

University Management Accountability and Vote of No Confidence

Resolves:

The Students' Association should:

1. Publicly and formally support the position that the University of Edinburgh student body has no confidence in the tenure of Principal and Vice Chancellor Sir Peter William Mathieson
2. Publicly and formally support the position that Sir Peter William Mathieson should resign from his position and duties as Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh by no later than July 2024
 - 2.1. Engage in a campaign through all pathways of communication, specifically email and social media platforms, to support ongoing student disapproval with current University Management
 - 2.2. Publicly denounce the current salary paid to the Principal and other members of the University's Senior Leadership Team
3. Publicly call for equitable pay of University Senior Leadership and support greater accountability relating to the earnings of management staff
4. Publicly oppose the subsidisation of the Principal's cost-of-living, including the provision of rent-free accommodation, and the covering of utilities
 - 4.1. Publicly call for the redevelopment of the University-owned property that currently serves as the Principal's residence into student-facing space
5. Lobby the University to hold an annual vote allowing all students to democratically decide on the values and qualities the University's Senior Leadership Team should exhibit whilst in post

Background:

1. The student body maintains a high degree of dissatisfaction under the tenure of Sir Peter William Mathieson and the current University management¹
2. The Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh Sir Peter William Mathieson has been accused of violating University guidance on travel within the United Kingdom²

¹ Office for Students, "National Student Survey Data: Provider-Level Dashboard - Office for Students" (Office for Students, August 10, 2023), Worldwide, <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/national-student-survey-data/provider-level-dashboard/>.

² Innes MacNeil, "Revealed: Sir Peter Mathieson Spent £13,000 on Business Class Flights in Just One Year," *University of Edinburgh*, July 11, 2023, <https://thetab.com/uk/edinburgh/2023/07/11/revealed-sir-peter-mathieson-spent-12761-78-on-business-class-flights-in-just-one-year-84302>.

3. Support for the resignation of Sir Peter William Mathieson has been consistent from members of the University of Edinburgh student body³
4. Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh Sir Peter William Mathieson has approved events on University of Edinburgh property that students, members of academic and professional services staff, and unions affiliated with Higher Education, have consistently denounced for expressing bigoted points of view that create an unsafe experience for students and staff⁴

Beliefs:

1. Edinburgh University Student's Association is primarily designed to represent the will of the student body of the University of Edinburgh
2. The University of Edinburgh must not tolerate bigotry or corruption of any forms
3. The student body should have greater say in the direction of the University of Edinburgh, and be able to freely comment on the University's governance
4. The student body should not tolerate behaviour that creates a tense and hostile working environment
5. The Senior Leadership Team requires greater accountability to the student body of the University of Edinburgh
6. The University Management has been bad faith actors in regard to disputes surrounding industrial action, willing to jeopardize the success of students enrolled in the University of Edinburgh to maintain their position⁵
7. The spending habits, lack of transparency, and ineffective governance by Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh Sir Peter William Mathieson has significantly damaged the reputation of the University of Edinburgh⁶

Submitted by Sam Marks with 20 student signatures

³ Sarah Challen Flynn and Joe Sullivan, "Protest Demanding Peter Mathieson's Resignation Held," accessed November 16, 2023, <https://studentnewspaper.org/protest-demanding-peter-mathiesons-resignation-held/>.

⁴ Ross Hunter, "Edinburgh University Accused of 'Cavalier Attitude' towards Transphobia Concerns," *The National*, December 12, 2022, <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23186717.edinburgh-university-fire-adult-human-female-screening/>.

⁵ "Academics Accuse Edinburgh University of Showing 'cavalier Disregard' for Staff, Students and Standards," *The Scotsman*, May 9, 2023, <https://www.scotsman.com/education/edinburgh-university-bosses-condemned-by-496-academics-over-cavalier-disregard-for-students-staff-and-standards-4135939>.

⁶ "Academics Accuse Edinburgh University of Showing 'cavalier Disregard' for Staff, Students and Standards," *The Scotsman*, May 9, 2023, <https://www.scotsman.com/education/edinburgh-university-bosses-condemned-by-496-academics-over-cavalier-disregard-for-students-staff-and-standards-4135939>.

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