Report from Director of Teaching
M Rovatsos, Teaching Committee, 23rd October 2013

1. Start of year summary
We have experienced a decrease in our UG (160+32 VUG) and PGT (132) intake, as experienced throughout the University/HE sector (possible reasons include general state of the economy, immigration policy, increased fees, drop in league tables). This meant that many of our worst-case scenarios for higher numbers did not materialise, but also it will imply a reduction in our fee income in the future.

2. Priorities for this year
- Improving Informatics Feedback (Course/Student Portal, Feedback Officer, Feedback Pledge, todo: training, disseminating best practice, rethinking assessment)
- Engagement & Community (Student Support Coordinator, PT Group Meetings, social events, peer support)
- Streamlining and simplifying curriculum (broadening access to courses, reviewing course and degree programme portfolio)
- Meeting external demands (new courses and programmes for CDTs, ICs, internationalisation & exchanges)
- Preparing Appleton Tower decant

3. Report from College Learning and Teaching Committee:
- New regulations on Special Circumstances (exam boards cannot overrule SCC decisions, marks cannot be adjusted)
- Sutton Summer School: externally funded week-long activity in July for underprivileged high-achieving secondary school pupils, organised by College; School contribution is four days of 1,5-hour lectures plus practical afternoon sessions, currently looking for volunteers
- Internationalisation: the University is exploring single semester study, internships and placements, and short-term (e.g. summer) activities abroad to increase numbers of Edinburgh students spending time abroad
- Programme approval meeting on 19th November – essential to present new programme proposals at our BoS meeting on 13th November