

Committee	Board of Management		
Date paper prepared	04/05/2022	Date of committee meeting	11/05/2022
Subject	Principal's Report		
Author	Jane Lewis, Principal with members of SMG		
Action requested	For discussion		
Purpose of the paper	To update the board on activities across the College		
Brief summary of the paper	An outline is given of the measures being taken to mitigate COVID whilst ensuring a suitable student experience. The current position on student numbers and credits is provided. Activities of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing committee are provided. An update is given on activity related to the Islands Deal. Updates are given on research activities and other college activities and achievements.		
Consultation	SMG members provide the updates in the report		
Resource implications	n/a		
Risk implications	n/a		

Link with strategy	Links to all parts of the college strategic plan
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	n/a
Island Community Impact	n/a
Paper status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open – The paper may be circulated to non-members of the committee and published online without restriction. <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted – The paper must not be circulated to non-members or published online until after the committee meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential - The paper must not be circulated beyond the committee members and should not be published online. [Please note papers may still be subject to Freedom of Information requests – see below].
Freedom of information	Choose an item. If closed/ withheld, select date this will become 'open': Enter a date.

1. UHI Updates

UHI rebrand has been completed across the partnership. UHI Shetland is now the brand name and the one on the website, and we have changed all our social media to reflect this.

[News - Fresh look for UHI signals shift to where learning means more](#)

There has also been an extension of social media that we use with a new TikTok channel (the two videos so far have had over 2000 views), use of Instagram Reels and a UHI Shetland LinkedIn page.

The restructuring of Executive Office is progressing and a clear structure for interaction across the partnership has been provided. We will be able to use this to inform our restructure and to plan our interactions with the wider partnership.

2. Return to campus

From the 18th April, face coverings were no longer legally required. Subsequently use of face coverings is now optional across both campuses but advised for when in communal areas. Safety measures of 1m distancing and hand hygiene stations are in place.

Risk assessments have been written for 'medium risk' and 'low risk' scenarios. Government framework indicates Scotland will be moving to 'low risk' at some point later in the Spring/Summer and then social distancing will also be removed. Vulnerable staff and students are being advised to see HR for individual risk assessments for the move away from social distancing.

The Library is also participating in the 'Distance Aware' scheme where anyone can collect badges/lanyards should they wish for people to keep their distance.

The covid section has been updated on the website, and emails sent out to keep staff updated on changes.

Student Support are setting up a group for students to attend who may need extra support to attend campus after Covid. Students can self – refer and staff are being asked through the newsletter to encourage and signpost students who would benefit from the experience.

3. Update on enrolment figures (FE/HE) (Laura, Kevin)

Shetland UHI revised down our FE credit target for the year to 4200. However, a lot of work was done in conjunction with the registry team and we are actually a lot closer to the new target and ahead of our projected position for quarter 3, at 87% rather than 85% as per below. Departments were looking to claim credits for additional work that is done to support learning, as well as ensuring appropriate short courses are included and contribute to the target.

3,900	85%	3,998	87%
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	21/4/2022	Total AY enrolment figures			
		2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18

FE	Full time (FT)	72	76	90	94	89
	Part time (PT)	2013	2235	2197	3348	3584
HE	Full time (FT)	131	163	117	112	117
	Part time (PT)	253	255	254	278	220

1/4/2022 (data extracted from Metis)

As is to be expected full time enrolment numbers have not changed since the last report to the Board, but there has been a substantial increase in part time FE with enrolments, rising by 583 since the end of January. It is likely that overall part time numbers will continue to rise and result in a similar figure to the last few years.

As part of an exercise by UHI in relation to potential SFC clawback, we analysed our expected activity for the remainder of the year and revised our credit target from 4503 to 4200. Metis currently reports our total as just under 4000 credits and we are confident that the remaining 200 credits should be achievable owing to activity expected with school partnership programmes, cadets, MA completion and short courses. Work is ongoing to identify areas where credits can be attained and whilst the new target is less than previously aspired to, we are in a better position than earlier in the year when we were predicting a 500 credit shortfall on our original target.

HE part time figures have increased by 21 since the last report. Our remaining expected activity means that we are likely to slightly exceed the part time figures of the pandemic period.

Looking towards next year, we are experiencing strong levels of interest and application within S3/S4 programmes and some senior phase partnerships, along with healthy predictions for MA places. However, like other partners across UHI and the wider region at this time full time FE/HE applications are lower than we might have hoped. We are planning an open event along with enhanced marketing activity to increase our visibility. Additionally, we are working to improve student experience to assist with recruitment and retention. Student recruitment is a strong focus across the partnership and there are a variety of

4. Update on Short Courses

Data correct at	No. of courses		No. of delegate places filled		No. of days of training	
	21/22	20/21	21/22	20/21	21/22	20/21
Scalloway	118	14	812	117	409	22.5
Lerwick	69	122	509	705	90	167
TOTAL	187	136	1321	822	499	189.5

There is continued demand for short courses in certain areas, particularly those that are closely linked to local industry. Capacity on many courses has been increased with the relaxation of COVID restrictions allowing for more delegates to undertake a single course. We continue to have success with some of the recently introduced short courses with several of them being run repeatedly at full capacity throughout the year. There is work ongoing to further promote our short courses and to engage with industry to ascertain what other courses may be of interest, and over the last six months, many have successfully undergone re-approval processes.

5. Update on Estates

Train Shetland Building

We will be relinquishing the Train Shetland Building at the end of July and plans around movement of staff as a consequence of this have been developed and are being implemented. The vocational team will be moving to the Scalloway campus in May and rooms have been refurbished to accommodate this.

Port Arthur House

Work is underway to scope out the refurbishment of the ground floor to provide student accommodation on a temporary basis.

6. Update on research

5.1 Marine Science and Technology

High Covid prevalence has resulted in above average time lost due to sick leave. Impact has been minimised by staff required to isolate worked from home where possible. Some practical work was rescheduled.

Dr Steve Mackinson, Chief Scientific Officer at Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association is this years' Buckland Professor and delivered a Public Lecture in the Scalloway Campus Lecture theatre on the evening of 29th April.

5.1.1 Marine Planning

Projects

Diverse values- we have appointed Mika Schröder as a post-doctoral researcher. Mika will be facilitating the Shetland case study and also examining marine decision processes and the barriers and opportunities for a wider range of values to be included within decision making.

Shetland Marine plan- Marine Scotland continue to delay the adoption of the Shetland marine plan. It is now 12 months since the SIC approved the plan. Total delays by Marine Scotland have now exceeded 2 years in what was meant to be a 3-year process (now over 5 years).

Post-doctoral position marine renewables- Inne Withouck has started a 6-month post-doctoral researcher positions. She will be further developing the finding from her PhD, including policy briefs and peer-reviewed publications.

Students

Bryden Centre- Inne Withouck has submitted her PhD and her Viva will be during June, taking place in Perth.

SUPER PhD harbour porpoises – we have selected Sophie Smith for this PhD position who will be starting in October 2022. The PhD is also supervised by Professor Ben Wilson and Dr Lauren McWhinnie.

Workshops- Rachel and Inne presented at a SALTIRE Award funded workshop in St Andrews. Inne presented some of her PhD research focusing on how policy can be interpreted in decision support systems (such as GIS), and Rachel presented on how fisheries can be integrated into marine spatial planning.

5.1.2 Fisheries

Demersal

A funding application has been submitted to Defra's Fishing Industry Science Partnership (FISP) Part A call. SFPO / SUHI partnership project focusing on Ling. If successful it will lead to a bid for a larger project in 2023.

SmarTrawl Phase 4 fieldwork completed with extensive data collection and development of sediment suppressions system. Contributed to final report. Collection of catch data prevented by issues securing quota.

Positive reviews back on Frontiers article and revision in process.

Provided local support for SMRU seal tagging work which is planned to commence again in mid-May with ambitions to include SUHI prey sampling.

Successful project at European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) tidal test site involving use of SUHI new portable EK80 echosounder system during interdisciplinary 5-day survey around the World's largest tidal turbine (Orbital 02) with partners from Plymouth University, Queens University, and Bangor University.

Further deployment of camera gear at seabird roosts across Shetland building on from projects with ERI and Bangor University looking at seabird foraging behaviour and diet.

Meeting to discuss potential projects with Shetland Space Centre and site visit at Lambaness.

Advice provided for Master's project with researchers at DTU in Denmark on the application of cod escape panel concept to *Nephrops* fishery in Skagerrak.

Pelagic

Following submission of the PANDORA deliverable report in September, self-sampling project information is being uploaded to the ICES website as part of the publicly available PANDORA 'toolbox'.

The final PANDORA general assembly meeting was held (online) on 29th-30th March, with discussions highlighting the achievements of the self-sampling programme (with the original work planned exceeding expectation and continuing post-PANDORA with further developments to the work).

March/April was the transition from the PANDORA project to the new SUHI pelagic workstream, with Katie's new contract finalised and role as Pelagic Fisheries Scientist beginning on 1st April.

Steve Mackinson from the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association visited 29th -31st March for discussions with Katie and Chevonne (and other local stakeholders) regarding the SUHI-SPFA MoU on the pelagic workstream and to develop plans for the next phase of pelagic research.

The first in-person SPFA board meeting was held on 1st April, which Katie attended.

The online ICES workshop to *Evaluate the Utility of Industry-derived data for enhancing scientific knowledge and providing data for stock assessments* (WKEVUT) was held 4th-6th April, with Katie delivering two presentations from the pelagic self-sampling programme.

Funding application has been submitted to Defra's Fishing Industry Science Partnership (FISP) Part A call. Feasibility study to investigate 'Catch to batch' traceability within the pelagic sector. If successful it will lead to a larger project bid in 2023.

Shellfish

The annual stock assessment is largely complete with initial results reported to the SSMO Board on 15/4/22 and the final report being prepared, this will need to be shared on the UHI Shetland Website.

Work is ongoing planning the scallop survey and associated analysis.

We led work to facilitate the MSC Audit with a positive outcome and all conditions now closed. We are now reviewing the draft report.

Close working with the SSMO continues, including supporting the new Inshore Co-ordinator – a funding bid to the council is being prepared for 22/23 with further work being required to secure longer term funding for both the SSMO and the work that we carry out to underpin the sustainable management of Shetlands Inshore Fisheries. SUHI is looking to apply for funding from SIC outwith the SSMO for individual projects, including Lobster v-notching and the scallop survey.

Fisheries Policy

Provision of information and reports under the MoU with SFA is ongoing.

An Outline Proposal led by the University of the West of Scotland for a NERC Large Grant for a project to examine how coastal communities have been impacted by anthropogenic factors such as climate change was submitted. If the outline bid is successful (decision expected in May) a full project proposal will be developed before the end of the year. Work will involve Policy, Marine Planning and Aquaculture.

5.1.3 Aquaculture

Projects

Stepping Stone report approved by Spring Bay seafoods for release

Shell-volution:

- First tranche of feedback has been received from UK and Scot Gov and Executive Board convened to help respond
- Project is exploring options for acquiring a temporary project manager post to help transition through OBC to FBC and to help consult further with industry and project delivery (academics) to thereby assist in developing delivery costs for the initial period of the Deal.

Harmful Algal Blooms and Phytoplankton monitoring:

- Imaging Flow Cytobot – instrument has [arrived](#) (article in link).

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- A phytoplankton taxonomist colleague from SAMS joining w/b 23 May to assist with setup and to deliver updates to shellfish producers in Shetland.
- Deployment options for initial testing are still under review, made more complex due to limited data coverage in target areas. IFCB initial deployment will be assisted through some input from Seafood Shetland and SAMS under a Coastal Communities Fund "Rapid *in-situ* monitoring to support harmful algal bloom and biotoxin alerts for Shetland aquaculture".
- Further assistance with IFCB deployment through Crown Estate Scotland application with Marine Scotland and SAMS, is still awaiting a decision.
- Recruitment for a PhD candidate to develop data interrogation methods from the IFCB outputs was not successful. Several further applications have been received and interviews are scheduled for 5 May 2022.
- European IFCB users group met 15 February and 20 April

PRIMROSE-2 - Interreg have not funded the extension but a further opportunity for funding with Interreg has been triggered, albeit with a relatively low likelihood of success due to the funding scheme being wound down.

History of Aquaculture PhD - we hope to advertise soon, after having main funders confirmed

Hatchery Workshop – Workshop held with senior managers. Past developments reviewed, site visit and consideration of future opportunities initiated.

Aquaculture UK - Beth and Gregg to attend Aquaculture UK Exhibition 2-6 May 2022 via their work with the UHI Aquaculture Hub

5.2 Centre for Island Creativity

- Programmes / Courses
 - PhD Creative Practice – Malcolm has submitted the final paperwork for the approval process. Initial feedback on the draft paperwork from the Dean of Research was very positive and complimentary. We are hoping to squeeze in a validation event in June which could allow for a Sept 2022 start.
 - Once the programme is approved, it is proposed that CIC will set up supervisor training for Creative Practice PhD and MRes supervisors to build up a pool of experience in the subject network.
 - Malcolm has already talked to Finlo Cottier about adding a mentoring stream for creative practice research supervisors.
 - MA Screenwriting – course paperwork was created in 2020, we are aiming to restart this process and get the programme submitted for approval as soon as is practical with a potential start date of Sept 2023.
 - MFA Fine Art was originally approved several years ago for delivery at Moray School of Art but never started. CIC have begun tentative discussions with other academic partners to resurrect the programme as a network-wide or multi-centre programme.
 - Malcolm has begun initial discussions with London based Light Collective to set up an international lighting winter school in Shetland.
- Conferences
 - Roxane & Siun are hosting Immersive Scotland Workshop online on Friday 28th April
 - Malcolm has been invited to speak at Moray School of Art's Creativity Conference on 10th June
 - CIC are hosting the Island Studies International Conference in Shetland, 23rd-25th June. Andrew Jennings is on the steering committee for the conference.
 - MA Art & Social Practice and CIC hosted a Virtual Symposium: Care and Social Practice (21st April) with over 100 participants from UK and overseas.

- Malcolm presented an invited paper at St Machar's Cathedral Aberdeen on light in heritage environments (16th March)
- Malcolm was an invited speaker at the Women in Lighting Global Gathering online conference talking about 'Shetland Light' (8th March)
- R&KE
 - Siún and Roxane completed the 3 year 'Home and Belonging' project with care experienced young people with the launch of a book and the opening of an exhibition at Shetland Museum (it is expected that this influential project may form part of an impact case study for the next REF).
 - MI working on joint knowledge exchange proposal with Greg Arthur for a research project to explore creative reuse of aquaculture waste. Have agreed with Darlene to be apply for an interdisciplinary UHI Challenge Fund after the summer.
 - MI is planning a meeting with the new Tourism Research Centre at Edinburgh Napier University to discuss potential collaborations.
 - CIC is collaborating with Glasgow School of Art and Shetland Arts on an AHRC funded project to set up Place Based KE project for creative practitioners in Shetland
 - The Textile Facilitation Unit at Shetland UHI has been transferred to CIC
 - Currently working to set up customer consultation to develop the commercial and academic offering of the facility
 - Islands Deal - Creative Islands Wellbeing:
 - 2nd revision of the outline business case has been submitted and we are awaiting feedback from UK and Scot Gov. Expecting to move to final business case in the next few weeks.
 - Expected start date of the CIC led workstream is spring 2023 and will run for 8 years it includes:
 - £15k per year for an Academic Research and Innovation Fund
 - An annual Creative Island Research Forum
 - PG Research Student Fund to provide 10 fee waivers for islands based full time PhD students
 - Aiming to use funding to leverage match funding from other sources
 - As part of Malcolm's EO role leading KE for the Creative Industries, he is in discussions with Darlene Russell to set up a research and knowledge exchange skills workshop for creative industries staff – ideally an in-person workshop at the beginning of the summer.
 - Brodie Castle Illuminated - KE project with National Trust for Scotland
 - MI ran 3 workshops for programme leaders interested in working with NTS on the 2022 event
 - MI met with NTS early April to begin planning the 2022 event
 - MI to set up a meeting with PLs and Brodie Castle team to discuss potential UHI/NTS collaborations for the November event and throughout the year
 - MI has been awarded an Innovation Voucher to work with Scottish Flag Trust to develop a new immersive projection system for their visitor centre in East Lothian
 - Siún Carden has submitted a large-scale Horizon Europe bid with several UK and European partners: *"Lines of Desire: The Sheep, the Shepherd, and the Creative Practitioner – future pathways and (re)imaginings in the arts and creative industries"*
 - Malcolm is part of a consortium bid for Horizon Europe Rural Communities with the UHI Rural Health Partnership and NHS Western Isles (proposal is based around the Creative Islands Wellbeing project)
 - Roxane Permar has been working on a Scottish Government funded Arctic Connections project with partners in Norway

7. Update on merger related topics (Brendan)

Draft Memorandum of Understanding remains with Shetland Islands Council for ratification (since November 2021). Data Sharing Agreement with SIC also outstanding, a draft has been shared awaiting comment from SIC's Data Protection lead.

8. Health, Safety and Wellbeing (Angela)

There is a backlog of H&S work which it is hoped can be substantially cleared by the end of June month.

DSE questionnaire follow up interviews are 50% complete, most urgent cases were completed first.

H,S and W committee meeting in April was rescheduled to May 3rd.

9. Islands Deal

Islands Deal activity continues at pace with outline business cases being completed, reviewed and submitted to government and feedback incorporated (see table below). UHI programme board has been meeting regularly to oversee projects with which we are engaged and additional resource for management of the Islands Deal is being put in place.

Project	SUHI involvement	Progress
Shetland campus redevelopment	Lead	OBC signed off, now moving to FBC, working on procurement of design to feed into that process
Shellvolution	Joint leadership	OBC submitted to government, feedback being received and incorporated
Creative Islands and Wellbeing	Lead	OBC feedback from govt received
Talented	UHI Lead	OBC submitted to government, feedback being received and incorporated. Increasing clarity on SUHI part in this project.

In addition to the projects indicated above we have contributed to discussion and shaping of several other projects within the deal. We have been in discussion with the team submitted the Knab project concerning the opportunity for developing student accommodation within that project.

10. General activities and achievements

9.1 Student achievement

Ian McCormack, our current Lerwick Campus officer, was elected as HISA Depute President for Shetland and will commence post at the end of June.

The three nominated finalists won their respective categories in the LANTRA Scotland annual Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills (the ALBAs).

The winners were:

Derek Ferguson, Overall Modern Apprentice Runner Up and Winner of the Higher Education SCQF Level 9+ Award. Derek works on a marine site for SSF Shetland.

Emmanuelle Rey, Winner of the Aquaculture category. Emmanuelle works at the Frandy Hatchery for Dawnfresh Farming Ltd. Dawnfresh are the UKs largest rainbow trout producer.

Emily Underhill, Runner up of the Aquaculture category. Emily works for Scottish Sea Farms at the Barcaldine Hatchery in Oban. Emily formerly worked in the hatchery at Girlsta.

Creative Industries students have been showcasing their work across the Isles: (*Gemma*)

[News - 'Lipperin': a student exhibition at Bonhoga Art Gallery \(uhi.ac.uk\)](#)

[News - Contemporary Textiles Students Exhibit at Bod of Gremista \(uhi.ac.uk\)](#)

9.2 Staff achievement

We had a visit from Education Scotland 20-21 April. A verbal update was presented at the LTR. ES provided us with an assessment of **Satisfactory** which is indeed the highest level they can give. ES praised in particular the support that staff gave to learners and also the variety of support provided by support staff, mentioning counselling, wellness walks and pamper packs for example. There were many examples of cross-curricular and cross campus working which was also noteworthy.

A written report should be made available in 6-8 weeks and ES would like to present its findings to the Board.