

Learner Experience Committee

Minutes

Meeting reference: Learner Experience 2023-24/04

Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024

Location: Boardroom (Braham Room 019)

Members present: Margaret Cook, Principal
Chris Lusk, Board Member
Elaine Piggot, Board Member
Alistair Wylie, Board Member (until Item 7.1)
Patrick O'Donnell, Staff Board Member
Lorenz Cairns, Depute Principal
Deborah Lally, Head of Student Experience
David Gourley, Head of Learning & Teaching Enhancement
Robert Boyd, Teaching Staff Member on the Committee (from Item 6.1)

In attendance: Ian McCartney, Clerk to the Board

Apologies: Fiona Smith, Student Board Member
Catherine Etri, Vice Principal (Academic)
Veronica Lynch, Vice Principal (External)
Rosalind Bryce, Chair of Scholarship & Research Committee

Chair: **Lorenz Cairns**

Minute Taker: Ian McCartney

Quorum: 7

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Student Centred + Innovative + Ambitious + Respectful + Inclusive + Collaborative

Minutes:

Item	Action
1. Welcome and Apologies Depute Principal, Chairing the meeting on behalf of Principal welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted apologies. To allow the meeting to achieve full quoracy, item 8.2 was heard prior to substantive items. Principal noted absence of Student Board Members and expressed concern at lack of recent student perspectives being provide at Board level. Principal advised that it was hoped that a meeting would be arranged soon to address this issue. Board Member agreed that such intervention was required to ensure student voices were heard on matters directly affecting them.	
8.2 Artificial Intelligence Head of Learning & Teaching Enhancement presented Paper 6, which outlined some of the challenges and opportunities presented to UHI Perth around Artificial Intelligence, in particular around the production of learning materials and how AI could focus on some of the repetitive tasks which would allow more time to be dedicated to supporting students, however this needed to be weighed against challenges to academic integrity. Head of Learning & Teaching Enhancement noted the need to invest in training for both students and staff in this quickly-developing area, and the need to change the accepted pedagogy as the workplace doesn't need people to write essays but does value those who can interpret sources of information to produce reports. In addition, there may need to be a move towards a viva-based assessment methodology to ensure learning has been captured. Board Member suggested that consideration needs to be given to timelines around introduction of AI to allow for impacts and strategies for adjustment in methodologies to be considered, and advised that UHI Perth should consider setting up a taskforce/working group to ensure a focused outlook on this area of development. Staff Board Member agreed, and suggested that the college consider using AI "champions" or "first adapters" to help others who may be behind the curve in this area. Committee NOTED Paper 6.	

2.	Additions To The Agenda There were no additions to the Agenda.	
3.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest in any Agenda Item No conflicts of interest were declared.	
4.	Minutes of Meeting held on 21 February 2024 The minutes were approved as being an accurate record of the meeting.	
5.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes There were no Matters Arising. Board Member noted ongoing confusion around branding for the Students' Association and queried whether this was impacting on student engagement.	
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6.	<p>Education Scotland Progress Report</p> <p>Principal presented Paper 2, which summarised a positive visit from Education Scotland. A representative of Education Scotland would be attending the June Board meeting to formally present the Report.</p> <p>Board Member recorded how good it was to see such a strong report despite the amount of money being cut from the Sector and thanked all involved. Report gives a strong impetus moving forward in challenging times.</p> <p>Board Member echoed these statements, however sought clarification over the recording of drop-outs of students from more deprived backgrounds and wondered whether there were any plans in place to address this issue. Depute Principal advised that the levels of student support provided have been invaluable in terms of articulation and retention but there have also been budgetary constraints imposed, eg money withdrawn for Counselling services. Head of Student Experience added that UHI Perth is lucky to Transition Officers working with PKC schools and initiatives such as Gateway To College programmes, while of a high cost due to limited numbers, are focused SIMD10 and SIMD20 areas. There are, however, challenges around student carers who have increasingly been forced to prioritise family over education.</p> <p>Staff Board Member noted that it was encouraging that such challenges were being recognised. Head of Student Experience further noted that the Student Engagement Officer was looking to work with schools to improve potential students' understanding of College life prior to choices being made.</p> <p>Depute Principal offered to work with appropriate staff to look at preparatory interventions ahead of transitions into College. This offer was AGREED.</p>	Depute Principal
7	Learner Experience	
7.1	<p>Your Students' Association (Perth) Strategic Update</p> <p>Paper 3 was NOTED in absence of the Student Board Member.</p>	
7.2	<p>Student Destinations</p> <p>Head of Student Experience presented Paper 4, noting that the figures provided are derived from the statutory return from 2021/22 as this is the most recent "clean" set of data and relates to full-time FE students.</p> <p>Head of Student Experience highlighted key data around age group</p>	

	<p>breakdowns and noted that 89.8% of students who progress onto further study chose to stay at UHI Perth, and 24% of these go on to study at HE level, which is expected to recover due to the proportion of students who would have been repeating studies post-COVID.</p> <p>Committee NOTED Paper 4.</p>	
8	Curriculum	
8.1	<p>Student Recruitment - Update</p> <p>Head of Student Experience presented Paper 5 which provided an update on current and next academic year recruitment data.</p> <p>Head of Student Experience noted that UHI Perth had met or exceeded the FE target for the current year and is close to the FTE HE target. Head of Student Experience further noted that 2024/25 targets data looks healthy, however there may be a demand for courses with limited capacity so further analysis will be required to clarify figures.</p> <p>Teaching Staff Member queried whether UHI Perth's bounce-back figures were favourable against other UHI Academic Partners. Head of Student Experience advised that other APs appear to be behind UHI Perth, possibly due to geography and/or UHI Perth running courses with specific selling points. Principal further advised that UHI numbers as a whole may shrink despite UHI Perth growth, which is not mirroring the pattern across the Scottish HE sector.</p> <p>Committee NOTED Paper 5.</p>	
9	<p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>Committee NOTED draft minutes from Scholarship & Research Committee, 09 February 2024.</p>	
10	<p>Date of Next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 04 September 2024 (tbc) 	
11	<p>Review of Meeting</p> <p>Committee confirmed the business of the meeting had been consistent with the Terms of Reference.</p>	

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Notes taken to help record minutes are also subject to Freedom of Information requests, and should be destroyed as soon as minutes are approved.

Status of Minutes – Open ☒

An **open** item is one over which there would be no issues for the College in releasing the information to the public in response to a freedom of information request.

A **closed** item is one that contains information that could be withheld from release to the public because an exemption under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies.

The College may also be asked for information contained in minutes about living individuals, under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018. It is important that fact, rather than opinion, is recorded.

Do the minutes contain items which may be contentious under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒