

Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee, Quarter 1, 2024-2025

Wed 18 September 2024, 16:30 - 18:30

Teams

Attendees

Chair

- Karen Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee)

Prescribed Board Members

- Keith Massey (Student Director)
- Harley Green (Local Student Director)
- Simon Clarke (Teaching Staff Director)

Other Board Members

- Brian Smith (Independent Director)
- John Goodlad (Independent Director)
- Daniel Lawson (Independent Director, Absent: 1-5)
- Valerie Nicolson (Independent Director)

Management Team Member

- Laura Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary)

Ex-Officio

- Jane Lewis (Principal - Shetland UHI)

Staff In Attendance

- Rachel Shucksmith (Marine Planning Manager, Absent: 7-13)
- Kevin Briggs (Head of Student Experience, Absent: 9-13)
- Eleanor Hutcheon (STEM Co-ordinator, Absent: 7, 9-13)
- Matt Sierocinski King (Board Secretary)

Apologies

- Lauren Doughton (Independent Director)

Meeting minutes

Opening Items

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Announcements

Ms Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee) welcomed everyone to the meeting, and extended a special welcome to Mr Green (Local Student Director) and Mr Smith

(Independent Director) as it was their first meeting. She also announced that it was expected that this meeting of the Committee would be the last to which Mr Massey (Student Director) would be in attendance, and thanked him for his service to the Committee.

2. *Terms of Reference

Mx Sierocinski King (Board Secretary) confirmed that the only change to the Terms of Reference was a name change, removing Ms Christey (Chair of Audit Committee) and replacing it with Dr Doughton (Independent Director).

Action: The Board Secretary shall add the Terms of Reference to the next meeting of the Board of Management for approval.

3. Declarations of Interest

Ms Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee) asked the members of the Committee if they had any items on the agenda to which they had a conflict of interest with. No such declarations were made.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Ms Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee) asked the members of the Committee to review the Non-Confidential minutes of the previous meeting for matters of accuracy. The Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee also asked the members of the Committee to review the Confidential minutes of the previous meeting for matters of accuracy.

Decision: The Committee approved the Non-Confidential minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

Decision: The Committee approved the Confidential minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.2. Vice-Chair of Learning Teaching, and Research Committee

Ms Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee) announced that the vacancy for the role of Vice-Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee, remained open. No member of the Committee volunteered themselves for the role at this point.

Scholarship and Research

6. Marine Planning Presentation

Ms Shucksmith (Marine Planning Manager) gave a presentation on research on Marine Spatial Planning. She spoke about the NORA funded projects. She moved on to inform the Committee about Blue Connect. She spoke about the project on protecting habitats in the Fair Isle, Biosecurity non-native species monitoring. She detailed to the Committee the work on SMEEF searching for Shetland's lost seagrass, while engaging communities on this, and the restoration plan.

The Committee discussed the presentation with questions around the causes of the changes to the composition of the seabed, external sources of funding, and future proofing. Professor Lewis (Principal) highlighted the development department within UHI and spoke about how it helps draw in philanthropic funding. The Committee discussed what oversight for funding and mitigations for such projects. The Committee also discussed the engagement methodologies of external organisations for Marine projects.

The Marine Planning Manager left the meeting at the end of this agenda item

Student Experience

7. Student Surveys - NSS and PTES

Mr Briggs (Head of Student Experience) introduced the papers on the National Student Survey (NSS) and Post-Graduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES). He spoke to the UHI wide results of the NSS, with a focus on overall satisfaction by Academic Partner, Subject Area, and Courses. He moved on to speak about the UHI Shetland results by question area, and explained why UHI Shetland's overall satisfaction was lower than other academic partners.

He then moved on to speak about the UHI-wide results of the PTES survey with the highest satisfaction in Scotland for the third year in a row. The Committee discussed why there were no results specific to UHI Shetland available, and the dissemination of comments. Mr Massey (Student

Director) spoke about the areas of less success, and queried how this will be responded to. Professor Lewis (Principal) confirmed that further analysis will be done by SMT, and that HISA results have vastly improved from previous years. Mr Green (Local Student Director) spoke about the challenges and positives that HISA has had. He spoke specifically about the recent promotion of the HISA Advice Service. The Committee moved on to speak about the Community score in the PTES, and that it represented the lowest score of any University in Scotland, and how this didn't reduce the UHI overall satisfaction in the PTES, along with the more detailed results at programme level.

The Head of Student Experience left the meeting and the end of this agenda item.

Action: The Early Student Experience Survey is to come to the next meeting if the results are available

8. STEM Update

This item was taken after agenda item 6.

Ms Hutcheon (STEM Co-ordinator) introduced the STEM Outreach Programme to the Committee, and the eight different projects and how they are delivered alongside teachers. She spoke about the development of the STEM engagement hub, giving schools the opportunities to access the equipment year round. She moved on to spoke about the delivery of the Outreach Programme delivered last academic year, with 103 Lend-a-Lab sessions, and 19 other events. She detailed when, where, and which activity had occurred across the year. She moved on to speak specifically to the Committee about Lend-a-Lab topics and activities, and the Shetland UHI STEM Hub with links to resources and opportunities that the Hub provides.

The STEM Co-ordinator moved to speak about the Seafood VR project in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and how this can be delivered in schools to educate pupils about Aquaculture.

The Committee discussed the presentation with a focus on linking the STEM Hub to the courses at UHI Shetland that school pupils could then move on to after school to further their passions for STEM subjects. The Committee also discussed the inspiration of pupils into STEM professions, along with opening minds to new possibilities by sustaining the opportunities to engage in STEM activities throughout the schooling process while also challenging gender stereotypes. Professor Lewis (Principal) congratulated the STEM Co-ordinator on her presentation, and responded to some

of the comments made by members of the Committee. She extended her congratulations to others that also work in the hub.

The STEM Co-ordinator left the meeting at the end of this time.

Action: The Board of Management is to have a STEM Hub session at a future workshop of the Board of Management

Performance Monitoring

9. Summary on last year's out turn

Mrs Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) spoke to the initial draft numbers of 2023-2024 for Higher Education Full Time students and Higher Education Part Time students. She moved on to speak about the draft credit picture for Further Education students, along with Post-Graduate numbers, and success rates across all courses. In each case she set them in context to previous years.

10. Risk 1 and Risk 2

Mrs Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) spoke about the risk levels, and the credit levels, and Higher Education Student numbers, and the challenges with regards to the the credit levels.

The Depute Principal Tertiary detailed the current enrolments as follows:

- Further Education Full Time: 81.
- Further Education Part Time: 545
- Higher Education Full Time: 86
- Higher Education Part Time: 88

She also spoke about the credit figures and confirmed that UHI Shetland expected to exceed its credit target by around 25%. She spoke about the strength of our performances, and confidence in meeting our targets for both FE and HE, with both risks being cautiously classed as green

11. FE Credits

Mrs Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) gave a presentation on the Shetland UHI Further Education Credit arrangements. She spoke about the thresholds being exceeded last academic year, and how Shetland UHI grew its credits delivered last year, and the uptake in Full Time Further Education at islands partners. She moved on to speak about Full Time credit claims for the last two academic

years, and the changes to the withdrawal date rules for counting credits. She explained the School claims picture for Further Education credit delivery, and spoke about the minister's view with regards to the level of School claims by UHI Shetland. She explained the claims for Modern Apprenticeships and Third Party provision, and detailed what could be claimed by Shetland UHI for credit funding. She spoke about other considerations, and suggested possible mitigations.

The Committee discussed the contradictions of the funding model, and the resulting challenges. Dr Clarke (Teaching Staff Director) suggested the possible consolidations of delivery and possible curtailing of courses, and spoke about how difficult it is for students to find Further Education courses across the UHI network. Some members of the Committee felt that the credit system is broken, and that streamlining was the preferred direction. Professor Lewis (Principal) confirmed that a streamlining process was already delivered last year, and the Depute Principal Tertiary spoke about the different approaches taken at other Academic Partners within the UHI Partnership. Mr Massey (Student Director) asked clarifying questions to the Depute Principal Tertiary with regards to the impact of the restructure, and how other Academic Partners made their reductions. The Depute Principal Tertiary responded accordingly.

The Committee discussed how the of Management could deliver a steer on a resolution this issue.

Ms Nicolson (Independent Director) left the meeting during this agenda item.

Action: The Senior Management Team shall bring this matter, with options for resolution, to the next Board of Management workshop.

Closing Items

12. Any Other Business

There was no additional business.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

The dates of next meetings are:

- Q2: Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 16:30 on Teams
- Q3: Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 16:30 on Teams
- Q4: Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 16:30 on Teams

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Progress
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7	The Early Student Experience Survey is to come to the next meeting if the results are available	Various	
8	Have a STEM Hub session at a future workshop of the Board of Management	Board of Management	
12	Bring this matter, with options for resolution, to the next Board of Management workshop.	Senior Management Team	Complete