

Learning, Teaching and Research Committee

Attendees

Committee Members: Karen Hall (Chair), Jane Lewis (Principal), Florence Jansen (Student Director), John Goodlad (Independent Director), Lauren Doughton (Independent Director), Maria Bell (Independent Director)

Also In attendance: Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary), Laura Burden, Chevonne Angus, Beth Mouat, Saro Saravanan, Kevin Briggs

Authorised Absence: Cally Mair (Student Director)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome, Apologies, Declarations of Interest, and Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

Cally Mair's apologies was noted as an authorised absence.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were noted

5. Senior Staff Presentation - Curriculum Review

JL gave a presentation on Curriculum Review. JL highlighted the conclusions and opportunities for the following course areas: Construction, Health and Social Care, Computing, Creative Industries, Business and Hospitality, Community Learning, Engineering Nautical, Aquaculture.

JL highlighted the following General themes that had been identified as a result of the review:

- Skills for work
- Marketing
- Student Accommodation
- Foundation Apprenticeships
- Gender challenges - different in different sections
- Excellent work in various sections working with students with particular educational needs.

The Committee discussed the following topics resulting from the presentation:

- recording actions and managing funding.
- skills for work
- industry mapping and networking
- accommodation
- sharing best practice and actioning opportunities

Action: JL to present updates on the curriculum review and other areas of course development at the next meeting.

6. Student Experience - NSS and SESS Update

The survey item was delayed until the next meeting

FJ gave an update on HISA's Student Experience activities using the chat function:

Successfully made it through Freshers with mixed local and online events with the highlight being a wee Freshers night out in Shetland.

-HISA's focus right now is on the Student Voice Rep recruitment (our re-branded Class rep system) as well as the upcoming election of the Shetland officers and the by-election of the VPHE (Vice-President Higher Education).

-HISA have made some changes to the roll out of Student Voice reps and have so far seen very good engagement with the new system and are keen to see the representatives of the year.

- We have also started work on our bi annual Loop conferences where we decide the themes of the Student Partnership Agreement together with our Students Voice Reps. Cally and Sara are also busy planning the year and activities ahead.

KB updated that the ESES had been launched.

7. Performance Monitoring - Enrolment Data

LB presented the update on the enrolment numbers with significant reduction of FE students, both at Shetland UHI and across Scotland.

LB highlighted that the past years figures are based on a total of each academic year enrolment

LB noted the drop in HE study compared to last year, though last year was unusually high. Enrolment is down across the board, higher number of places at university, higher availability of employment of young people, and the directive to prioritise older learners. Part of the reason for high upturn last year was the pandemic.

LB summarised that numbers had been a little bit down, with the opportunities to improve numbers, particularly in Jan/Feb and beyond.

JL stressed that these numbers were early numbers. Pupils staying longer staying longer at school this year, straight into employment, and grade inflation, has caused a perfect storm in FE reduction numbers.

LB highlighted that there was currently a redefining of the college sector, that was currently being researched.

8. UHI Standardised Policies

8.1. Safeguarding Policy

This policy was noted. No comments were received.

8.2. Promoting a Positive Learner Environment

This policy was noted. No comments were received.

8.3. Admissions

This policy was noted. It was noted that the policy was due to review in July 2020.

9. Scholarship and Research - Research Report

CA and BM gave a presentation on Marine Research

BM focused her portions of the presentation on:

- Fisheries- Shellfish highlighting: funding, staff turnover, projects, recruitment in fisheries research assistants and a shellfish scientist

- Aquaculture, highlighting: development of shellvolution islands deal bid, collaborative projects with SAMS, Support and engagement for UHI Aquaculture HUB, exploring opportunities for postgraduate provision

Spatial Successful UKRI bid (£197,398), lead locally by Rachel Shucksmith, advertising for a planning officer, non-native monitoring project for Scottish Sea Farms, several papers en-route to publication, Shetland Community Wildlife Group recruiting volunteers for porpoise surveys

- Two Postgraduate students completing this year, one jointly with Aberdeen and one jointly with SAMS

CA focussed her portions of the presentation on:- Fisheries Finfish highlighting: successful inshore fish survey, support for smart trawl project, MASTS Conference, Market sampling impacted by staffing, PANDORA

- Four current Postgraduate students, collaborating with a variety of organisations,

- Matters that were in development, including: Joint Research Proposals with the Fair Isle DRMPA steering group, PhD project on the history of aquaculture, Applications for a MASTS DTP Studentship, 'Post-PANDORA' pelagic fisheries research theme in collaboration with SPFA, Chair in Sustainable Seafood

The Committee discussed the impact of the work on a variety of staff in generating income.

10. Any Other Business

LB requested the endorsement of prize nominations for cadet students, from Independent Directors. The Chair, JG, and LD gave their endorsement.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Action: The Secretary is tasked to reschedule the next meeting to either a Monday or a Thursday in the week of the 12th January or the week thereafter

CIC Report to come to the next meeting

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Progress
5	Present updates on the curriculum review and other areas of course development at the next meeting.	JL	
11	Reschedule the next meeting to either a Monday or a Thursday in the week of the 12th January or the week thereafter	Secretary	Complete