



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
The General Council

# Billet

SUMMER 2019

## Welcome to *Billet* Summer 2019

We hope that you enjoy this Summer issue which also contains the papers for the Half-Yearly Meeting to be held on Saturday 15 June, 2019.

The electronic version of the newest *Edit* is of course available online at: [www.ed.ac.uk/edit-magazine](http://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](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk)

*On the cover:* The staircase in the newly refurbished Law School. A tour of the Law School took place at the February Half-Yearly Meeting.

*Below:* Alumni from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas are unearthed and recognised in research project UncoverED. The relationship between the University and Africa will be explored at the Summer Half-Yearly Meeting. See page 11 for details.



## Report

by **Professor Stuart Macpherson**

*Convener of the Business Committee of the General Council*

At the Half-Yearly Meeting of the General Council held on Saturday 16 February, 2019 I was able to conclude my report with a significant announcement. It was that the University had agreed that we would retain three General Council Assessors on the University Court. The previous agreement, passed at the Half-Yearly Meeting in February 2019, that these individuals would be appointed rather than elected, was maintained. Following advertising I am delighted to say that we received 10 applications from appropriate individuals, all of whom would have been entirely appointable.



After a short-listing process, four were invited for interview by a panel comprising an equal number of representatives of the University and the Business Committee of the General Council and I am pleased to say that The Hon Lady Sarah Wolffe and Mr Jock Millican have been appointed. They will join Doreen Davidson as General Council Assessors on Court in the Autumn. We look forward to welcoming them regularly to the Business Committee to give us their review of Court business. This of course means that two of our current assessors will be stepping down. I wish to thank Alan Brown and Ritchie Walker for their committed and diligent performance over the past four years.

As a prelude to the Half-Yearly Meeting we were treated to a tour of the refurbished Law School on the north side of Old College Quad. The transformation to beautiful modern accommodation is remarkable. Members who had experienced the building previously as students were amazed and, in many instances, unable to recognise areas they had known well. To me the high point was the library which is not only stylish but provides an excellent working space, with access to knowledge both ancient and modern for staff and students.

Our meeting was then held in the School with the highlight being the simultaneous transmission of proceedings to General Council members in a number of European countries. In addition, we were honoured with the presence of colleagues from London and Belgium. I would encourage any General Council members who are able, to travel to the February Half-Yearly Meeting. I can assure them of a warm welcome and much information on the current state of their University. This is delivered by the Principal in his annual report of University affairs. This year Peter Mathieson delivered his first annual review. It is obvious that the University is in excellent health with the Principal drawing attention to many highlights while making it clear that we are prepared for what, on account of various external influences, is an unpredictable future.

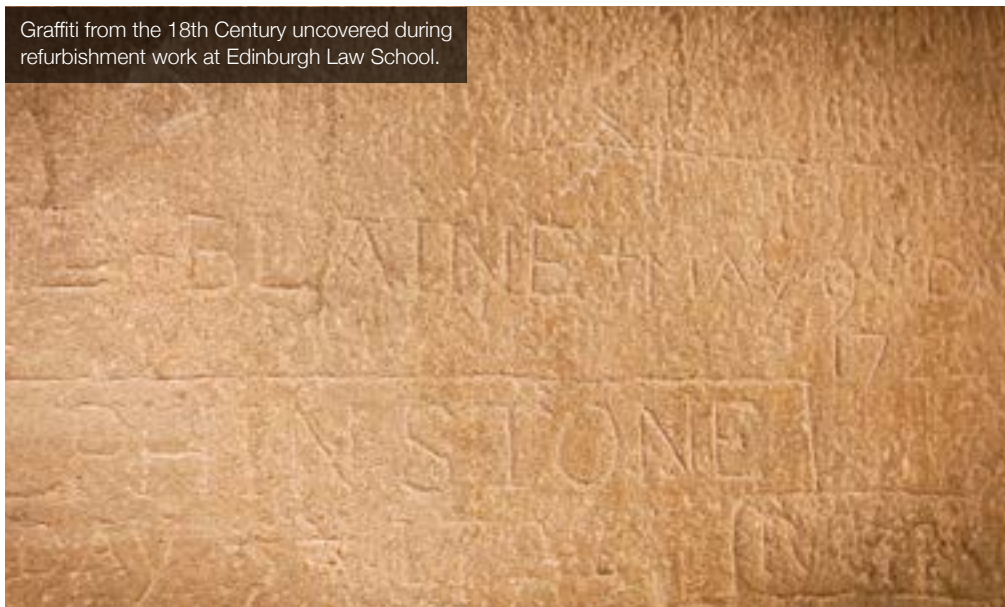
Following the meeting, lunch was served in the Playfair Library and our after lunch speaker was Professor John Cairns. Professor Cairns currently holds the Chair of Civil Law and had acted as one of our guides on the earlier tour of the rejuvenated Law School. He gave us a most interesting talk on the history of the Old College site.

This report will continue the recently introduced practice of allowing the Conveners of the Standing Committees to report on any recent meetings of their group. However, I can relate that our working group on international matters continues to consult and we will be in a position to record the outcome recommendations by the end of the current session.

The meeting in February received the results of the election to the Business Committee. I was delighted to hear that a number of very valuable members of the Committee had secured a second term and also to welcome Lady Joyce Caplan as a new member. I know that Joyce will enjoy her time on the Business Committee and will be a valuable addition to our discussions, particularly with regard to her long association with and leadership of the Friends of the University Library. Unfortunately, this also means that we bid adieu to Kristin Hannesdottir. Kristin will be greatly missed on the Business Committee and I thank her for her very valued contribution.

Finally, a sad note. The General Council was very well represented at the service to mark the death of Neil Hynd. Neil served as Vice-Convenor of the Business Committee between 2004 and 2008 and was also Convener of the Public Affairs Standing Committee. Neil was devoted to his University and will be sadly missed by many.

Graffiti from the 18th Century uncovered during refurbishment work at Edinburgh Law School.



## Reports by the Conveners of the standing committees

### Constitutional Standing Committee

The Committee has met four times during the present academic session. At its first meeting on 18 October 2018 the Committee heard from Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services, about changes being made to the University ordinances, particularly those changes affecting the composition of the University Court which had been approved 'in principle' by the General Council at its Half-Yearly Meeting in February 2018. The Committee went on to agree its work plan for the session which is to focus on reviewing and updating the *Constitutional Arrangements for the Working of the University of Edinburgh General Council and its Business Committee* in the light of changes being made through statute and ordinance.

At its subsequent meetings on 14 November 2018, 23 January 2019 and 20 March 2019 the Committee advanced its review of the Constitutional Arrangements, aiming to make the final document more accessible to the lay reader, while continuing to provide appropriate reference to government legislation, University ordinances, Court papers and minuted decisions which regulate and guide the working of the General Council and its committees. Progress in carrying out this review is, in part, determined by the pace of the University's work in amending its ordinances to comply with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016.

At its meeting on 23 January, it was reported that the Committee had been advised that the first of these ordinances – No 211 – was in its final draft form pending Scottish Government approval prior to submission for final approval by the Privy Council. This Ordinance deals with the composition of the University Court. It was also noted that in December 2018, following responses to the statutory consultation on a previous draft, Court approved an amendment splitting the previous proposed joint positions for a Chancellor's and General Council Assessor. The final draft of the ordinance therefore specifies that the Chancellor will continue to nominate the Chancellor's Assessor. There will be three General Council Assessors appointed by a previously agreed process overseen by a joint Court and General Council selection panel. The Committee welcomed this development and noted the timetable for subsequent ordinances affecting the General Council, such as removing references to the previous election procedure for General Council Assessors.

At its meeting on 20 March, the Committee discussed a timetable for the completion of its review of the *Constitutional Arrangements* in time for approval by the Business Committee this autumn in advance of the document being presented to the General Council at its Half-Yearly Meeting in February 2020.



UK Prime Minister Theresa May, Edinburgh City Council Leader Adam McVey and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon mark the signing of the City Region Deal in August 2018.

## Finance and Services Standing Committee

### City Region Deal

Data-driven innovation is key to the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal. The Finance and Services Standing Committee of the Business Committee (FSSC) heard an exciting presentation on this from Senior Vice-Principal, Professor Charlie Jeffery and Vice-Principal, Hugh Edmiston. Working together to deliver the 15-year programme are the University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University, whose experts will collaborate with industrial partners on data-based projects in the public, private and third sectors. This will increase demand for graduate skills in the region and launch more spin-out companies.

FSSC had a number of issues they wished to address including understanding: the scope of the City Deal; the University's commitment in terms of money and resource; how targets of training 100,000 people in data skills over the next decade and creating 400 new spin-out companies in the next three to four years will be achieved; and the legacy to the University of being involved in the City Deal. Members' questions included: the ethics of using data; ensuring data security; how to mitigate the potential for increasing social inequality; the impact on the rest of the University while the focus is on the City Deal; and ability to achieve these targets.

Charlie Jeffery and Hugh Edmiston answered all the questions reassuringly. While they do not have all the answers at this point, they are aware of the issues and are addressing them, for example, establishing an ethics advisory group to ensure that the work will meet the highest ethical standards. The University has also been supporting Newbattle High School in Midlothian in its pioneering ambition to become a centre of digital excellence, upskilling its pupils for these developments.

### Meeting with outgoing Finance Director

The FSSC met with Phil McNaul, the outgoing Finance Director who retired at the end of December. An open exchange covered his reflections on what the University has achieved during his tenure and thoughts on the key issues facing the University going forward.

One of the positive aspects is the aligning of strategic objectives with the ongoing monitoring of performance. This is seen best in the *Annual Report and Accounts* which focuses significantly on non-financial targets taken from the Strategic Plan. He welcomed the Principal's review of the Strategic Plan which is looking at the size and shape of the University in years to come.

He noted the University is leading in the UK with its policy on corporate social responsible investment as well as the aforementioned City Deal.

His major concern was the need for the University to generate a sufficient surplus to sustain the capital spend. Progress has been made but there is still some way to go before it reaches a sustainable position.



### Meeting with new Finance Director

The FSSC met with Lee Hamill, the new Finance Director. Lee had previously been Deputy Finance Director. Lee gave a short presentation on the *Annual Report and Accounts* to 31 July 2018.

The report is integrated so that it is informative, transparent and accessible to all stakeholders with achievements shown against the Strategic Plan objectives. Layout is continually evolving and improving, for example, introduction of 'Material Issues' highlights key issues such as pensions, Brexit, City Region Deal and student experience and the risks and opportunities involved. The report also ensures that stakeholders are clear on the University's approach to understanding and managing risk which is under constant review.

Ongoing discussions about the future size and shape of the University point to a rebalancing of student numbers and concentration on the efficiency of systems and processes.

### Meeting with Director of HR

The FSSC met with James Saville, Director of HR. James joined the University one year ago after a career in HR in food manufacturing, financial services and the civil service. The meeting covered a variety of topics including service excellence, pensions and pay, EU members of staff and ability to recruit them, and a staff experience survey.

James stressed the importance of better and more consistent internal communication across the University about HR issues. The approach being taken is to strive for service excellence (and consistency) in HR, while having enough flexibility to accommodate the differences in the colleges. The work being done by the senior management team on values is critical and will be the basis for the developing approach.

A final meeting with the Director of Estates will be held after Easter.

## Report

by **Ann Smyth**

*Secretary of the General Council*

### Booking/payment for General Council events

We have received some comments from members about registering for General Council events. The following information may be helpful in clarifying the position.

General Council Half-Yearly Meetings are open to all General Council members and are free to attend. Those attending are asked to sign the register at the event.

Members will appreciate that there are costs to ensuring the appropriately staffed public access to University premises, with audio visual facilities, for General Council members on Saturdays. These costs are borne by the General Council Office.

Members are warmly invited to attend these meetings but are asked to understand that it is helpful to organisers to have members indicate in advance if they are likely to attend, to ensure adequate seating capacity and appropriate catering (for example, tea and coffee).

Members are welcome to bring a guest to the open events which form part of these half-yearly occasions, such as the programme and light lunch in June and the more formal meal in February. For these events advance booking and pre-payment is required by a deadline which is given with the booking information. The electronic system takes individual bookings and payment. Members, and their guests can be registered in the same transaction by clicking on the 'add attendee' link (up to four tickets can be purchased in a single transaction). Meanwhile, booking and payment can also be made through the General Council Office by the same deadline.



### Online voting

We have been trying to remove barriers for General Council members to voting online in General Council elections. Many will be as frustrated as I am to learn that the promised step-by-step instructions for registering with EASE were not always included with the winter issue of *Billet*. I can only apologise for the problem which was due to an unfortunate technical error in the final stages of the production process.

We do understand that there are members without access to computers who will wish to continue to receive postal ballot papers. However, there are many reasons for encouraging as many members as possible to engage with us online. Please bear with us as we persevere in this endeavour.

### The General Council website

#### Livestreaming

In the shadow of Brexit we particularly invited members of the University's alumni clubs in Europe to engage with us in the February Half-Yearly Meeting, which was livestreamed through our website. Almost as many people joined online as attended in person. It was a special pleasure to welcome members from Brussels and London who attended the meeting in person. We will be exploring how to build on this opportunity for wider engagement in our meetings in future.

#### News reports

We have been working to support the Business Committee and its standing committees to provide more open and timely information about their work through the General Council website. We have also been exploring greater use of video to provide insight into the role of the General Council and of the University Court. These videos can be viewed on our website.

The University is about to embark on a major project to upgrade its IT systems. We are planning to undertake a more thorough review of our communications to make best use of the resources available to us to engage with more of our members.

### Reviewing requirements for printed publications

It is some time since members were asked whether they wished to receive online or printed editions of *Billet*. Since that time, the number and global spread of our members has increased markedly, printing and postage costs have increased, digital communication has become more prevalent and new legislation governing the use of personal data has been introduced. We are currently considering the efficiency and effectiveness of our use of resources in communicating with our members.

While we completely understand that some General Council members do not have ready access to computers and hence require a printed version of the statutory General

Council papers, for others electronic communication may be more accessible than when they were last asked about this. For this reason, we are asking all those who receive this summer edition of *Billet* in printed form to please complete and return the form on page 18 to update their details and preferences.

**Please note**, this form only refers to printed editions of *Billet*. Requests for postal ballot papers are dealt with separately.

## Selection interviews for General Council Assessors

### Background

To comply with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016, the University reviewed the composition of its Court and, in so doing, proposed a new selection process for General Council Assessors, similar to that used for co-opted members. Following discussion with the Business Committee its approval in principle was given. A Motion proposing the new arrangements was approved by the General Council at its Half-Yearly Meeting on 24 February 2018. Following consultation on the relevant draft ordinance it was then decided to retain three positions for General Council Assessors as the draft proposal that one position might fulfil the dual role of Chancellor's and General Council Assessor was revoked. The updated position was reported to the General Council Half-Yearly Meeting on 16 February 2019. The new processes that have been followed to secure the appointment of two General Council Assessors to take up office on 1 August 2019 are:

- The positions are openly advertised, with regard to the skills and experience identified by the Nominations Committee as required, and with eligibility restricted to General Council members;
- The recruitment process is overseen by a selection panel including equal numbers of General Council appointees and other members appointed by the Nominations Committee;
- Applicants are assessed on the skills and experience they could bring to Court with consideration of the equality and diversity of Court membership; and
- The General Council Assessor positions are formally appointed by Court, for four years in the first instance.

## General Council Half-Yearly Meeting

The next statutory Half-Yearly Meeting for members of the General Council will be held in the McEwan Hall, Foyer 4 at 10.15am on **Saturday 15 June, 2019**. Registration, tea and coffee will be available from 9.30am.

This meeting will be followed by a programme of events, open to General Council members and their guests, showcasing the University's engagement with Africa, past, present and future. Registration for guests will be open until 11.10am. The programme, which is available in full on the General Council website, will run from 11.15am to 3pm and will include a light buffet lunch and a musical interlude. There will be formal presentations, a panel discussion, exhibits, a film and an opportunity to engage with staff and students engaged in a range of important projects in Africa. Places for this event must be booked in advance.

I hope that the enthusiasm of the contributors, which has been palpable in the planning of the event, will be matched by General Council members in supporting it.

Book online at: **[www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/newsandevents/general-council-half-yearly-meeting-15-june-2019](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/newsandevents/general-council-half-yearly-meeting-15-june-2019)**

A booking form is also available on page 17.

Closing date for booking is **Thursday 6 June, 2019**.

9.30am	Registration and coffee
10.15am	General Council Business Meeting
11.15am	<b>The University and Africa: Past, Present and Future</b>
3pm	Guests depart

### Agenda for the General Council Meeting

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the McEwan Hall, Edinburgh on 16 February 2019 (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. **The University and Africa: Past, Present and Future**

## Paper A

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in Edinburgh on 16 February 2019

### Present

Ms Ann Henderson	University Rector, in the Chair
Ms Tracey Slaven	Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
Professor Peter Mathieson	Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Professor Ann Smyth	Secretary of the General Council
Professor Stuart Macpherson	Convener of the Business Committee
Reverend Dr Harriet Harris	Chaplain to the University

64 Members present

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

The Chairman announced that the five new members of the Business Committee elected to serve for a period of four years from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2023 were Lady Joyce Caplan, Ms Moyra Forrest, Ms Sophie Marshall, Mr Jock Millican and Dr Edward Bruce Ritson.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting of the General Council held in the Appleton Tower, Crichton Street, Edinburgh

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2018 were approved.

### 3. Matters arising

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

### 4. Report of the Business Committee

As the meeting was being livestreamed, the Convener began by warmly welcoming those General Council members attending in person, including delegates from London and Brussels, and also the alumni networks joining the meeting online from Finland, France, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands.

The Convener went on to talk about the success of the last Half-Yearly Meeting which was held on 9 June 2018. This event included interesting presentations from Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University, and Jeremy Upton, Head of Library and University Collections, after which followed a fascinating tour of those areas of the Main University Library usually out of bounds to public view: the Treasures Room, and the Centre for Research Collections including the Digital Imaging

Unit and the Exhibition Gallery. The visit demonstrated the opportunities for General Council members to volunteer their services to many parts of the University and the Convener encouraged members to do so.

The Convener reported on the work of the Business Committee and its four subcommittees that had spent the first part of the 2018/19 session in many instructive and enjoyable meetings.

The Convener of the Academic Standing Committee, Professor Steve Hillier, had consulted with elected members of the student community to prioritise this session's work plan which still includes keeping abreast of the issue of mental health. The committee had met with the Director of Academic Services about curriculum diversity and Vice-Principal Jane Norman on student disability.

The Constitutional Standing Committee has been tasked with reviewing the General Council's constitutional arrangements which were last updated in 2011. Professor David Munro, Convener of the Committee, is keen to make the final document accessible while continuing to provide appropriate reference to the legislation and University ordinances as well as minuted decisions of the Business Committee. The outcome will be presented in due course to the Business Committee and then at a General Council Half-Yearly Meeting.

The Committee also met with Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services, who gave an update on the University ordinances, particularly changes governed by the passing of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016.

Mr Jock Millican chairs the Finance and Services Standing Committee who met last autumn to understand the scope of the City Deal and the University's involvement in it, including the commitment in terms of money and resource. The Senior Vice-Principal and the Director of Corporate Services addressed these issues as well as the manner in which the challenging targets will be met and the nature of the legacy to the University.

The committee also met both the retiring Director of Finance, Phil McNaull, and the incoming Director Lee Hamill to discuss the *Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 July 2018*.

Sophie Marshall chairs the Public Affairs Standing Committee and reported that they have another packed agenda reviewing the engagement of the University with the local community, assessing how the University communicates with alumni and considering the cost and provision of student housing and transport.

The Committee met with Gavin Donoghue, Deputy Director, Stakeholder Relations, who discussed the City Deal, the launch of the Widening Participation Strategy and the refresh of the Community Engagement Strategy. More recently they met the Edinburgh University Students' Association's Vice President Community, Georgie Harris, who described the many examples of students engaging positively with local communities.

The Convener explained that all four subcommittees report their findings to the Business Committee at every meeting, along with the University's Director of Communications and Marketing who also gives a personal report. This ensures that the Business Committee are kept up to speed with University affairs. The Convener thanked the members of the Business Committee for their continuing interest and concern for the development of the University and for giving so much of their time to supporting its staff and students.

Recognising the University's expanding global reach, the Secretary of the General Council, Professor Ann Smyth, had considered how the Business Committee could best scrutinise international academic affairs. The Convener went on to discuss the working group set up for this matter, which is chaired by the Business Committee Vice-Convener, Mr Gordon Cairns, and comprises the chairs of all the standing committees. The group has already met twice and the conclusions will feature at a future Half-Yearly Meeting.

A second initiative by the Secretary has been in relation to the annual elections for Business Committee members and the issues raised by those choosing to vote online. The Convener reassured members of the General Council that these difficulties are being addressed and any problems with online voting should be reported to the General Council Office. He also reminded members to regularly check the General Council website where there is open access to news of General Council activities and events and includes recently introduced reports from the Business Committee and its Standing Committees: [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk)

Finally the Convener drew attention to the appointment of General Council members to serve on the University Court and urged relevant members of the General Council to consider applying for the two positions currently being advertised. He was pleased to report that the University has recommended a return to three General Council Assessors on Court and confirmed that the Chancellor will continue to nominate her own Assessor.

The report of the Business Committee was approved.

The full text of the Convener's remarks is contained in the Annex to *Billet*, which can be viewed on the website at: [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media).

## 5. Dates of future meetings of the General Council

The next Half-Yearly Meeting will take place on Saturday 15 June, 2019 in the McEwan Hall, Teviot Place, Edinburgh. 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 1 February, 2020 at the Bayes Centre, 47 Potterrow, Edinburgh and any Motions for discussion at this meeting should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 12 November, 2019.

## 6. Notice of forthcoming Elections

There will be elections for five Members of the Business Committee in February 2020. Nominations on forms available from the General Council Office and on the website should be received in the General Council Office by Wednesday 12 November, 2019.

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

The Principal presented the Annual Report based on the University's *Annual Review 2017/2018*: [www.ed.ac.uk/about/annual-review](http://www.ed.ac.uk/about/annual-review)

The Principal began his report on the academic year 2017/18 by talking about the City Deal, the creation of which pre-dated his arrival one year ago. He explained the City Deal as a group of initiatives based around data-driven innovation, stating that the University has been a leader in the field of data science for many years and has taught artificial intelligence since the 1960s. As data science applies to education, industry and the world's great challenges including public health, cyber security, clean energy, air and water supplies, the government will invest £237 million as a grant to the University over eight to ten years to support this expertise in addressing some of these issues. The Principal reported that delivery of the agreement is going well and should endure even if there is a change of government.

The University is a substantial organisation in good financial health but with some challenges ahead. Key concerns are the ongoing dispute about pensions and pay happening across the sector and uncertainties surrounding Brexit. The review of tuition fee funding in England could also have adverse implications for future University income given that 20 per cent of students come from south of the border. Around a third of students are Scottish and a third are international, predominantly from China and the United States.

The University is among the biggest in the UK with 41,000 students divided by three Colleges: 59 per cent of the student body is in the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 25 per cent in Science & Engineering and 16 per cent in Medicine & Veterinary Medicine. The majority are undergraduate students. Online provision of courses increases that number to 2.5 million. The Principal commented on the substantial growth of the University in recent years and indicated that the current size and shape is large enough. The University continues to attract 10 applications for one place, with more women applying than men.

Professor Mathieson highlighted a few examples of those members of staff who were awarded prizes and honours, including the high number of staff specially regarded by the student population for their teaching contributions. He emphasised the importance of improving the various aspects of student satisfaction and that extended to reviewing the Personal Tutor scheme.



The University had done very well in developing partnerships and had major initiatives in areas supporting social enterprise and charities, work within Africa, data collaboration and application of modern technologies.

There was considerable community involvement. The Edinburgh College of Art students partnered with the festivals to create costumes for the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh International Festival and student volunteering is much appreciated. It is important to the Principal that the University is relevant to the city and the city reaffirmed this in its renewal of the social impact pledge and in establishing the Centre for the Homeless and Inclusion Health.

The Principal concluded by outlining his focus going forward: producing a new strategic plan based on defined values and aligning with strategically important goals; addressing student and staff satisfaction; and ensuring that the University is accessible to all.

The full text of the Principal's remarks, as well as the presentations and the record of the discussion, are contained in the Annex to *Billet*, which can be viewed on the website at: [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media](http://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.

Reverend Dr Harriet Harris closed the meeting with a benediction.

The Annex to *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 16 February 2019 is available on the website at: [www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/media)

General Council members may also request it by post from:

Ms Alison MacLeary  
 General Council Office            T +44 (0)131 650 2152  
 Charles Stewart House            E [general.council@ed.ac.uk](mailto:general.council@ed.ac.uk)  
 9–16 Chambers Street  
 Edinburgh EH1 1HT

Members can also pick a copy up at the location of the Council Meeting from half-an-hour beforehand.

# June 2019 General Council Event Booking Form

## The University and Africa: Past, Present and Future

**McEwan Hall, Saturday 15 June, 2019, 11am–3pm**

Tickets: **£15** including a buffet lunch. Details of the programme appear online.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Name(s) of guest(s) .....

.....

Dietary requirements/preferences .....

.....

Year of graduation and subject of study .....

.....

Please return to: Ms Alison MacLeary  
 Assistant to the Secretary of the General Council  
 General Council Office  
 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](http://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/whats-happening)

Closing date for applications: **Thursday 6 June, 2019**

## Circulation of *Billet* Request Form

All General Council members are, by law, entitled to receive the papers for General Council meetings. These will usually be circulated electronically. Members can request that the papers be sent to them in printed form. We are currently updating our records to ensure we have the correct information to enable this.

Please note that this form applies only to the circulation of *Billet*.

Requests for postal ballot papers are dealt with separately.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Email .....

Please tick **one** statement:

I wish to receive *Billet* electronically at the above email

I wish to receive printed *Billet* at the above address

- If you are able to send the above information in an email please do so. Please still include your postal address as this allows us to identify you on the Register in the event of another member of the General Council having the same name.  
Email to: [General.Council@ed.ac.uk](mailto:General.Council@ed.ac.uk)
- **If you live in the UK** you can return this information by post using the following  
Freepost address: **Freepost UNIVERSITY REPLY**  
No other information is required on the envelope.
- **If you live outside the UK** and wish to reply by post please send your response to:  
General Council Office  
The University of Edinburgh  
Charles Stewart House  
9–16 Chambers Street  
Edinburgh EH1 1HT  
Scotland, UK

## Officers

*Chairman:* HRH The Princess Royal  
*Secretary:* Ann Smyth, BSc, PhD 2022  
*Registrar:* Sarah Smith, University Secretary *ex-officio*

## General Council Assessors on the University Court

Doreen Davidson, BA, AIPD 2021  
Dr Alan Brown, MBChB, FRCOG, FRCSEd 2019  
Ritchie Walker, MA, BSc, DipEd 2019

## 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:  
Mr Jock Millican, BSc, FCILT 2019  
P Convener of Public Affairs Standing Committee:  
Sophie Marshall, MA 2019

## Members

*Chancellor's Assessor:* Sheriff Principal Edward F Bowen, CBE, TD, QC *ex officio*  
P Moyra Forrest, DL, MA, MCLIP 2019  
P Kristin Hannesdottir, BArch(Hons), BA, MFA 2019  
P Bruce Ritson, OBE, MD, FRCPE, FRCPsych 2019  
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