**Questions submitted during the event but not posed to the Principal in the time available:**

1. Why does the University allow Devi Sridhar to continue to use the name of the University when making political statements on Scottish Independence as an advisor to the SNP? Are her views that of the University?

**I'd like to remain Anonymous, but happy to disclose that I am a 2007 College of Science & Engineering graduate**

1. Devi Sridhar is Professor of Global Public Health within the University’s College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and any views she expresses are her own. The freedom for our academics to provide analysis and share research without hindrance underpins how the University works and the public benefit that it provides. This is particularly pressing during the global fight against Covid-19, in which she and other Edinburgh researchers are playing an important role.
2. What is the University doing to ensure women feel safe and heard amidst unprecedented levels of misogyny and intimidation. Will you commit to support women to participate in the respectful exchange of ideas and to resist the methods targeted to ensure the removal of female voices from public life and our democracy?

**Anonymous**

1. We have a number of policies in place, but rely on people to report breaches via our [complaints process](https://www.ed.ac.uk/university-secretary-group/complaint-handling-procedure/procedure). The key one is our [Dignity and Respect policy](https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/dignity_and_respect_policy.pdf), but there is also the [Student Code of Conduct](https://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/staff/discipline/code-discipline) and the [Grievance Policy](https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/grievance_policy.pdf). The University of Edinburgh recognises that freedom of expression, within the law, is central to the concept of a university. We believe this fosters a culture where we are able to openly share ideas, within a framework of mutual respect. Our Freedom of Expression statement can be viewed here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/university-secretary-group/freedom-of-expression>
2. Would you please expand on UNA collaboration e.g. will there be more emphasis on research than teaching?

**Moyra Forrest, MA (StAs), 1970**

A. Securing Una Europa membership for the University of Edinburgh had the clear objective of creating new opportunities for both research and teaching collaboration with European partners at a time when the UK’s relationship with the EU was changing.  Initially the immediate focus of Una Europa engagement was on delivering the objectives outlined in the 1Europe Project. The 1Europe Project has a number of joint programme deliverables including two joint undergraduate degrees in European Studies and Sustainability, a joint Doctorate in Cultural Heritage and a joint MOOC in Artificial Intelligence. It also has a focus on creating innovative templates for increased student mobility.

Shortly after the kick-off of the 1Europe Project however, the European Commission made exclusive funding available to those universities who were successful in forming Alliances to put in place a joint Research & Innovation strategy. Edinburgh led on the application on behalf of the Una Europa Alliance and was successful in being awarded 2M€ of Horizon 2020 funding to successfully meet deliverables in the Una.Resin Project. Now that the UK has confirmed its association to Horizon Europe, Una Europa partnership will play an important role for the University in ensuring full engagement with the new Research Framework Programme.

Una Europa is now committed to delivering two projects: 1Europe and Una.Resin. The emphasis is on the successful delivery of both of these projects and ensuring that the University maximises the opportunities that both create for our staff and students.

**Question submitted in advance of the meeting, answered in part (new information now available):**

A page recently uploaded to the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion website called "What is transphobia" presents pseudo-scientific and ahistorical assertions as established facts, misrepresents the concerns of feminists, and tells students and others that anyone advocating for women's sex-based rights is transphobic. This is presented as the university's position. People writing to the Principal to raise serious concerns were told their feedback had been passed to the un-named team who wrote the document, but no action has since been taken. Can the Principal confirm whether the assertions in the document are University policy, and if so, how they were decided, and by whom? And can he explain why there appears to be no senior management oversight of the web pages in question?

Yours faithfully

Kate Alexander

MA Politics 1988

A. The feedback has been acted upon and revised webpages went live w/c 8 February. The University website is vast and responsibility for the content of individual pages necessarily rests with the department hosting them. That said, the University Secretary, Sarah Smith, and the University Lead for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Sarah Cunningham-Burley, have been involved with the page revisions.