



SENATE

**Approved Minutes:
Wednesday 3rd September
2025**

- Present:** Principal
Professor S MacGregor, Dr A Coulson, Professor A Wilson, Dr A Moreno-Rangel, A Corrigan, Professor A Marshall, Professor A Maier, A Edvaldsson, A Mendes, Professor A Gachagan, C Pattinson, Professor C Booth, C Whitley, C Robb, Professor C Lindsay, Professor D Hillier, Dr D Reat, Dr D Roxburgh, Dr D Ramsay, Professor D Brodie, Professor D Graham, E McKee, Dr E Henderson, Professor E Oterkus, Professor F Henriquez-Mui, G Francis-McNeil, Professor G Acheson, Professor I Rivers, I George, J McKee, Professor J Byrne, Dr J El Gemayel, Professor K Chen, Dr K Pyper, Professor L McElroy, Professor M Parra Rodriguez, Professor M Revie, Professor M Smith, Dr M Harker, Dr N Ferguson, Professor N Quinn, Professor N MacKenzie, N Steinback, O Nnamoko, O Musa, Dr O Ganilova, Dr Q Hong, R McHugh, R Collins, S Day, Dr S Oterkus, Professor S Kuhr, Professor T Bedford, Professor T Scotto, W Rennison, Professor W Shu, Professor Y Perrie, Dr Z Rattray, Z MacPherson.
- Attending:** C MacDonald, G Watt, H Gould, Dr L Bonnar, Dr L Gibson, L McKean, L Noble, Dr M Williams, M Middlehurst, Professor P Connolly, Professor P McKenna, S Currie, Dr S Fancey, Professor S Howick.
- Apologies:** Dr A Arnold, Professor A Galloway, Dr A Tonner, Professor A Fletcher, Dr A Ates, Professor B Wagner, Professor B Green, Dr B McMillan, Dr C Verdier, C Milligan, Professor C Mahn, C McLaughlin, Professor D Robinson, D Finn, Professor E Shaw, Professor E Boulougouris, Dr F Arrigo, F Brown, Dr F Scott, G Docherty, Dr I Moore, J Carey, Professor J MacBryde, Dr J Young, Professor J Race, Professor K Boyle, Dr K Johnston, L Gil Dorta, Professor M Grealy, Professor M Halvey, Dr M Dobрева, Dr T Masood, Professor T Tuttle.

OPEN BUSINESS

13086. Welcome

The Principal welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Senate for 2025-26, his first as Principal and Vice-Chancellor, and specifically welcomed all of the new members of Senate. The Principal recognised the legacy of Professor Sir Jim McDonald and encouraged members to continue to actively engage and participate in Senate going forward.

13087. Minutes of the meeting of 28th May 2025 (Paper S25-26-01)

The minutes of the meeting of 28th May 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

13088. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

13089. Senate Business Committee Report (Paper S25-26-02)

The Vice Principal invited Senate to note the report from Senate Business Committee which met on 14th August 2025. The Committee had scrutinised the following:

1. Senate Business Committee considered the report from the CPA Subgroup, noting that since the last meeting of the subgroup on 1st May seven agreements had been processed as follows:
 - The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology and CLP Power Hong Kong Ltd (Engineering) – a supplemental Agreement to extend the Dual Masters Degree Programme approved and signed out of cycle on 12th May and reported in the Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate ‘for information’ on 28th May (Paper S24-25-111)
 - Harbin Institute of Technology (Weihai), China (Engineering) - supplemental Agreements (Enrolment Supplemental Agreement and Financial Agreement) to main IJEP Agreement approved and signed out of cycle on 10th July and reported in the Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate ‘for information’ (Paper S25-26-14)
 - North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) (Engineering) – an addendum to an existing agreement with the partner approved and signed out of cycle on 26th August and reported in the Faculty of Engineering Report to Senate ‘for information’ (Paper S25-26-14)
 - College of Banking and Financial Studies, Oman (SBS) - renewal of Service Delivery Agreement for the MBA approved and signed out of cycle on 11th July and reported by the Business School Report to Senate ‘for information’ (Paper S25-26-12)
 - National Scholarships Programme of ‘Carlos Antonio Lopez’ (BECAL), Paraguay (Recruitment and International Office (RIO)) – new sponsor agreement for tuition fee discount approved and signed out of cycle on 11th July. As this agreement was presented by RIO it is appended to the Principal’s Report ‘for information’ (Paper S25-26-03).
 - International College of Digital Innovation, Chiang Mai University, Thailand (SBS) – update to an existing amendment reported in the Business School Report to Senate ‘for approval’ (Paper 25-26-12)
 - Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee College (TKK), China *Joint with HaSS* – addendum to existing agreement reported in the Business School Report to Senate ‘for approval’ (Paper 25-26-12).
 - University of South Eastern Norway (Recruitment and International Office) – new study abroad agreement appended to this report ‘for approval’ (Appendix 2).
2. The Committee agreed the business agenda for Senate’s meeting on 3rd September 2025. It was agreed that the Strath Union President would be requested to provide the standing item on the Student Voice. This would be followed by an overview of the NSS 2024-25 results presented by Helyn Gould, Deputy Associate Principal, Education, Systems and Enhancement. Professor Paul McKenna, Deputy Associate Principal, Research and Knowledge Exchange, would then present to Senate on the Research Excellence Framework 2029 and the preparations in place leading up to the submission. Karen Barton, Deputy Director, Education Enhancement would follow with a presentation on the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review and the University’s preparations leading up to the review visits in October and December and key milestones. Finally, Wesley Rennison,

Director of Strategy and Planning, and Lucy Noble, Chief Financial Officer, would provide Senate with a recruitment and financial update respectively.

3. All reports submitted for the Senate meeting had been reviewed and were recommended to Senate by Senate Business Committee.
4. Requests for Senate's attention and approval were highlighted; with a recommendation that Senate give its formal approval, where requested, to reports as noted below (Minute ref 13098-13115).
5. Senate homologated the following Convener's Actions approved by the Principal on behalf of Senate as outlined in Paper S24-25-98 since the last Senate meeting:
 - Renewal to the agreement between the Strathclyde Business School and the College of Banking and Financial Studies, Oman (Paper S25-26-12)
 - Regulation amendment to the BSc Hons Education and Curricular Studies with Teaching Qualification - addition of a new pathway in Computing Science (Paper S25-26-13)
 - Approval of an Aegrotat Degree Award in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Paper S25-26-13)
 - New Supplemental Agreements (Enrolment Supplemental Agreement and Financial Agreement) to the existing agreement between the Faculty of Engineering and Harbin Institute of Technology (Weihai), China – International Joint Education Programme (IJEP) (Paper S25-26-14)
 - An addendum to the existing agreement between the Faculty of Engineering and North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) (Engineering) (Paper S25-26-14)
 - Regulation waiver for a student studying for the MEng Computer Science (Paper S25-26-15)
 - Amendments to the Policy and Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students (Paper S25-26-18)
 - New Proposal on the Approach to Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development (Paper S25-26-19)
 - New Policy and Procedure for Degree Apprenticeships End Point Assessment (Paper S25-26-20)
 - New University-wide Joint Scholarship programme with BECAL, Paraguay (appended to the Principal's Report, Paper S25-26-03)

13090. Principal's Report

The Principal provided a comprehensive report on news and items of interest since the last meeting, covering the following topics:

- The Principal reflected on some of the challenges facing the Higher Education sector currently. Whilst Strathclyde is not immune from the impact of these, the distinctive approach and Strategy 2030 will ensure that the University continues to thrive.
- Recent success for the University was highlighted, with Strathclyde being named UK University of the Year in the third edition of the Daily Mail University Guide 2026, as well as joint-sixth in their overall ranking table. Over the summer it was also announced that Strathclyde has performed strongly in the 2026 QS World University Rankings, with a rise of 30 places - the biggest for any UK institution in the top 300.

- National Student Survey (NSS) 2025 results were strong and ranked Strathclyde 2nd in Scotland for Overall Satisfaction (87%, up 3.3 points). The faculties would be asked to present their Faculty enhancement plans for AY 2025-26 at the November meeting of Senate.
- There is a continued focus on quality enhancement through the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER) with key review visits in October and December 2025.
- Recent strategic developments have included the launch of the [Advanced Net Zero Innovation Centre](#), a new Strathclyde Inspire five-year strategic plan, and major research partnerships including the Oldendorff Research Centre for Sustainable Shipping.
- In June, the University was awarded [University of Sanctuary](#) status in recognition of our long-standing commitment to supporting refugee and asylum seeker students and academics.
- Congratulations were extended from the Principal to everyone who was nominated or received an award at the [Strathclyde Medals 2025](#) presentation ceremony, in recognition of outstanding contributions aligned with University values.

Research Awards

Award made to Dr Luke Chamberlain in Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences
Project title: An integrated analysis of S-acylation dynamics and its importance in cell physiology (APP4861)

BBSRC (Biotech & Biological Sciences Research Council), awarded on 01-Jul-2025

Award made to Stephen Fitzpatrick in National Manufacturing Institute Scotland

Project title: ReMake Value Retention Centre
NERC (Natural Environment Research Council), awarded on 29-Jul-2025

Award made to Professor Craig Jamieson in Pure and Applied Chemistry

Project title: A Prosperity Partnership for the Design Synthesis and Evaluation of Next Generation Molecules Beyond Lipinski Space

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), awarded on 17-Jul-2025

Award made to Dr Lewis MacKenzie in Pure and Applied Chemistry

Project title: Breaking Barriers in Upconversion Nanoparticle Research: Improving Accessibility and Enabling (University Research Fellowship)

Royal Society, awarded on 18-Aug-2025

Award made to Pablo Poggi in Physics

Project title: Controlling quantum chaos to exploit near-term quantum computers (University Research Fellowship)

Royal Society, awarded on 14-Aug-2025

Award made to Daniel Markl in Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences

Project title: CERSI for the Digital Transformation of Medicines Development and Manufacturing MRC (Medical Research Council), awarded on 24-Jul-2025

Award made to Professor Lori McElroy in Architecture

Project title: Centre for Net Zero High Density Buildings (UKRI - Accelerating the Green Economy Centres)

NERC (Natural Environment Research Council), awarded on 17-Jul-2025

Award made to Dr Andrew Sherlock in National Manufacturing Institute Scotland
Project title: DIGF-CRAD-07206 Data-driven Manufacturing Colab - extension
Innovate UK, awarded on 30-Apr-2025

Award made to Professor Shona Hilton in Social Work and Social Policy (Subject)
Project title: Glasgow Health Determinants Research Collaboration
NHS National Institute for Health Research NIHR, awarded on 06-Aug-2025

Award made to Professor Matthew Hannon in Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship Strategy and Innovation
Project title: Systems Approaches for Accelerating a Just Transition (JUST-Systems)
ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), awarded on 04-Jun-2025

13091. Student Voice

In the absence of the Strath Union President, Anna Edvaldsson, Strath Union's VP Sport, presented the Strath Union update which included welcoming four new Executive Officers, Fraser Brown (President), Nikkie Steinback (VP Community), Lucia Gil Dorta (VP Education), and Oshione Musa (VP Inclusion). Senators were informed that preparations for Freshers' Week were well underway with a packed schedule of events. The Executive has also drafted proposals for the Strategic Alliance Framework, while recruitment is ongoing for three new trustees. The President has also introduced new accountability measures and worked with the Commercial team on inclusive initiatives, while efforts to revitalise Student Parliament are underway.

13092. NSS Results 2024-25 – overview

Helyn Gould, Deputy Associate Principal for Education, Systems and Enhancement, provided Senate with an update on the annual NSS results. The 2025 National Student Survey showed Strathclyde achieving an overall satisfaction score of 87%, up 3.3 points from last year and 6.5 points above the Scottish sector average, ranking 2nd in Scotland for the seventh consecutive year in the upper quartile. All seven theme areas improved from 2024, with particularly strong results in Learning Resources (92.4%), Academic Support (90.8%), and Teaching (89.6%), though Assessment & Feedback (77.9%) remains below the UK average and a key focus for improvement. Strathclyde exceeded OfS benchmarks across all themes, with 25 of 27 questions above benchmark, 21 significantly so. Targeted actions will continue on Assessment & Feedback and Student Voice, supported by faculty-level reviews and improvement plans to be presented at the November Senate.

13093. Research Excellence Framework 2029

Professor Paul McKenna, Deputy Associate Principal (Research & Knowledge Exchange), provided Senate with an update on preparations for REF (Research Excellence Framework) 2029. REF is the UK's national research quality assessment, which influences £2 billion in annual funding and institutional reputation. The framework comprises three elements: People, Culture & Environment (25%), Contribution to Knowledge & Understanding (50%), and Engagement & Impact (25%), with outputs, impact case studies, and strategic statements forming key components. Strathclyde aims to build on its upward trajectory by enhancing research culture, aligning with Strathclyde 2030 and the People Strategy, and leveraging the Research Quality Review (RQR) framework to drive improvement. Governance structures, timelines, and a Code of Practice, ensuring transparency and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principles, are in development, with Senate approval targeted for November 2025. Progress milestones and external engagement, including panel appointments and pilot exercises, underscore a strategic, collaborative approach to maximise reputational and funding benefits.

13094. Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER): update and timescales

Karen Barton, Deputy Director, Education Enhancement, provided Senate with an update on preparations for the TQER. Part of Scotland's Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework, TQER evaluates academic standards and the student experience across all credit-bearing programmes, including collaborative provision, with a strong focus on enhancement, student engagement, and externality. Strathclyde's scoping meeting highlighted strengths such as employer-informed curricula, widening access, research-informed teaching, and sustainability, while identifying challenges around student engagement, mental health, cost-of-living pressures, and the impact of AI. Key milestones include submission of the Strategic Impact Analysis and Advanced Information Set in August 2025, the Initial Review Visit on 22-23 October 2025, and the Main Review Visit on 1-4 December 2025, with the final report due in March 2026. Preparations involve extensive documentation, stakeholder engagement, and briefing sessions to ensure readiness for panel meetings with staff and students. It was noted that the University of St Andrews TQER report has recently been published and is available [here](#).

13095. Recruitment and Financial Update

Wesley Rennison, Director of Strategic Planning, provided Senate with a recruitment update. The recruitment numbers across the different student groups for intake in September 2025/26 were presented. Lucy Noble, Chief Financial Officer, presented Senate with an overview of income and expenditure movements for 2024/25, and outlined the proposed budget for 2025/26, which has been reviewed and approved by Court.

Items for information

13096. Senate appointments and membership of Senate committees, AY 2025-26 (Paper S25-26-04)

Senate reviewed the Senate appointments and the membership of Senate committees for AY 2025-26, noting that Senate approved the membership at its meeting on 28th May 2025. All vacancies have been filled apart from one on Estates Committee. The Principal thanked the Senators and the Senate Office for ensuring all vacancies on Senate are filled.

Senate noted the membership of committees of Senate for AY 2025-26.

13097. Senate Annual Report 2024-25 (Paper S25-26-05)

The Senate Annual Report provides an overview of the work of Senate over the past academic year, reflecting on Senate's contributions and its role in maintaining academic standards. All Senators, particularly those who are new to Senate, were encouraged to read the report.

Senate noted the Annual Report for AY 2024-25.

Items for approval

There were no items submitted for approval.

Committee and Faculty Reports to Senate

13098. Executive Team Report (Paper S25-26-06)

Senate **noted** the report.

13099. Court Report (Paper S25-26-07)

Senate **noted** the report.

13100. Education Strategy Committee Annual Report (Paper S25-26-08)

Senate **noted** the report.

13101. Quality Assurance Committee Report (Paper S25-26-09)

Senate **noted** the report.

13102. Learning Experience Committee Report (Paper S25-26-10)

Senate **noted** this report.

13103. Student Experience Committee Report (Paper S25-26-11)

Senate **noted** this report.

13104. Strathclyde Business School Report (Paper S25-26-12)

Senate:

- **noted** the report
- **approved** the following collaborative agreements:
 - Addendum to Articulation Agreement with International College of Digital Innovation, Chiang Mai University
 - Addendum to Collaborative Articulation Agreement with Xiamen University Tan Kah Kee College
- **noted** the following:
 - College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS), Oman

13105. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Report (Paper S25-26-13)

Senate:

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the following new programmes:
 - MSc Political Communication and Media
 - BSc Hons Education & Curricular Studies with Teaching Qualification (all subjects)
 - MSc Language Teaching in Global Contexts
- **approved** the following withdrawal of programmes/ pathways:
 - MSc/PgDip Digital Journalism with a specialisation in:
 - Journalism, Ethics and Trauma
 - Political Communication
 - Health Communication
- **noted** the following:
 - BSc Hons Education & Curricular Studies with Teaching Qualification (Computing Studies)
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with College of Liberal Arts, Shanghai University
 - Vice Dean Academic appointment
 - Aegrotat Degree Award

13106. Faculty of Engineering Report (Paper S25-26-14)

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the following withdrawal of programmes/ pathways:
 - Withdrawal of two MRes Biomedical Engineering streams
- **approved** the following Reserved business items:

- Recognition of Prior Learning request
- Regulation Waiver for two students on the collaborative agreement with Yunnan University (Reserved Business)
-
- **noted** the following:
 - Supplemental Agreements with Harbin Institute of Technology (Weihai), China – approved out of cycle via Convener’s action on 10th July.
 - Addendum to Collaborative Agreement with North China Electric Power University, China
 - AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland MoU
 - Ningbo University Hospital, China MoU
 - Pusan National University, South Korea MoU
 - Singapore Institute of Technology, Singapore MoU
 - Universitas Diponegoro, Indonesia MoU
 - Associate Dean appointments

13107. Faculty of Science (Paper S25-26-15)

Senate

- **noted** the report;
- **approved** the following programmes:
 - PhD in Cyber-physical systems for Medicines Manufacturing
 - MSc Advanced Computer Science with Cyber Security
- **noted** the following:
 - Regulation waiver for the Department of Computer & Information Sciences

New policy for approval

13108. Academic Appeals Procedure (Paper S25-26-16, marked ‘to follow’)

This was not presented to Senate and will instead be progressed out of cycle.

Revised policies for endorsement

13109. Postgraduate Research Leave Support Policy: amendments (Paper S25-26-17)

This paper proposes amendments to the University’s PGR Leave Support Fund in line with UKRI changes to training grant terms and conditions, specifically around the duration of paid (stipend payment) Medical Leave entitlement, as well as clarification on types of leave and wording. The amendments to this Policy are for implementation from 1st October 2025.

Senate APPROVED the amendments to the Postgraduate Research Leave Support Policy for implementation from 1st October 2025.

Papers for homologation

These items relates to papers progressed out of cycle and approved by the Principal via Chair’s action on the recommendation of Senate Business Committee.

13110. Policy and Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students: amendments (Paper S25-26-18)

This paper proposes changes to the University’s Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students policy, to accommodate and ensure adherence to, the recent changes to UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions.

These amendments were approved via Convener’s action on 31st July.

13111. Proposal on the Approach to Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development (new) (Paper S25-26-19)

This paper relates to the objective in Strathclyde 2030 that all taught programmes include a programme-level intended learning outcome(s) related to Education for Sustainable Development. The paper proposes processes for the scrutiny and approval of programme changes.

This proposal was approved via Convener's action on 31st July.

13112. Policy and Procedure for Degree Apprenticeships End Point Assessment (new) (Paper S25-26-20)

This paper presents the approach to delivering and managing End Point Assessment as part of a University of Strathclyde Degree Apprenticeship. The policy introduces a definition of End Point Assessment to provide clarity on the required application of the policy, noting that it incorporates references to both integrated and non-integrated End Point Assessment to ensure compliance with the Department for Education rules.

This Policy and Procedure was approved via Convener's action on 31st July.

Any other business: for information

There were no items submitted.

Reserved business: for information

13113. Student Business Report (Paper S25-26-21)

Senate **noted** this report.

13114. Student Discipline Report (Paper S25-26-22)

Senate **noted** this report.