

UHI Inverness – Members of the Board of Management

The number of members on the UHI Inverness Board of Management can range between 13 and 18. Thirteen members are independent non-executive members appointed to the position. In addition, the Principal of the College is a member and there are elected support staff, teaching staff and student members. Non-executive and support and teaching staff members are generally appointed for 4 years with the option to seek an extension and then further appointment. The student members are nominated for a one-year term, with the option of re-appointment for a further one term. The Principal of the College is a member of the Board if he/she holds that position. All non-executive positions are voluntary and unremunerated. The College has also appointed co-opted members with specific skills and experience relevant to the Committee onto which they have been co-opted.

	<p>Mark Sheridan - Chair of the Board of Management</p> <p>Mark is a composer and has worked in music education and creativity in HE since 1990 and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience of the further and higher education sectors in Scotland. Mark has worked as a Reader in Music and Creativity for the University of the Highlands and Islands and a Senior Lecturer in Music and Head of Department at the University of Strathclyde where he led curriculum change. He was Interim director for the Centre for Rural Creativity based in Shetland College where he also chaired the UHI Creative Economy Hub. His compositions in Classical/Celtic genre include orchestral and theatre works and two operas. He was a Trustee and latterly Chair of Fèis Rois between 2013 - 2019. He currently runs his own music consultancy supporting musicians with professional and creative development opportunities.</p>
	<p>Dr Tina Stones – Vice Chair & Chair of Audit Committee</p> <p>Tina has lived and worked in the Highlands since 2005 when she joined the Highland Council as a Deputy Head at Culloden Academy. She then moved to Dornoch Academy as a Head Teacher before overseeing the merge to a 2-18 Campus in 2017 and is currently employed as a strategic lead for mental health and wellbeing. Tina has a Doctorate in Education from the University of Edinburgh and two Master’s degrees in Psychology and Autism. Tina is registered as a Graduate Member with the British Psychological Society and registered with the General Teaching Council for Scotland in Secondary, Primary and Additional Support Needs. An advocate for lifelong learning and supporting others into positive destinations, she is also an associate lecturer for the Open University and has FHEA Fellowship.</p>
	<p>Innis Montgomery – Senior Independent Member & Chair Human Resources Committee</p> <p>Innis is originally from the Isle of Lewis. He spent most of his life working in London in various IT roles and was previously a Technology Director at the Houses of Parliament. In 2014, Innis relocated to Inverness to take up a new role with Cap Gemini to create a technical IT delivery capability and move hi-tech roles into the Highlands.</p> <p>With a BSc (1st Hons) in Information Systems Engineering at University of Westminster, he is a senior IT professional with over 25 years’ experience of leading IT teams of up to 125 staff.</p>
	<p>Principal – Professor Christopher O’Neil</p> <p>Chris joins the College with an impressive record in academic and executive leadership roles in the UK and North America. These roles include Head of Department at the University of the Creative Arts, Professor of Design and Medias at Savannah College of Art and Design, Head of Cardiff School of Art and Design, Pro Vice Chancellor at Thames Valley University and most recently as Head of Gray’s School of Art (RGU). Chris has a strong track record throughout his career of developing tertiary education models with FE partners, delivering commercialisation activity, and developing high quality research clusters. In addition, he has been an Executive Council Member of the Arts Council of Wales and, whilst at Birmingham City University, advised the UK government on the creation of industrial, governmental, and academic partnerships.</p>
	<p>Donald MacKenzie – Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>Donald was born on a family farm near Inverness and attended Inverness Royal Academy before going to Edinburgh University to study Economics and Accounting. Chartered Accountancy training, with what is now EY, followed before going to London for a year or two, but staying for fifteen. Back in Inverness since 2001, Donald and wife Isabelle have four sons. Donald runs Drive Business Services Ltd, providing business advice and accountancy services.</p>



Kelly Mackenzie - Support Staff member

Kelly has lived in Inverness all her life and firmly believes that the College plays a vital role within the community.

She studied Business Management at Inverness College UHI and as a past student is passionate about maximising opportunities for students studying in the Highlands.

In her role as IT Project Officer, she has led projects including the Continual Service Improvement programme in ICT services. She is also the Project Manager leading the Community Garden Project which has enabled her to work in partnership with organisations such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Highland Council and with local MPs.

In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities such as quad biking and ziplining!



Matthew Millward - Teaching Staff Member

Matthew is a Lecturer in Engineering within the Civil Engineering and the Built Environment Team at UHI Inverness. He has engaged in a number of sub committees within UHI Inverness assisting in staff development and student engagement. He has also been part of the development of the staff choir and pantomime group – ensuring a sense of community amongst staff.



Sally Blyth, Vice Chair of HR Committee & Audit Committee

Sally moved to the Scottish Highlands from Bristol nearly 30 years ago and currently lives in Glen Affric with her family. She is a professional nature conservationist with an undergraduate degree in biology and post-graduate degrees in conservation and environmental law. She has held various roles across the Highlands in a long career with NatureScot where she currently leads Peatland ACTION's data and evidence team. She has been a voluntary youth group leader for the RPSB for 25 years, educating children about nature, the environment and climate change. A keen advocate of lifelong learning Sally wants to help UHI Inverness continue to offer locally available quality education at tertiary level with all the benefits that provides to Inverness and the surrounding area.



Russell Edwards – Vice Chair of F&GP Committee

Originally, from Aberdeenshire, Russell attended university in Aberdeen before embarking on a career in the Armed Forces, which saw him deployed around the world for over 20 years. Since leaving the military, and moving to Inverness in 2011, he has held increasingly senior appointments and is currently the Global Transformation Director in a large IT company. Previous roles included Head of Portfolio and Programme delivery across their Scotland, Financial Services, Retail, Hospitality, Transport, Republic of Ireland and Manufacturing and Utilities businesses. Russell is passionate about leadership, learning and the connection of business with the community and is a keen advocate of BITC as well as veterans charities.

Russell is a Chartered Engineer with the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), a member of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) and a member of the International Association of Contract and Commercial Managers (IACCM). He is a qualified BASC Shooting Instructor, CPSA Instructor, retired rugby player, fair weather sailor and energetic golfer.



Arvinder Kainth – Vice Chair of LT&R Committee

Originally from Glasgow, Arvinder has been living in the Highlands since 1992. He graduated in 1990 with an honours degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and two years later completed his teacher training and qualified with a post graduate teaching qualification in maths. During his teaching career of more than 25 years, he has taught all stages and levels from S1 to Advanced Higher and worked with a diverse range of students.

He has undertaken numerous opportunities to develop new skills, improve knowledge and stay up to date with new developments. He started a Masters programme with the University of Strathclyde to work towards becoming a Chartered Teacher. He gained the professional award of Chartered Teacher status from the General Teaching Council (Scotland). The award recognised a commitment to critical self-evaluation & thinking, CPD, enhanced & sustained teaching practice, leading projects, and instigating change.

He has also been involved with the wider community and the Highland Council to promote equality, diversity, and integration by raising awareness through various projects and initiatives.



Gillian Galloway

Having completed a PgD in Biomedical Science, Gillian started out in Pharmacology research in the University of Dundee before moving to Inverness in 1996 where her work In Life Sciences continued, first in medical device development, then as Project Director at the Centre for Health Science and laterally in rural health research for the University of Aberdeen. She is currently the Head of Innovation at Highlands and Islands Enterprise and is responsible for the delivery of innovation support to businesses across the North of Scotland. She has a keen interest in the role academia plays in driving innovation and entrepreneurship in the wider economy. In her spare time she is learning to play the piano and is a flautist in a local orchestra.

	<p>Stephen Sheridan</p> <p>Stephen has lived in Inverness for over 30 years and a Graduate of Edinburgh Napier University with a BA in Business & Enterprise. He brings with him significant management and policy experience in the education and skills sector.</p> <p>He is currently the Regional Skills Planning Lead for the Highlands and Islands at Skills Development Scotland (SDS), working closely with Government(s), Universities, Colleges, private providers, and industry to drive stronger alignment of the skills system with the needs of the economy. Recently he has led the development of the Skills Investment Plans for the Highlands and Islands as well as several National sector specific Skills Investment Plans.</p> <p>Has over 23 years' experience in qualification, training, and skills development. Prior to SDS he briefly worked for UHI, where he established the tertiary Work based Learning hub, and previously worked with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) in a range of senior management roles, leading qualification development and education outreach teams.</p>
	<p>James Millar</p> <p>James is the Chief Fire Officer of Highlands and Islands Airports Limited.</p> <p>Prior to his fire service career James combined a career as an international racing cyclist with gaining an HND in Social Sciences with Management from Cardonald College in Glasgow. A move to Shetland saw the start of his fire service career, transferring to Inverness Airport in 2005. James has held a range of other roles within HIAL: Airport Fire Manager at Inverness Airport, Duty Airport Manager, Business Development Manager and Deputy Chief Fire Officer.</p> <p>He has experience of working with the college as HIAL's Lead Internal Verifier in delivering Assessor and IV Awards and provides a body of experience in managing people, audit, safety, and risk management, and of generating innovation in a highly regulated industry. James recently completed a PDA in Analysing Resilience and Resilience Management.</p> <p>Some of the key responsibilities in his current role are business continuity and crisis management, procurement, safety and risk management, learning & development and co-ordinating a range of joint-working arrangements with partner organisations.</p>
	<p>Rojan Kumar Subramani</p> <p>Rojan is a social entrepreneur, an innovator, and a public speaker who runs his own social enterprise in Edinburgh, which offers virtual reality services and provides job training for disadvantaged youth using the latest digital technology. Since he was an explorer of the Highlands, Fort William was his first test location for his social enterprise VR pilot service. He is passionate about using the latest technology to enhance the Scottish Highlands rule area.</p> <p>He graduated with a degree in business management from Edinburgh Napier University, served as the student union president and vice president, as well as numerous leadership, governance, and representative positions in UK higher education, including university court governor, a union trustee, a member of QAA UK Students advisory board, a member of the HEFCE NSS subgroup, and a position as the trade union BMC secretary. He has established a good working relationship with the third sector and private sector through developing sustainable business strategies and creating volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Over the past eight years, he has been involved in student engagements across the county, developed various initiatives to improve the students' experiences, and created volunteering and employment opportunities, as well as institutional enhancements. He now focuses his consulting on UN SDGs by designing innovative products and services for the third sector as well as purpose driven organizational development. In addition, he leads workshops and mentorship opportunities throughout the United Kingdom and Europe to improve young people and students' self-motivation and confidence by developing sustainable business Start-up ideas based on the SDGs and developing entrepreneurial skills.</p>
	<p>Dr Dee Bird</p> <p>Dr Dee Bird has over 20 years' experience in UK higher education working at institutional and national levels in learning and teaching, academic development, and further and higher education funding and policy. Currently the Chief Executive of Edinburgh Napier Students' Association, Dee has served as Assistant Director (Learning and Quality) for the Scottish Funding Council and an Academic Coordinator with the Higher Education Academy. She also led on the creation of the Edinburgh-based Hub for SUCCESS, a service supporting people with experience of the care system to get in, stay in, or return to education.</p> <p>After a brief career as a high school English teacher in her native New Jersey, Dee came to Scotland in the '90s to undertake a PhD in the humanities at the University of Glasgow and has since made Scotland her home.</p>
	<p>Michael Beveridge – Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee</p> <p>Michael was born in Glasgow and brought up in Edinburgh before getting an MA [Hons] in Philosophy with International Relations at the University of St Andrews, and then a Master of Business Administration at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. He was very lucky and married a Ross-shire lass and they have three children. Michael started work at JBT Distribution Ltd in Inverness in 1995, and served in several roles within the organisation, including in General Management, Human Resources, Compliance, Operations, Business Development, and 16 years on the Board. He was part of the Management Buy-Out in 2010 and retired following the sale of the business in 2021. In addition, he has served successfully on the Regional Council of the Road Haulage Association and on the Board of the Inverness Chamber of Commerce.</p>



Amy Goodbrand – Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee

Amy studied law at the University of Aberdeen and is a qualified solicitor. She has worked as an in-house lawyer in the public and private sector for over 15 years including 5 years as the University Solicitor at the Robert Gordon University. Amy is currently in-house Legal Counsel for QS Quacquarelli Symonds. Amy spent a proportion on her childhood living on the Moray coast and loves to get back there with her own children as often as she can.



William Campbell - HISA Inverness Student President

William is the HISA Inverness President. Prior to this role William was a student voice representative for his class. William is the first person of contact for students if they have any issues with their student life.

Joseph Sweeney – HISA Inverness Depute Principal for Activities and Welfare