

# Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee

## 2022-2023 2/4

Wed 16 November 2022, 16:30 - 18:30

### Attendees

#### Board members

- Karen Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee, Absent from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

#### Prescribed Members

- Simon Clarke (Teaching Staff Director)
- Ian McCormack (Student Director)

#### Other Board Members

- John Goodlad (Independent Director)
- Absent: Claire Christey (Independent Director)

#### Ex-Officio

- Jane Lewis (Principal - Shetland UHI)

#### Also In Attendance

- Laura Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary)
- Matt Sierocinski King (Board Secretary)

#### Apologies

- Christopher Bolton (Independent Director)
- Lucy Wilson (Independent Director)

## Meeting minutes

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

Due to technical difficulties experienced by Ms Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee), Mr Goodlad (Independent Director) served as Acting Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee.

Apologies were noted from Ms Wilson (Independent Director) and Mr Bolton (Independent Director).

Professor Lewis (Principal) announced that Ms Jen Vanderhoven had resigned as Vice-Principal Engagement of UHI, and that Mr Gary Campbell (Vice-Principal of Strategic Development) of UHI is retiring. The UHI Senior Executive Team has been reorganised to cover the backfill for Vicki Nairn's previous role and these changes represent an annual saving of £450,000 to UHI.

She also noted that UHI had won a Business Excellent Award from SCDI (Scottish Council for Development and Industry) to recognise its Outstanding Contribution to the Regional Economy.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Mr Goodlad (Acting Chair of Learning, Teaching and Research Committee) asked members to review the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

## 3. Matters Arising

Mr Goodlad (Acting Chair of Learning, Teaching and Research Committee) asked for confirmation on the status of the actions from the previous meeting.

**Noted:** All actions were noted as complete.

## 4. Terms of Reference

Mx Sierocinski King (Board Secretary) spoke to the committee regarding minor changes to the Terms of Reference, namely the inclusion of Ian McCormack as Student Director and Laura Burden as a Senior Staff member in attendance.

**Decision:** The committee approved the recommended changes, for ratification at Board of Management.

**Action:** The Board Secretary shall add the terms of reference to the third quarterly meeting of the Board of Management for ratification.

## 5. Student Experience

### 5.1. Senior Staff Presentation - School Partnership Presentation

Ms Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) introduced the context to the presentation. She spoke to the detail of enrolment for 2022/2023 and enrolments history and credits history, and future direction for S3 and S4 courses. She also spoke about the Senior Phase, particular the drop of enrolments, and the engagement process with parents and schools, along with the development of education provision to complement and integrate with school-based provision. She spoke about the 3 foundation courses currently running for senior phase students, namely, Early years and childcare, Computing, and Engineering, and explained that more courses were planned for the forthcoming academic year.

Ms Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) talked about the future plans covering senior phase skills for work, along with technical teaching support detailing the challenges and

associated risks. She moved the discussion on, to outline the possible solutions to these challenges and associated risks.

She highlighted the challenge of Residential Transition, noting the Care Inspectorate rules regarding the use of the School Hostel, and who can use the hostel. The topic of residence was acknowledged to be a key issue for smaller isles based students who don't have easy access to Shetland Mainland.

Professor Lewis (Principal) spoke to the committee regarding the Brae Initiatives and the development of education, new school building and the development of links between schools and Shetland UHI.

The committee discussed the presentation and the issues raised, with discussion particularly around where the teaching is delivered, and increasing the number of credits. The committee noted the direction of split learning between Shetland UHI and Secondary Schools, and the challenges of perceptions held by teachers/pupil support staff and some parents.

At the end of this agenda item, Ms Hall (Chair of Learning, Teaching and Research Committee) resumed the role of Chair for the meeting from Mr Goodlad (Acting Chair of Learning, Teaching, and Research Committee) as Ms Hall successfully joined the meeting, after experiencing technical issues. Mr Goodlad returned to the role of Independent Director, without any acting chair responsibilities for the remainder of the meeting.

## **5.2. Freshers Report**

Mr McCormack (Student Director) gave a verbal report on Freshers, noting that he felt that Freshers should have been moved to account for the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II which impacted badly on the activities that were run.

The Student Director gave an account of Freshers from the perspective of Ms Maddie Brown (Vice-President Communities at HISA), and detailed the events and their varying success that were delivered. He detailed his work regarding the aim to obtain a student discount scheme with the endorsement from local businesses. He explained why that hadn't materialised as yet. He also detailed the success of HISA Perth's Freshers, and how it was delivered as a team, comparing it to that of HISA Shetland's, which he felt to be run from Inverness. The Student Director placed the responsibility for the lack of a successful delivery of Freshers at Shetland UHI solely on HISA's doorstep, noting the support of UHI and Shetland UHI towards Freshers at UHI Shetland.

The committee raised concerns, and discussed how to engage with HISA regarding Fresher's for future years, along with local engagement and for what Freshers' could be delivered for networked students.

**Action:** Mx Sierocinski King (Board Secretary) shall add the topic of Freshers' on the agenda of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee's meeting before Freshers to review progress

## **5.3. HISA Update on Student Director Recruitment**

**Noted:** The paper was noted, including the extension of nominations to 18th November, given verbally by Mx Sierocinski King (Board Secretary).

## **5.4. Learning and Teaching Strategy**

Professor Lewis (Principal) highlighted the UHI Learning, Teaching and Enhancement strategy to the committee.

**Noted:** The committee noted the Learning, Teaching and Enhancement strategy.

## **6. Performance Monitoring**

### **6.1. Student Numbers Update in relation to Risk Register**

Ms Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) introduced the paper, noting the stabilisation of the full time figures. She explained that that the links between the FE and credit numbers, adding that UHI is struggling across the partnership with student numbers, and clawback threshold.

She informed the committee that a crisis meeting had looked at how to resolve the challenging FE credit matter, that included the inclusion of a rise in delegate places, short courses, and training courses. She felt that the HE target will be met for Shetland UHI, though this will be more challenging for the UHI partnership.

**Noted:** The committee noted the paper.

## **7. Scholarship and Research**

### **7.1. Shellvolution**

Mr Arthur (Aquaculture Manager and KE Officer) gave a presentation on Shell-volution detailing the need, business challenges and opportunities.

He focused on Mussel production, with 80% of mussel production in Scotland coming from Shetland, and how Shetland could return to 2018 levels of mussel production, and explained that Shetland UHI received funding to investigate how to do this, setting out a timeline and stakeholders.

He detailed the conclusions of the survey, which detailed that a collaboration from industry, academic and community to resolve the matter.

He outlined the OBC and Full Business case process, including a preferred option of a £6.6million project over 10 years, with the UK government providing £4.4 million funding. He also detailed the continuous improvement programme and rope performance, and indicative shell-volution funding calls, caveats, challenges, risks, opportunities,

The committee discussed the presentation, including sources of funds, increase in growth, networking, with a variety of examples given by committee members within each category.

## 8. UHI Standardised Policies

### 8.1. Student Criminal Offence Policy

Ms Burden (Depute Principal Tertiary) introduced the policy and gave detail as to how Student Criminal Offence Policy would be managed and how the policy had been developed and approved at academic board, and Senior Management Group.

**Decision:** The committee members present approved the Policy.

**Noted:** The committee was inquorate at the time the committee members present gave their approval.

**Action:** Mx Sierocinski King (Board Secretary) shall engage with Mr Sandison (Chair of the Board of Management) regarding whether to advance the policy to the Board of Management for approval.

### 8.2. \*Safeguarding Policy 2022

**Noted:** The committee noted the Safeguarding Policy 2022.

### 8.3. \*Safeguarding Procedure 2022

**Noted:** The committee noted the Safeguarding Procedure 2022.

## 10. Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

15th February 2023

Agenda Item	Action	Responsible	Progress
4	Add the terms of reference to the third quarterly meeting of the Board of Management for ratification.	Board Secretary	Ongoing
5.2	Add the topic of Freshers' on the agenda of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee's meeting before Freshers	Board Secretary	Ongoing
8.1	Engage with Mr Sandison (Chair of the Board of Management) regarding whether to advance the policy to the Board of Management for approval.	Board Secretary	Complete