UHI | PERTH

Learner Experience Committee

Agenda

Meeting reference: Learner Experience 2025-26/04
Date: Wednesday 06 May 2026 at 3:00pm
Location: Online
Purpose: Scheduled meeting

*Denotes items for discussion/approval.
Members should contact the Clerk in advance of the meeting if they wish to request an item be starred.

	Agenda Items	**Author**	**Led by**	**Paper**
1	Welcome and Apologies		Chair	
2	Additions to the Agenda		Chair	
3	Declaration of Interest in any Agenda Item		Chair	
4	Minutes of the meeting held on 04 March 2026		Chair	Paper 1
5	Actions arising from previous minutes		Chair	
6	**Student Experience**			
6.1	HISA Perth Update	HISA Perth	HISA Perth President	Paper 2
6.2	Review of Personal Learning Support Plans	Director of Student Experience	Director of Student Experience	Verbal
6.3	SFC Benchmark Report on KPIs - update	SFC	Director of Student Experience	Verbal
7	**Curriculum**			
7.1	QAA Institutional Liaison	Director LSER	Director LSER	Verbal
7.2	Student Recruitment - 2026/27 Targets Update	Director of Student Experience	Director of Student Experience	Paper 3

8	**Committee Reports**			
	No committee reports tabled			
9	**Date and time of next meeting:** • tbc		Clerk	
10	**Review of Meeting** Amendments to Committee Terms of Reference	Clerk	Clerk	Paper 4

UHI | PERTH

Learner Experience Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Meeting reference: Learner Experience 2025-06/03
Date: Wednesday 04 March 2026
Location: Online

Members present: Chris Lusk, Board Member (Chair)
Sarah Cordwell, Board Member (from Item 6.1)
Mary Fraser, Board Member
Catherine Etri, Interim Principal
Millie Foster, Student Board Member
Andi Garrity, Student Board Member
Ronnie Dewar, Trade Union Board Member
Jill Elder, Depute Principal
Nicky Inglis, Director of Curriculum
Deborah Lally, Director of Student Experience
David Gourley, Director of Learning Strategies, Enhancement & Resources

In attendance: Ian McCartney, Clerk to the Board of Management

Apologies: Patrick O'Donnell, Staff Board Member
David Paterson, Teaching Staff Member on the Committee
Christiana Margiotti, Director of Curriculum

Chair: **Chris Lusk**
Minute Taker: Ian McCartney
Quorum: 7

Minutes:

Item		Action
1.	**Welcome and Apologies** Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and noted apologies.	
2.	**Additions To The Agenda** There were no items added 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 10 September 2025** Student Board Member noted minor corrections to nomenclature. The minutes were otherwise approved as being an accurate record of the meeting.	
5.	**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** <u>ID Cards Visibility</u> Director LSER noted that discussions were ongoing re improving visibility re availability of ID cards, however focus was on preparation for AY 2026/27. HISA Perth were engaged with the process via the SVRs. <u>UHI Transformation</u> Committee were informed that a Summit re UHI Transformation was being held on 11 March, and staff had been emailed seeking volunteers to get involved in the project. Trade Union Board Member noted that Trade Unions had been by-passed for this process. Interim Principal expected this matter to be raised at the Summit meeting.	
6.1	**Self-Evaluation & Action Plans** Director LSER presented Paper 2 on the SEAP, which noted positive results around FT FE success rates, HE completion rates and NSS results. Director LSER advised that areas of development included addressing those subject areas with completion rates below 60%, Modern Apprenticeships, and inconsistencies around turnaround times and feedback. Digital infrastructure was also identified as an area requiring attention. Director Student Experience noted differences between own	

	Modern Apprenticeships and those that come in vie SNIPEF, etc, which need to be clarified when publishing. Board Member queried deliverability and achievability of Action Plans. Depute Principal advised that Plans were being drilled into to tease out the resources required to deliver, and Plans are due to be reviewed at LTAG later in the month, however there is a relatively strong position due to working in a consistent manner across the college. Chair requested greater clarity around some of language used in Action Plans.	Depute Principal
7.1	**HISA Perth Update** Student Board Member presented Paper 3, an update on recent HISA activity and events. Committee noted that the new HISA CEO was due to start on 16 March, student elections were live with new positions/ structures in play, and nominations for the OBI Awards had now closed. Board Member raised concerns around the potential impact on delivery given reduction in elected officers. Student Board Member advised that options were being discussed options around the use of volunteer roles to support the local Student Officer moving forward, with HISA Perth looking to work with SVRs to engage locally around events and potential provision of options around second Student Board Member position Student Board Member highlighted the potential impact of flat-rate funding from UHI on HISA. Interim Principal advised that there was a risk of a reduced service being delivered via the Top-Slice. Chair recorded Committee's concerns on these matters. Committee then discussed perceived levels of staff and student engagement on campus. Committee **NOTED** Paper 3.	
7.2	**Induction & Early Student Experience Survey** Director LSER presented Paper 3, noting that the use of a closed-link format had produced better data. Response rates were up 2% to 70%, and an overall satisfaction rate of 96% was reported, however there was a need to dig into granular information around underlying issues affecting certain groups of students, eg under-16s, hearing impaired. Committee requested that efforts be made to publicise the good news stories contained within the report. Principal advised that a new senior	Director LSER

	role included a remit within this area Committee **NOTED** Paper 4.	
8.1 & 8.2	**Student Recruitment – 2025/26 Report & Student Recruitment – 2026/27 Targets** Director of Student Experience presented Papers 5 & 6, which provided current numbers for AY 2025/26, and funded target information for AY 2026/27. Director of Student Experience advised that both FE and HE targets have been met for 2025/26, and initial forecasting assumptions for budget purposes for 2026/27 show higher than current targets, although formal funding announcements re student targets are yet to be announced by SFC. Chair queried when final figures were likely to be locked in. Director of Student Experience noted that numbers are largely known over the summer period based on August results and marketing, however figures aren't finalised until enrolment. Committee **NOTED** Papers 5 and 6.	
9	**Date of Next meeting** • 06 May 2026 Chair advised that Vice Chair would be chairing meeting on 06 May 2026.	
10	**Review of Meeting** Clerk presented Paper 7, which outlined required amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference following changes in nomenclature to management structures. Clerk noted that Board approval would also be required for these amendments. Committee **ENDORSED** Paper 7.	

Information recorded in College minutes are subject to release under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A). Certain exemptions apply: financial information relating to procurement items still under tender, legal advice from College lawyers, items related to national security.

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 ☑**

UHI | PERTH

Committee Cover Sheet

Paper No.2

Name of Committee	Learner Experience Committee
Subject	HISA Update – April 2026
Date of Committee meeting	06/05/2026
Author	Highlands and Islands Students Association (HISA)
Date paper prepared	28/04/2026
Executive Summary Please provide a concise summary of the Paper outlining the purpose, impact and recommended future actions if approved	A summary of activities within the students' association since last meeting. • HISA election results announced • Final SVR meeting of the semester • Officer updates including iMac sales, Language Accessibility Promise launch, art competition results • Record OBI Nominations
Committee Consultation Please note which Committees this paper has previously been tabled at, and a brief summary of the outcomes/actions arising from this.	n/a
Action requested	☒ For information ☐ For discussion ☐ For endorsement ☐ For approval ☐ Recommended with guidance (please provide further information, below)
Strategic Impact Please highlight how the paper links to the Strategic Objectives of UHI Perth or the UHI Partnership. If there is no direct link to Strategic Objectives, please provide a justification for inclusion of this paper to the nominated Committee.	In line with HISA Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Committee Cover Sheet

Resource implications Does this activity/proposal require the use of College resources to implement? If yes, please provide details.	Yes/ **No**
Risk implications Does this activity/proposal come with any associated risk to UHI Perth, or mitigate against existing risk? If yes, please provide details.	Yes/ **No** Click or tap here to enter text.
Equality & Diversity Does this activity/proposal require an Equality Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.	Yes/ **No**
Data Protection Does this activity/proposal require a Data Protection Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.	Yes/ **No** Click or tap here to enter text.
Island communities Does this activity/proposal have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities)?	Yes/ **No** If yes, please give details: Click or tap here to enter text.
Status (ie confidential or non-confidential)	Non-Confidential If a paper needs to remain confidential for a prescribed period of time before being made 'open', please advise how long must the paper be withheld: Click or tap here to enter text.

Committee Cover Sheet

Freedom of Information

Please note that **ALL** papers will be included within 'open' business unless a justifiable reason can be provided.

Please select a justification from the list, below:

Its disclosure would substantially prejudice a programme of research	☐	Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs	☐
Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation	☐	Its disclosure would constitute a breach of confidence actionable in court	☐
Its disclosure would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act	☐	Other [please give further details] Click or tap here to enter text.	☐

Further guidance on application of the exclusions from Freedom of Information legislation is available via:

http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/ScottishPublicAuthorities/ScottishPublicAuthorities.asp

and

http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/web/FILES/Public_Interest_Test.pdf

HISA Update for Learner Experience Committee April 2026

Key HISA Organisational Updates

Student Elections

Voting in our 2026 Student Elections took place from 9-12 March. Local Officers will move to 12-month contracts (July-June), instead of a 10-month contract (Aug-May), in line with Cross-Campus Officers.
The elections results, as listed below, were declared on March 13th by Simon Varwell, our Director of Student Engagement & Representation and Deputy Returning Officer in the elections, as appointed by HISA's board of trustees.

- Cross Campus Officers:
  - Students' Association President (35 hours) - Oliver Sweeney (OS Manifesto)
  - Vice President Education (35 hours) - Andi Garrity (AG Manifesto)
- Local Officers:
  - Perth Depute President (35 hours) - TBC
  - Argyll Depute President (12 hours) - Tsz Chung Tang
  - Inverness Depute President (35 hours) - Chloe Young
  - Moray Depute President (16 hours) - Callum Stepien
  - North, West & Hebrides Depute Officer (Hebrides) (12 hours) - Alasdair Macleod
  - Orkney Depute President (12 hours) - Esméemilja Mackenna
  - Scottish Association for Marine Sciences (SAMS) Depute President (7 hours) - Merlin Farrell

Unfortunately, the winning candidate for the post of Perth Depute President recently withdrew for personal reasons. A by-election is currently being arranged.

By-elections are also taking place for the posts of Depute President for UHI Shetland UHI North, West and Hebrides (North), UHI North, West and Hebrides (West).

NUS Referendum and Student Partnership Agreement

The Highlands & Islands Students' Association (HISA) held referendum on our memberships of the National Union of Students UK & Charity between Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April across the partnership.
The result was as follows:

Yes	139	68.14%
No	58	28.43%
Abstain	7	3.43%

Although a majority of voters were in favour of leaving NUS UK and NUS Charity, this referendum has not passed as the total number of votes did not meet the required quorum of 400 voters. This result will be presented to the HISA Board of Trustees at the next meeting for discussion.

The Cross-Campus Team are working with UHI on the next iteration of our Student

Partnership Agreement, informed by a vote by students held alongside the referendum.

SVRs and Student Feedback

As of 17/04/2026 there are 223 registered SVRs at Perth, 108 of which have been trained. Reps cover 61% of eligible course codes.

At our latest SVR meeting on 28 April 17 reps attended in person and an online catch up was held the following day. The minutes can be found on our SVR meetings page along with HISA's thematic reports collated from information gathered across all APs for the previous meetings held this year.

Recent SVR issues include:

- The repeated appearance of facilities and maintenance issues, not just at UHI Perth, suggests the value of a logging system for SVRs to more speedily raise these issues with the estates team. Students have repeatedly spoken about broken or dirty facilities and roads.
- Difficulty of navigating Brightspace, as lecturers all use it differently.
- Request for physical ID cards.

Cross Campus SVR Update

Figures across the UHI academic partners for comparison are as follows:

AP or centre	SVRs	% trained
Argyll	18	14
Centre for Health Science	7	4
Highland Theological College	5	2
Inverness	109	51
Moray	120	94
North, West and Hebrides	44	20
Orkney	7	1
Perth	217	108
Scottish Association for Marine Science	16	15
Shetland	11	5
Grand Total	**554**	314

HISA are currently undertaking a review of our SVR training, including a survey of SVRs and academic staff, with a view to making improvements for 2026-27 delivery. While this consultation will inform thinking, we are anticipating two developments:

1. The core training could conceivably be reduced in length. While our training is shorter than the sector average, we routinely receive feedback that the training is too long.
2. We may accompany this core training with a modularised approach, with bite sized training modules that could relate to student cohort/mode (FE/HE, representing online students, PGTs etc), skillset (meeting skills, researching the

student view) or topic (for instance UHI Transformation, personal development).

Local Officer Updates

Andi Garrity – Perth President:

- I've worked with UHI Perths' ICT Support Team and Director of Quality & Resources to launch the 2026 Refurbished iMac Sale, which has had a really great start!
- Reading all the Outstanding, Best, Inspiring (OBI) Awards nominations for the judging panel and organising the awards ceremony. As well as handing out invitations to nominees with the support of the Depute Principal & the Director of Curriculum for Arts, Humanities & Education.
- Launched the Language Accessibility Promise which is the project I've been co-leading under the Scottish Tertiary Enhancement Programme (STEP). This means institutions that sign up are committed to improving access to education, enhancing the quality of the student experience and increasing students' sense of belonging. So far UHIs Perth, Inverness, & Orkney have committed to the Language Accessibility Promise and the institutions pack has been sent to the College Development Network (CDN) Quality Leads for approval processes to all colleges & universities in Scotland, including all UHI Academic Partners.
- Consulted on the NUS Student Manifesto with the Students Demand Better Campaign for the Scottish Elections which launched on the 26th of February.
- I published a HISA article 'Pride: The Importance of Education' as part of LGBTQIA+ History Month Collection.
- Recently took Special Leave to participate in the HISA 2026 Student Elections where I was elected as the 2026-27 Cross Campus Vice President Education.

Millie Foster – Perth Depute:

- Art Competition
  Wanting to create a yearly tradition of new artists' ideas and creativity being displayed in the Goodlyburn cafeteria, we have held an art competition that hopefully continues into later years to continue displaying and taking pride in students' work.
- Tea Brew
  In aid of the student's mental health, regular de-stressing tea sessions have been put on to relax students and bring together people through arts and craft and sharing bits of culture and tradition.
- Mental Health Leaflets
  After some research and pulling on older sources, leaflets are being created that may help anyone struggling with their mental health. These will be found in Perth HISA reception.

Student Communities and Inclusion

Events and Activities

This semester HISA have run several events independently and in conjunction with UHI Perth colleagues.

- Supported the library team's Café Culi book launch and stress awareness events.
- Continued weekly "Teabreak" tea tasting and craft events in the Webster, working with ESOL students to teach crafts to their peers from a range of courses.
- Ran an art competition to put student's art onto the walls of the Goodlyburn – winning artworks will be hung before the end of the semester.
- Invited Tayside Joint Valuation Board onto campus to encourage students to register to vote in the upcoming elections.

- Ran more Therapets sessions bringing the ever-popular therapy dogs to campus.

OBI Awards

Now in their fourteenth year, the OBI Awards are Scotland's longest-running student-led college awards, celebrating Outstanding, Best and Inspiring students and staff across UHI Perth. This year has been the most successful yet, with 545 nominations recognising the individual contributions that make UHI Perth such a vibrant and supportive community. Each nomination has a real impact—showing that someone has noticed those who go above and beyond, whether or not they ultimately receive an award. The awards ceremony will take place on 18 May and will be a true cross-college celebration, featuring performances from the music industries courses and refreshments prepared by hospitality staff and students.

Clubs and Societies

- HISA currently administer 33 societies, 16 sports clubs, and 7 networks across UHI. 16 of these are online and open to UHI students in any location. Topping around 100 members each, the UHI PGR society and the UHI D&D society are the most popular.
- We have several HISA affiliated clubs and societies at UHI Perth:
    - Audio and Visual Arts
    - Computing Club
    - Music Appreciation Society
    - Tuesday Art Club

HISA Organisational Updates

HISA's monthly newsletter, Hi!, continues to receive very high hit rates and is commended to staff across UHI as a good way of keeping up with our activities. Due to capacity constraints, we are reducing the frequency for Term 2 to two or three issues, with important messaging delivered in new formats in between (such as emails and website articles).

Our work on multiple dimensions of UHI Transformation continues, with development of our approaches to engage students in the Full Business Case in the next academic year.

HISA Awards have moved forward this year so that announcements of winners will happen in term time. They closed on 20th March, and winners will be announced soon.

UHI | PERTH

Committee Cover Sheet

Paper No.3

Name of Committee	Learner Experience Committee
Subject	Student Recruitment AY 2026-27
Date of Committee meeting	06/05/2026
Author	Deborah Lally – Director of Student Experience
Date paper prepared	29/04/2026
Executive Summary Please provide a concise summary of the Paper outlining the purpose, impact and recommended future actions if approved	This paper provides the committee with our latest position regarding recruitment for AY 2026-27
Committee Consultation Please note which Committees this paper has previously been tabled at, and a brief summary of the outcomes/actions arising from this.	N/A
Action requested	☒ For information ☐ For discussion ☐ For endorsement ☐ For approval ☐ Recommended with guidance (please provide further information, below)
Strategic Impact Please highlight how the paper links to the Strategic Objectives of UHI Perth or the UHI Partnership: Strategic-Plan-2022-27.pdf If there is no direct link to Strategic Objectives, please provide a justification for inclusion of this paper to the nominated Committee.	Strategic Aim 1: Excellence in the Learning and Learner Experience Strategic Aim 2: College Growth and Ambition Strategic Aim 4: Sustainability

UHI | PERTH

Committee Cover Sheet

Resource implications Does this activity/proposal require the use of College resources to implement? If yes, please provide details.	~~Yes~~/ No
Risk implications Does this activity/proposal come with any associated risk to UHI Perth, or mitigate against existing risk? If yes, please provide details.	Yes~~/ No~~ If we do not meet our funded numbers, we could potentially be in a clawback position. This would impact our financial position and our financial recovery plan.
Equality & Diversity Does this activity/proposal require an Equality Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.	~~Yes~~/ No
Data Protection Does this activity/proposal require a Data Protection Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.	~~Yes/~~ No Click or tap here to enter text.
Island communities Does this activity/proposal have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities)?	~~Yes~~/ No If yes, please give details: Click or tap here to enter text.
Status (ie confidential or non-confidential)	Non-confidential

Committee Cover Sheet

Freedom of Information

Please note that **ALL** papers will be included within 'open' business unless a justifiable reason can be provided.

Please select a justification from the list, below:

Its disclosure would substantially prejudice a programme of research	☐	Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs	☐
Its disclosure would substantially prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation	☐	Its disclosure would constitute a breach of confidence actionable in court	☐
Its disclosure would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act	☐	Other [please give further details] Click or tap here to enter text.	☐

Further guidance on application of the exclusions from Freedom of Information legislation is available via:
http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/ScottishPublicAuthorities/ScottishPublicAuthorities.asp

UHI | PERTH

Full-Time Recruitment Tracker 2026-27

The following is initially shared with Sector Managers, Sector Leaders, PLG, SLT and our Marketing Team on a monthly basis. From April onwards, this is shared bi-weekly. A more detailed report is also available, that provides course level information, allowing our Marketing Team to focus on those courses that are at risk of not recruiting to target.

New Entrants Only

Level	No. of Courses	Combined Target	Active Apps (27/4/26)	Difference Against Target
Further Education	**61**	**1056**	1244	188
~ Red	2	28	9	-19
~ Amber	16	322	259	-63
~ Green	36	672	947	275
Higher Education	**41**	**689**	**826**	**137**
~ Red	5	27	9	-18
~ Amber	6	114	92	-22
~ Green	29	548	725	177
TOTALS	**102**	**1745**	**2070**	**325**
~ Red	7	55	18	-81
~ Amber	22	436	351	-85
~ Green	65	1220	1672	452

Continuing/Progressing Student (HE Only)

Level	No. of Courses	Combined Target	Active Students / Direct Entrants (27/4/26)	Difference Against Target
TOTALS	**83**	**906**	**1212**	**306**
~ Red*	0	0	0	N/A
~ Amber**	9	122	97	-25
~ Green	72	775	1115	341

NOTES: UCS – top up degree – assume not all applications for top up 2nd year have been submitted
: HNC Social Sciences – potential progressors are not included in the above figures.

Additional information that is worth noting:

1. In comparison to last year at this time – overall, for new entrants (1st Years) – we are in a slightly better position, with 7 more active applications for FE, and 55 more active applications for HE.
2. There are 8 courses that are now operating waiting lists.

Considerations/discussions/actions include:

1. Maximising class capacity as much as is practicably and reasonably possible.
2. Consideration of additional cohorts to support demand, including new or re-introduced courses
3. Sharing with external agencies (e.g. SDS, YPG) where there are still places on courses
4. Reaching out to those students on waiting lists, who have not applied for anything else, to encourage them to apply for an alternative, which can be in discussion with SDS.
5. Promoting and focussing on those courses that are at risk of not hitting target.
6. Good luck in your Exams comms to those who have conditional offers.

Deborah Lally
Director of Student Experience

UHI | PERTH

LEARNER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

Membership

No fewer than 3 Independent Member of the Board of Management one of whom shall act as Chair
Principal & Chief Executive
2 Academic Staff Members (the Teaching Staff Member of the Board of Management plus one other nominated teaching staff representative)
2 Student Board Members
1 Trade Union Member of the Board of Management
Depute Principal
Director of Student Experience
Director of Quality & Resources
2 Directors of Curriculum

In attendance

Other appropriate staff members of the College by invitation

Quorum

The quorum shall be 7 including the Chair or Vice Chair, and must include one Independent Member of the Board of Management

Frequency of Meetings

At least 3 times per academic session, and as required.

Terms of Reference

1. To maintain an overview of teaching quality assurance and to ensure outcomes of the highest standards by reviewing reports from relevant College and UHI committees, and internal and external sources, including feedback from student surveys and other stakeholder input.
2. To consider the implications of reports and updates from other relevant College and UHI Committees and, where appropriate, act to ensure the relevance currency and highest quality of the academic offer.
3. To review and approve College's policies and strategies that relate directly to the student experience.
4. To receive regular reports from Management and HISA Perth on progress with student engagement in the operation of the College.
5. To regularly monitor the national economic situation, and in particular regional market sure that the Perth curriculum is sufficiently adaptable to seize new market opportunities as they arise
6. To consider the opportunities and benefits to the learner experience that can be developed via a formal Alumni Relations provision
7. Review annually the Terms of Reference for the Committee and its composition and make any necessary recommendations for change to Chairs' Committee.

Reviewed March 2026