

Learner Experience Committee

Minutes

Meeting reference: Learner Experience 2024-25/02

Date: Wednesday 20 November 2024

Location: Boardroom (Brahan Room 019)

Members present: Lorenz Cairns, Depute Principal (Academic)
Margaret Cook, Principal
Chris Lusk, Board Member
Xander McDade, Student Board Member
Andi Garrity, Student Board Member
Deborah Lally, Director of Student Experience
David Gourley, Director of Learning Teaching & Quality Enhancement
Patrick O'Donnell, Staff Board Member
Ronnie Dewar, Staff Board Member
Nicky Inglis, Director of Curriculum

In attendance: Isobel Syme, PA to Principal

Apologies: Christiana Margiotti, Director of Curriculum
Rosalind Bryce, Chair of Scholarship & Research Committee

Chair: Lorenz Cairns

Minute Taker: Isobel Syme

Quorum: 7

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We will act with integrity in everything we do

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.	
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 11 September 2024 The minutes were approved as being an accurate record of the meeting.	
5.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Student President updated the group on current progress regarding a potential RAG week and the increase in membership of clubs and societies. Depute Principal Academic noted the random act of kindness initiative currently being undertaken by Brit Challenge. HISA and the Student Engagement team have engaged in a similar engagement event. School College Partnership – it was noted that this needs to have two-way engagement. Discussions are ongoing. Director of Curriculum provided more information and context around the School/College Partnership in relation to the ongoing engagement. Principal noted the double funding issue that we need to be careful of before we make any decisions re development of this area. Further discussion took place around this including timetabling, resources and staffing.	
6.1	HISA Perth Strategic Update Student President presented Paper 2 and highlighted some key areas. There are 183 registered SVRs currently and HISA are working on areas that are not represented at the moment. First meeting was very well attended with a wide range of issues discussed. Thanks given to HISA for the work done on this. Depute Principal Academic noted that responses will be given to all issues raised.	

	Paper 2 was NOTED .	
6.2	<p>National Student Survey Report</p> <p>Director of Teaching, Learning and Quality Enhancement talked to some highlights within the report.</p> <p>UHI Perth has had a reduction of 5% over a 3 year period for overall student satisfaction. Some of this may be due to industrial action, ASOS and the restructuring that has taken place within academic areas.</p> <p>Some areas are high including Audio Engineering (100%) and FNTE (94%) while some course overall levels need to be significantly enhanced (Visual Communication and Design) which is sitting at 40%.</p> <p>Overall UHI ranking: 2023 – 81%, 2024 – 81%</p> <p>Board Member queried the number of students on some of these courses and the impact of student numbers with regard to percentages. Also queried next steps.</p> <p>Staff Board Members advised that they will drill down and undertake analysis with various people. Need to ensure that we are sharing best practice and response times are strong.</p> <p>Depute Principal Academic noted that UHI have a response team who will look at specific courses. Very important that we understand these numbers.</p> <p>Director of Student Experience highlighted the increase in how well the student union represent the student body.</p> <p>Board Member queried how this survey is done and was informed that an email goes out to all relevant students.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding how to incentivise students to take part in this survey and other actions that can help to increase satisfaction.</p> <p>Committee NOTED Paper 3.</p>	
6.3	<p>Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey</p> <p>Director of Teaching, Learning and Quality Enhancement talked to the paper highlighting key areas.</p>	

	<p>UHI achieved the highest overall satisfaction rate of any Scottish institution for the third consecutive year.</p> <p>The overall satisfaction rate for the university was 88% which is lower than last year when our rate was 92%</p> <p>Committee NOTED Paper 4</p>	
7.1	<p>Student Completion & Progression - Update</p> <p>Director of Student Experience presented Paper 4, which provided information around completion and progression.</p> <p>College and Universities are measured differently:</p> <p>Colleges are held to account on Early Withdrawal, Further Withdrawal, Partial Success and Successful Outcome</p> <p>Universities are held to account on non-continuation rates</p> <p>Every FE student now has an outcome at the end of the academic year.</p> <p>This data is available at course level and has been circulated to all teams and will be used as preparation for target setting.</p> <p>Student President noted the year 4 numbers and queried the withdrawal/transfer or fail category.</p> <p>It was explained that some students can carry over from year 3 into year 4 and other various circumstances outlined as to why this category is needed. Discussion then took place regarding some of the reasons for this and potential solutions.</p> <p>Discussion also took place regarding HN students and where they might be going if not progressing with us, progression routes, articulation agreements and networked courses across UHI.</p> <p>Committee NOTED Paper 4.</p>	
7.2	<p>Student Recruitment Update</p> <p>Director of Student Experience provided the latest update regarding student numbers, predicting a shortfall of approx. 200 full-time HE, 39% of this shortfall is by way of new recruitment and 61% is progressing/continuing students. Clawback could happen due to shortfall. FE on track to meet the credit target.</p>	

8	Committee Minutes There were no Committee Minutes supplied for information	
9	Date of Next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 19 February 2025 	
10	Review of Meeting Committee confirmed the business of the meeting had been consistent with the Terms of Reference. Student President asked if there should be a named Deputy Chair in the Terms of Reference and suggested that this should be the Depute Principal Academic. To be checked.	Clerk to the Board

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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** ☒