UHI | INVERNESS

MINUTES of the MEETING of the LEARNING, TEACHING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

PRESENT:	Arvinder Kainth, Chris O'Neil, Annie Nelson, David Stewart, Wendy Grindle, Anthony Standing & Paul Shanks
CHAIR:	Arvinder Kainth
APOLOGIES:	Heather Keyes, Chloe Young, John Pocock, Oliver Sweeney, Pauline Tuthill, Victoria Erasmus, Head of Operations and Business Performance & Director of Research for Centre for Living Sustainability
IN ATTENDANCE:	Vice Principal – Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality Tertiary Education Leader (TEL) for Management, Health and Creative Arts Tertiary Education Leader (TEL) Technology, Environment and Education Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater Information Systems Manager 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.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

a.) **Minutes of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 02 December 2025**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 02 December 2025 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

b.) Confidential Note (CN-01-122025) of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 02 December 2025

The Confidential Note (CN-01-122025) of the Learning, Teaching and Research Committee held on 02 December 2025 was **AGREED** as a correct record.

2. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- **KPI Matrix – ONGOING -** Suggestion has been made for Research KPIs to be added to the next report.
- **Early Student Experience Survey – COMPLETE -** Survey reports to be reviewed to include greater detail in regard to student population.
  Decision: It was **AGREED** that this action can be removed from the list.
- **Research Update – COMPLETE -** Research Creative Session to take place in 2026 to showcase a number of case studies highlighting collaboration with local communities.
  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.

3. POLICY FOR REVIEW (CONFIDENTIAL)

a.) Student Drug & Alcohol Misuse Policy

The VP Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality provided the Committee with a CONFIDENTIAL report, Confidential Note (CN-LTR-01-032026).

4. STUDENT RETENTION REPORT

The Information Systems Manager joined the meeting.

The Information Systems Manager spoke to her report and provided the Committee with an update on learner retention to date this academic year (AY) and how this aligns with college's forecasting in relation to successful outcomes. The report highlighted early and further withdrawal rates and reasons behind them, successful outcomes' progress against targets and benchmarks, partial success rate and current rates of Student Achievement Ration by Unit (SARU).

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on level of detail included and the inclusion of SARUs this academic year. Discussion about withdrawal reasons, early interventions and curriculum design took place. The Information Systems Manager reported that the college compares favourable within the partnership network and in Scotland based on the KPIs published by the SFC for 2023/24. The sector is still waiting for the 2024/25 publication. The Principal confirmed that withdrawals rates are being built into application targets for each year and those targets are based on existing curriculum design. An Open Day will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2026 with 60 employers attending which is highlighting the local interest in work-based delivery.

Discussion about high absence rates and their impact on successful outcomes took place. The VP Curriculum, Student Experience and Quality added that absence levels are being monitored by curriculum teams on a daily basis with monthly review reports being presented at curriculum data presentations and are also reported to the Student Journey and Enhancement Committee. The process gets more complex each year as the profile of students is changing.

The Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater joined the meeting.

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

The Information Systems Manager left the meeting.

5. RESEARCH UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES

The Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater provided the Committee with a brief presentation on recent developments within the Research area.

Following items had been highlighted:

- Research KPIs - in line with the sector

- PGR student numbers
- PGR student satisfaction PRES
- Criteria for REF eligibility
- UHI Inverness contribution to REF2029
- Impact case studies for REF2029

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on all development to date. Discussion about international reach and the need to promote the papers produced by students took place.

The Chair asked for a suggested research KPI list to be circulated after the meeting for them to be agreed before June meeting. They will then be added to the KPI Matrix within the remit of the Committee.

Action 1: Research KPIs to be circulated and agreed before the June meeting.

The Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater informed the Committee that he will present a lecture on the Freshwater Forensics: Using DNA to solve mysteries of biodiversity change on Wednesday 18th March 2026 and the link to the lecture has been shared via Teams chat and via email with Committee Members.

The Chair thanked the Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater for his detailed report and for the invite to his upcoming lecture.

The Director of Research for Biodiversity and Freshwater left the meeting.

6. 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.

The Committee welcomed the update and a short discussion about all KPIs in red took place. Concerns were raised about the increased volume of learning support appointments and the Members added that there is a need to promote resilience

and to introduce college wide inclusive support approach that would decrease the tailored support currently in place.

Discussion about current HE application rates for 2026/27 and acceptance levels took place. The Principal highlighted the importance of curriculum design that will reflect market's demands.

Annie Nelson left the meeting.

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

7. CURRICULUM UPDATE

The Tertiary Education Leaders for Management, Health & Creative Arts and for Technology, Environment & Education spoke to their joint report which provided the Committee with an update on latest curriculum plans and activities.

Following items were highlighted:

- Senior Phase Offer including HNCs
- Curriculum Development Highland Pathway to Healthcare: Medicine and Pharmacy
- UK Further Education Freeport Collaboration including Study Visit to Rotterdam

The report also included two documents: UHI Inverness Guide to HNCs for sixth year school pupils & UHI Inverness Schools programme parent guide.

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on all new collaboration opportunities and planned developments.

The Chair thanked both Tertiary Education Leaders for Management, Health & Creative Arts and for Technology, Environment & Education for their detailed report and the Committee for an excellent discussion.

08. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP REPORT

The Governance Officer spoke to the report on behalf of both HISA Officers and presented the Committee with a brief update on the activities and events the local HISA team has been hosting, as well as an update on the ongoing student officer elections.

Following items have been highlighted:

- 2026 Student Officer Elections
- Refreshers Fayre
- Events
- Campus Developments

The Committee welcomed the report and positively commented on the growing list of events organised to date.

The Chair thanked the Governance Officer for her detailed update.

09. STRATEGIC PLANNING 2026/27

The Governance Officer spoke to her report which provided the Committee with an update about the strategic discussions that took place at the Board Away Day in February 2026. Committee's governance documents had been presented, and the Members were asked to review them and send their feedback to the Governance Officer by the end of March 2026. Any requested changes to the documents will be discussed with the Committee's Chair in April 2026 and will then be brought in draft version to the June meeting for review and approval.

The Chair thanked the Governance Officer for her detailed report.

10. QUARTER 1 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.

11. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES - CONFIDENTIAL

The Committee noted the minutes of the Student Journey and Enhancement Committee Meetings held on 19 November 2025, 17 December 2025 and 14

January 2026. The Committee also noted the approved minutes of the Research and Innovation Committee held on 02 October 2025.

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 09th June 2026 AT 4.30 P.M.

Signed by the Chair: Arvinder Kainth

Date: 10/03/2026