UHI | INVERNESS

MINUTES of the MEETING of the LEARNING, TEACHING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 09 June 2026.

PRESENT:	Arvinder Kainth, Annie Nelson, David Stewart, Wendy Grindle, Heather Keyes, Paul Shanks, Oliver Sweeney, John Pocock & Chloe Young
CHAIR:	Arvinder Kainth
APOLOGIES:	Pauline Tuthill, Janette Campbell, Chris O'Neil, Head of Operations and Business Performance, Tertiary Education Leader (TEL) Technology, Environment and Education, Director of Research for Centre for Living Sustainability & Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater Chris O'Neil, Anthony Standing
IN ATTENDANCE:	VP – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality (VPCESQ) Tertiary Education Leader (TEL) for Management, Health and Creative Arts Management Information Systems Manager Senior Researcher, UHI Inverness Social Impact Research Fellow, UHI Inverness Director of Student Engagement & Representation, HISA Governance Officer

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Governance Officer confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

There were no declarations of interests, statements of connections or transparency statements noted.

The Senior Researcher & the Social Impact Research Fellow joined the meeting.

The Committee were provided with a presentation from the Senior Researcher & the Social Impact Research Fellow about Scottish Prison Service project, Creative Space Session Note (CSS-LTR-01-062026).

The Director of Student Engagement & Representation joined the meeting.

The Senior Researcher & the Social Impact Research Fellow left the meeting.

1. HISA REPORT

The Director of Student Engagement & Representation spoke to his report and provided the Committee with an update on the Proposed Revised Articles of Association. The document has to date been approved by student referendum at the Annual Student Meeting and by the HISA Trustee Board. All UHI partners are now being asked to review and approve the Revised Articles. The aim of the amendment process was to consolidate the previous document and to prepare for future changes.

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on the quality of detail included.

Decision: The Committee **APPROVED** the Proposed Revised Articles of Association.

The Chair thanked the Director of Student Engagement & Representation for his detailed report.

The Director of Student Engagement & Representation left the meeting.

2. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

a.) **Minutes of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 10 March 2026**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 10 March 2026 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

b.) Confidential Note (CN-01-032026) of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 10 March 2026

The Confidential Note (CN-01-032026) of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 10 March 2026 was **AGREED** as a correct record.

3. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- **KPI Matrix – COMPLETE -** Suggestion has been made for Research KPIs to be added to the next report.
  Decision: It was **AGREED** that this action can be removed from the list.
- **SEAP Report – ONGOING -** Meeting to be organised with EO and LTR Chairs from across the partnership to address concerns regarding SEAP report being submitted to the SFC by the RSB on behalf of all partners.
- **Research KPIs – ONGOING -** Research KPIs to be circulated and agreed before the June meeting.

Discussion about the SEAP report and its impact on UHI Inverness took place.

Chloe Young joined the meeting.

4. POLICIES FOR APPROVAL

a.) Harm Reduction Policy

The Vice Principal – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality spoke to her report and provided the Committee with an updated copy of the policy. All amendments requested by the Committee in March 2026 have now been implemented.

The Committee welcomed the updated policy, positively commented on the process to date and the new name of the policy. The Committee agreed with the changed emphasis on wellbeing and protection of vulnerability in order to broaden awareness, visibility and support for individuals affected by the issue.

The Committee suggested that a small number of additional paragraphs could be re-worded and updated prior Board's meeting.

The Committee approved the policy and recommended for Board's approval, subject to minor re-wording of some sections.

Decision: The Committee **APPROVED** the Harm Reduction Policy, subject to minor re-wording of some sections.

b.) Essential Skills Policy

The Vice Principal – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality reported to the Committee that the Essential Skills Policy will not be presented at today's meeting.

5. STUDENT RETENTION OUTCOMES FORECAST FOR FE & HNs REPORT

The Information Systems Manager joined the meeting.

The Information Systems Manager spoke to her report and provided the Committee with an update on student withdrawals, and progress against targets for 2025/26. The report highlighted early and further withdrawal rates and reasons behind them and successful outcomes' progress against targets for full time students.

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on high level of details included. Short discussion about reasons for withdrawals took place with the Committee requesting a short comparison with the previous year. The Information Systems Manager confirmed that further details will be provided but also that generally speaking the reasons for withdrawals are on trend with last AY. Discussion about early withdrawals and Did Not Start (DNS) students took place. The Vice Principal – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality confirmed that additional analysis will take place over summer with the focus on DNS students in order to better understand the implications of unmet targets on the financial plan in place.

The Chair thanked the Information Systems Manager for her detailed update.

The Information Systems Manager left the meeting.

6. RESEARCH UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

Both Research Directors had sent their apologies, and the Governance Officer will email them to request a short written update that could be circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

7. KPI MATRIX

The VP Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality spoke to the report on behalf of the Head of Operations and Business Performance. Due to time constraints the Committee asked the VP Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality to briefly comment on highlights only.

John Pocock left the meeting.

The Committee welcomed the update and a short discussion about all KPIs in red took place. Concerns were raised about the resulting process of Modern Apprentices programmes and how to best capture them within the KPI Matrix.

The Chair thanked the VP Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality for her update.

8. EQUALITIES REPORT

The VP Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality provided a short verbal update about the Equalities report and confirmed that its progress is still ongoing. Finalised report will be presented to the Committee in September 2026.

9. QAA QUALITY ENGAGEMENT VISIT

The Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement joined the meeting.

The Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement spoke to her report and provided the Committee with an update on the latest QAA Quality Engagement visit. A short list of recommendations was shared with the college after the meeting. The focus next AY will be on the TQER Review which will take place in February 2027. The prep work has started already with self-evaluation activities and enhancement processes being reviewed to fit the requirements.

The Committee welcomed the update and encouraged the teams and management involved in the process to set a list of goals and objectives for UHI Inverness that would enable for feedback gathering and examples of best practice being captured.

The Chair thanked the Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement for her update.

The Chair decided to go to agenda item 11) End of Year Student Survey (SSES) next.

11. END OF YEAR STUDENT SURVEY (SSES)

The Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement spoke to the report and provided the Committee with the results of the Student Satisfaction & Engagement Survey (SSES) 2025-26.

This report presented the findings of the Student Satisfaction & Engagement Survey (SSES) 2025–26, which captured student feedback on learning, teaching, engagement, and the wider student experience at UHI Inverness.

The overall survey response rate was 52.9% (1,717 responses from a sample of 3,248 students), representing a very slight decrease of 0.27 percentage points compared to 2024-25 (53.17%). Despite this marginal reduction in response rate, overall student satisfaction increased, rising from 94.69% to 95.21%, an improvement of 0.52 percentage points.

The Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement reported that the focus next year will be to better target students on campus and the free comments left by students will be reviewed by staff in self-evaluation meetings to drive improvements in AY 2026/27.

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on the plans for free comments to be used in staff's self-evaluation meetings in order to improve services and delivery.

Short discussion about the questions used in the survey and the need for improvement and not just confirmation of existing trends took place.

The Chair thanked the Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement for her detailed report.

The Head of Registry and Quality Enhancement left the meeting.

The Chair decided to go to agenda item 10) HISA End of Year Summary Report next.

10. HISA END OF YEAR SUMMARY REPORT (INC. HISA ELECTIONS)

The HISA Officers presented the Committee with an End of the Year report which included HISA elections.

Following items have been highlighted:

- 2026 Election Results
- Inverness Officer and Staff Update
- Student Voice Representatives
- List of events in Sem 1 & 2
- Summer plans

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on high level of detail included in the report and exciting plans for the summer and next academic year.

The Committee congratulated CY on being re-elected as Inverness Depute President and OS for being elected the Students' Association President for the next AY.

The Chair thanked the HISA Officers for their detailed update.

12. SENIOR PHASE & GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

The Vice Principal – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality & Tertiary Education Leaders spoke to their joint report and provided the Committee with an update about next year's application levels and curriculum delivery plans.

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on plans for next AY.

The Chair thanked the Vice Principal – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality & Tertiary Education Leaders for their detailed report.

13. COMMITTEE & CHAIR EVALUATION PROCESS

The Governance Officer spoke to her report and provided the Committee with an update about the annual Committee and Chair Evaluation Exercises which will be made available to All Members via Microsoft Form Survey from beginning of July 2026.

The Chair thanked the Governance Officer for her report.

14. QUARTER 3 COMPLAINTS REPORT FOR 2025-26

The report had been confirmed as an item for noting and taken as read with comments to be sent to the Governance Officer.

15. HISA REPORTS

The reports had been confirmed as an item for noting and taken as read with comments to be sent to the Governance Officer.

16. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES - CONFIDENTIAL

The Committee noted the minutes of the Student Journey and Enhancement Committee Meetings held on 25 March 2026, 22 April 2026 and 20 May 2026.

16. AOCB

Nothing raised.

The Chair thanked all who contributed papers and the Committee Members for an interesting meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 08th September 2026 AT 4.30 P.M.

Signed by the Chair: Arvinder Kainth

Date: 08/09/2026