

**Business Committee Meeting on Thursday 15 October 2020
Online via Zoom**

The General Council Office

We have been advised that we are unlikely to be able to access the General Council Office again before 2021. All communication should therefore be directed by e-mail to Alison and/or Ann who continue to work from home.

Mail is being sorted by the University's postroom and delivered to Charles Stewart House. Development & Alumni have safe arrangements in place for weekly access to mail. We are negotiating arrangements to check for nominations for the Business Committee elections sent by post though we are stressing these should be sent electronically. Similarly we will in due course need to negotiate access to postal votes.

Billet

Copy for *Billet* is being prepared as usual.

Electronic copy will be e-mailed on December 9th.

The printed version is distributed by the printers in December with mailing scheduled for completion by December 21st. Voting papers for those who have registered for a postal vote are delivered with *Billet*.

General Council Election: February 2021

There will be an election for five Members of the Business Committee in February 2021. ***The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 18 November 2020.***

Nomination forms are available on application to the General Office by email general.council@ed.ac.uk. The forms can also be downloaded from the website.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by members of the General Council.

Members should note that the default position is that Elections take place online. Anyone who has not yet registered through the MyEd portal should do so by 1st February 2021.

Those wishing to register for a postal vote must do so by November 18th 2020. Those who have previously been registered for a postal vote but who wish to change to voting online should also notify this by November 18th. Those formally registered for a postal vote will not be able to online.

Polls close Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

The Secretary of the General Council is the Returning Officer and the vote count is overseen by a representative off the Electoral Reform Society. Arrangements for the count will be subject to risk assessment with regard to Covid status nearer the time.

6 February 2021 - Half-Yearly Meeting

This meeting is scheduled to be held online at 10.30am on Saturday 6th February 2021. The papers for the meeting will appear in Billet as usual along with details of how to access the event.

12 June 2021 - Half-Yearly Meeting (HYM)

At present the arrangements for the summer Half-Yearly meeting remain in place. We have a booking for the McEwan Hall, Edinburgh on Saturday 12th June 2021. The formal agenda for the summer HYM is generally shorter than the February meeting and the plan, virus restrictions permitting, is to take forward an updated version of the programme which had to be cancelled in June 2020. This was designed to showcase the University's engagement in and with China and to address the issues for Chinese students in Edinburgh.

Website

Progress on migrating the General Council website has been delayed by the diversion of technical support to online working across all the University's core business. Progress is being made with the support of PASC and the Business Committee will be notified well in advance of the migration.

BC Christmas Reception – provisionally scheduled for Thursday 10 December. It is unlikely that this will go ahead as planned and the BC will be notified when the final decision is made.