

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the CHAIRS COMMITTEE held in the Board Room,
1 Inverness Campus on Thursday 16 May 2019**

PRESENT: Hazel Allen, Sarah Burton, Neil Stewart, Steve Walsh,
APOLOGIES: Brian Henderson, John Wilson
CHAIR: Sarah Burton
ATTENDING: Principal
Secretary to the Board of Management

1. MINUTES

The minute of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 March 2019 was **ACCEPTED** as a correct record and was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

2. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Committee **AGREED** which actions had been completed and could be signed off and those which were still outstanding and would remain on the list.

3. GOVERNANCE - REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

A report by the Board Secretary advised that the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Chairs, Search and Nomination and Performance, Review and Remuneration Committees had last been reviewed in 2017. At that time, a number of changes had been made to all TOR.

Following discussion, the Committee **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Board of Management

- a. A proposed change to the Search and Nomination TOR relating to the selection panel
- b. That the TOR of all three committees be amended to allow the Vice Chair of each standing committee to deputise for the Chair in his or her absence

Further, the Committee **REQUESTED** that the Board Secretary clarify with the Head of Governance and Records Management at UHI if the current Chair of the Board of Management could be part of the interview panel for his successor

4. STANDING ITEM – ISSUES FROM CHAIRS

Consideration of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

5. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES

Following a request at the last meeting, the Principal had prepared a report collectively with the SMT which provided an update on where and how some of the College's strategic drivers and imperatives were supported or challenged by the operational (or other) capacity/or ability of the wider UHI. The paper was presented under the following headings

- Support model
- Residences
- Internationalisation

- Branding and marketing
- Curriculum efficiency
- Curriculum approval

The Committee discussed the main issues under each heading focussing particularly on Residences and Internationalisation.

A UHI internal audit report had recently been completed on the residences and the committee once again expressed its concern at the financial risks of the residences to the financial sustainability of the wider UHI partnership. It was understood that a working group had been formed to look at the issues affecting the residences.

A significant number of challenges had been identified under the internationalisation agenda which threatened the delivery of the business plan.

Hazel Allen entered the meeting

The Committee were concerned that because of the multiple challenges identified, there was a risk that the College would not achieve the objectives within the Finance Strategy.

The Committee **AGREED** that the

1. UHI audit report on the residences be included as an item on the agenda for the next Board of Management meeting.
2. Principal would raise the challenges of internationalisation and the student unit of resource at the next meeting of the Partnership Council
3. Chair of the Board would investigate the best route to raise the challenges to internationalisation with the University Court

6. SMT UPDATE

A report by the Principal provided an overview of continuing activity relating to National Pay Bargaining and the work of the UHI Programme Board.

The Committee **NOTED** the position.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12 September 2019 - 8.30 a.m.

Signed by the Chair: *Sarah Burton*

Date: 12 September 2019