing proposals were progressing well, but that the fundamental changes being addressed might take time to be fully implemented.

The Constitutional Standing Committee, chaired by Professor David Munro, had provided great support in analysing the University's response to Brexit and the likely impact it would have on the University. The Constitutional Standing Committee would continue to monitor progress and investigate how a changing scenario might affect things. It would also look at the effects of the Scottish HE Governance Bill 2016 on the University.

The Convener raised two topics covered by the Public Affairs Standing Committee, chaired by Matt McPherson. The first was the June 2017 Half-Yearly Meeting. Following the undoubted success of the format adopted in London last summer, a similar more active and engaging event was planned for Saturday 10 June, with the Medical School at Little France. Together with Professor Moira Whyte, the head of the Medical School, a programme had been planned to demonstrate some of the world-leading activities going on at Little France. Headlined "From Molecule to Man: Research and Teaching at Edinburgh Medical School", there would be an overview of teaching at the Medical School from Professor Whyte, and three revolving programmes covering human imaging and the zebra fish project, big data in medicine and a visit to the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic. There would be opportunities for debate and discussion around these topics. The Convener hoped that this would prove attractive and encouraged members to attend.

The second matter related to publications. In future *Edit* would only be published in the summer and be more feature driven and pictorial. There would be one page devoted to the General Council. This would enable the General Council to publish *Billet*, its more formal publication, separately, in both winter and summer. This would be dispatched, electronically, to all contactable General Council members and a printed version to those who have requested this. There are currently approximately 211,000 members of the General Council.

The Director of Finance, had presented the *Annual Report and Accounts* to the Finance and Services Standing Committee, led by Sir Philip Mawer. The Convener pointed out that these were presented in a new format related to the University's activities and the report provided useful information across the organisation, as well as the figures illustrating its continued financial strength, although uncertainties surrounding Brexit made forecasting challenging.

Finally, the Convener addressed the imminent retirement of the Principal and acknowledged the momentous legacy he has left. On behalf of the General Council and its Business Committee, he thanked the Principal for the tremendous support he had shown to the General Council throughout his period of office, and wished him well for the future. The Business Committee would welcome Professor Peter Mathieson when he arrived to take up his role as the Principal's successor in early 2018.

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 would take place on Saturday 10 June 2017 in the QMRI building, Little France, Edinburgh. Any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by 22 March 2017. The following Statutory Half-Yearly Meeting would be held on Saturday 24 February 2018 at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation [updated after the Meeting] and any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 22 November 2017.

6. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There would be elections for five Members of the Business Committee in February 2018. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office and on the website should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 22 November 2017.

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

The Principal presented his Annual Report based on the University's Annual Review 2015/2016 (www.ed.ac.uk/about/annual-review).

The Principal warmly acknowledged the support given to him and the University by the General Council. There was a sound and supportive relationship at this University which was a tribute to both. The work of the Court Assessors was also much appreciated. He then gave his 15th Annual Report. The University has had a major impact on the fabric of the city. The meeting was held in the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, High School Yards, and this was a recent redevelopment which had created an award-winning conversion of a much interfered with old building. Currently the McEwan Hall was undergoing an extensive refurbishment and alteration which would greatly improve its condition and usability. The former Royal Infirmary building was in development and would also result in a significant restoration and reimagining.

Based on the Annual Review, the Principal went through the status of the University which had grown moderately this past year. There were now around 38,000 students. Arts, Humanities and Social Science was by far the largest College with 22,500. The Medical College had about 6,000 which equated to some other entire universities in numbers. Overall for a research-intensive university there was a high proportion of undergraduates, almost three quarters. A leading research institute such as MIT might be 90% postgraduate. Edinburgh could usefully increase its proportion of postgraduates, particularly in research. Overall the students were around a third from Scotland, a substantial number in absolute terms, with another third from non-EU international sources and about a quarter from the rest of the UK. North America was the single largest area of origin, though China was catching up in second place. India was underrepresented in population terms and should increase in the future, depending upon the UK immigration policies and their implementation. However, 160 countries had students here.

Applications to study at the University were greatly oversubscribed, nearly 10:1. Veterinary Medicine was the most contested, 26:1, followed by Law and then Human Medicine. This University was distinguished by the breadth of its range of subjects as well as their quality. There were also benefits in this respect from being so large: for example, a School of Byzantine Studies was possible because of the strength in Classics. Mechanical Engineering flourished despite it being relatively expensive to run.

The Principal then highlighted some of the Personal Chairs awarded this year which demonstrated the wide range of research and academic specialisations. Full details of these and much further information might be found in the Annual Review (www.ed.ac.uk/about/annual-review). New Chairs also indicated our major research

interests, for example, one in Medical Statistics for epidemiology, one in Tissue Repair and Regeneration for stem cells and one in Equine Clinical Sciences for horse medicine. New research facilities at Easter Bush for Avian Biology and for Avian Breeding Research indicated a growing focus on Animal Health and Food Production. The importance of these, and other related work, has led to a fifth Global Academy, in Agriculture and Food Security. Other research areas mentioned included Computer Science for cybersecurity, and Civil Engineering for future infrastructure. Nursing was a real strength, both in education and research, based on the oldest university nursing department in Europe. The value of Honorary Professorships was described.

The importance of teaching excellence was emphasised. There were many ways to recognise this including the Edinburgh University Students' Association Teaching Awards and other University awards. Outreach voluntary work was extensive, from both the staff and student bodies, for example free veterinary services for the pets of the homeless.

Many staff received prestigious awards or honours from external sources and were mentioned. Student projects were also recognised. Many distinguished people received honorary degrees including the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, and Prince Albert of Monaco, whose Foundation had also reinforced its links with the University.

The financial situation was very solid. This was now an establishment with a very large turnover, £908 million. It not only was awarded a large proportion of Scottish Government funding but won competitively, approximately four times, that which was a highly successful multiplier. New company formation from the University continued strongly. Major donations had been given from individuals, companies and charitable foundations and some were illustrated.

There was also a strong social responsibility dimension to the work of the University, for example supporting students who were seeking asylum or technology projects that could improve the ability of refugees to function in a modern society. More locally, students had a befriending scheme for adults with learning difficulties.

The issue of Brexit and the changes to the EU were addressed. Research applications and income had actually increased since the Referendum. There were challenges regarding reassuring both staff and students of EU origins and a substantial programme of support and information had been implemented. It was important to retain a perspective as the rest of the world was actually more important strategically for this University. The Scottish Government had been very supportive for both teaching and research funding. Immigration issues for both staff and students would remain a major concern.

Overall, the University was in excellent shape. The quality and diversity of staff and students was exceptional. The size and breadth of the University activities were a major strength. Research was very highly rated, often world class. The online offering was expanding rapidly in both open learning and for qualifications. The University infrastructure and estate were being significantly upgraded. The five Global Academies were working very well. This was a tribute to all involved.

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 presentation can also be viewed on the website at www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media.

8. Any other competent business

There was no other competent business.

9. 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.

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 18 February 2017 is available on the website at: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media. General Council members may also request it by post from:

Ms Alison MacLeary,
General Council Office,
Charles Stewart House,
9-16 Chambers Street,
Edinburgh EH1 1HT.
+44 (0)131 650 2152; general.council@ed.ac.uk

or pick a copy up at the location of the Council Meeting from half an hour beforehand.

Officers

Chairman:	HRH The Princess Royal	
Secretary:	Michael J Mitchell, BSc, PhD	2019
Registrar:	Sarah Smith, University Secretary	ex-officio

General Council Assessors on the University Court:

Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD	2017
Dr Alan Brown, MBChB, FRCOG, FRCS	2019
Ritchie Walker, MA, BSc, DipEd	2019

Business Committee:

<i>Convener:</i> Stuart Macpherson, OBE, MBChB, FRCS, FRCP, FRCGP, FACadMedEd	2020
<i>Vice-Convener:</i> Gordon D Cairns, LLB	2020
<i>A Convener of Academic Standing Committee:</i> Stephen Hillier, OBE, DSc	2020
<i>C Convener of Constitutional Standing Committee:</i> David Munro, MBE, BSc, PhD	2020
<i>F Convener of Finance and Services Standing Committee:</i> Sir Philip Mawer, D Litt, LL.D (Hon), MA, DPA, Hon FIFA	2018
<i>P Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee:</i> Matthew McPherson, MA	2017

Members

<i>Chancellor's Assessor:</i> Sheriff Principal Edward F Bowen, CBE, TD, QC	ex officio
P John Clifford, MA, MSc, FRSA	2017
C Scott Peter, MA, PGDE	2017
A Dorothy Macleod, BSc, MBA	2018
F David Houston, BSc, MBA, PhD, FSITM	2018
P Samuel Trett, MBA, MA	2018
A Sophie Marshall, MA	2019
F Jock Millican, BSc, FCILT	2019
P Kristin Hannesdottir, BArch(Hons), BA, MFA	2019
P Bruce Ritson, OBE, MD, FRCPE, FRCPsych	2019
C Moyra Forrest, MA	2019
A Briana Pegado, MA	2020
C Krystyna Szumelukowa, BA, MPhil, MRTPI	2020
F Kirsty MacGregor, MA, MBA, DipEd	2020
F Hamish McKenzie, MA	2020

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, and
'P' a member of the Public Affairs Standing Committee

The June 2017 General Council Event Booking Form

**Queen Margaret Research Institute, Little France, Edinburgh,
on Saturday 10 June 2017, 12.30pm**

Tickets to this event are free

Name

Degree obtained (subject, classification and year of graduation)

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of guest(s)

Dietary requirements/preferences

Please return to: Ms Alison MacLeary
Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council
The University of Edinburgh
Charles Stewart House
9–16 Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1HT
Scotland, UK

Alternatively, book online at: www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening

Closing date for booking: **Friday 2 June 2017**

This publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact:

communications.office@ed.ac.uk

Photography by

Andrew Cowan/Scottish Parliament,
Paul Dodds, Neil Hana, iStock, Gareth Overton

Cover shows the recently restored ceiling in the McEwan Hall.

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