



NWH Board of Management Meeting

Portree/Hybrid via MS Teams (T)

11th December 2024 at 4.15pm

Chair – Derek Lewis

Board Members Present

Carl Haberl, Staff Board Member (T)

Chris Alliston, Independent Board Member (T)

Derek Lewis, Chairman of the Board of Management UHI NWH

Diana Macleod, Curriculum Staff Member

Ian MacEachern, Independent Board Member

Lydia Rohmer, Principal & Chief Executive UHI NWH

Michael Foxley, Independent Board Member (T)

Neil Hope, Vice Chair & Independent Board Member

Nicolas Kowalczyk, HISA Board Member

Rupert Marshall, Independent Board Member

Sarah Fraser, Independent Board Member

Shona MacDougall, Senior Independent Board Member (T)

Struan Mackie, Independent Board Member

Willie Macdonald, Vice Chair & Independent Board Member

Also, in Attendance

David Campbell, Interim Director of Enterprise & Engagement

Debbie Miller, ELT, Interim Vice Principal Strategic Development (T)

Derek Bond, ELT, Interim Vice Principal – Resources & Enterprise (CFO) (T)

Ellen Campbell, Secretary to the Board of Management (T)

Fiona Grant, Interim Director of Curriculum & Student Experience

Flora Miller, PA to the Principal & Chief Executive

Helen Aird, Head of Marketing & Communications

Jackie Wright (T)

Kevin Mallet, Interim Head of Finance (T)

Sophie Dunnett (T)

Tracy Kerr, Interim Head of Performance & Planning (T)

Vicky Ferguson, Interim Director of People & Culture (T)

1. Establishment of quorum, welcome & apologies (Derek Lewis)

Apologies were received from Alex Macdonald, Independent Board Member &

Hannah Ritchie-Muir, ELT, Interim VP Academic

2. Declarations of interest & connection (Derek Lewis)

Rupert Marshall & Michael Foxley were recognised as having a conflict of interest for item 9.4.

3. Starring (Derek Lewis)

No requests for amendments were made.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 (Derek Lewis)

Approved

5. * Matters Arising (Derek Lewis)

DL reported that the UHI website issues raised by board members had been recognised by EO and noted by Court. A programme of improvement was to be discussed at the next meeting of Court.

6. * Education Scotland (Peter Connelly / Karen Stevenson)

The Principal introduced the Education Scotland visitors and noted that the annual engagement visit in June 2024 had involved three days of engagement with staff and students on the Stornoway campus. The report provided important assurance that the merger had not negatively impacted on students. She thanked the team for the care and diligence taken in its approach to the review.

Karen Stevenson thanked Tracy Kerr for her help and presented key points from the visit:

Staff student services had responded very well to the increased requirement for learning support.

It would be helpful for staff to be able to access learner attainment data.

Strong leadership had been for the improvement of learning and teaching.

Committee meetings were used effectively by staff.

Learning, teaching and assessment was very positive, with a focus on the continuous improvement of the student experience.

There were 2 main points for action:

(1) HISA – a higher uptake would be welcomed.

(2) Monitoring of learner performance.

DL thanked the Education Scotland team for their report.

Noted

7. * Confidential Item - Land Opportunity

Withheld

8. * Nigg Skills Academy (Debbie Miller)

Noted

9. * Financial Reports (Bond Derek)

9.1. External audit

Noted

9.2 Going concern

Noted

9.3 Internal Audit plan

Noted

9.4 Withheld

10. * Confidential item -Tertiary Curriculum Strategy (Hannah Ritchie-Muir / Fiona Grant)

It was noted that the strategy had been thoroughly scrutinised by the LT&R Committee and that it would be monitored through KPIs at the Committee.

Approved

11. * Gaelic Strategy & Gaelic Language Plan (Hannah Ritchie-Muir/ Fiona Grant)

It was noted that the plan had been approved previously by the Board, and that the updated version had been endorsed at the LT&R Committee on 4 December 2024.

It was suggested that there was a requirement for a Gaelic secondary school in Stornoway and that if UHI NWH along with the Council, Cnoc Soilleir and Ceolas, would take the project forward as a group, then the principal would be happy to be part of that group. Support for the project was echoed by the Board.

Endorsed

12. * People & Culture Strategy (Vicky Ferguson)

There were six overarching themes underpinning the strategy. There would be a quarterly progress report to the HR Committee.

It was advised that the HR Committee had endorsed the strategy which now incorporated the changes previously requested.

Endorsed

13. * Curriculum & Student Experience Report (Hannah Ritchie-Muir / Fiona Grant)

This paper had been through LT&R 04.12.2024.

Noted

14. * HISA Report (Nicolas Kowalczyk)

Proposals and plans would be coming from HISA on the points hi-lighted in the report.

HISA were also trying to recruit a new member (local officer).

Noted

15. * Principal's Report (Lydia Rohmer)

The FE settlement in the draft Scottish budget announcement represented a year-on-year increase, however, that was slightly below the rate of inflation.

A paper promoting the achievements of the College would shortly be sent to MSPs.

Noted

1846 CA Left the meeting

15.1 * Trade Union Update (Vicky Ferguson)

After speaking to ACAS, EIS-FELA took the view that the internal process had not been exhausted. There would therefore be one further meeting the following week with the Union prior to going to the next stage.

It was proposed that the College should go straight to ACAS rather than involving the Board at the next stage.

Noted

16. * Chair's Report (Derek Lewis, Verbal report)

The OBC new variation would be distributed in January 2025 and EO will be open to feedback and questions.

Noted

17. * Committee Forward Agendas (Derek Lewis)

Any omissions would be caught up on. It was noted that the forward agendas would be updated and that the LT&R Committee agenda would be expanded to include specific topics and issues for review in addition to routine reporting.

Noted

18.1 Health & Safety Report (Tracy Kerr)

Noted

19.1 Safeguarding Policy (Sophie Dunnett)

Approved

19.2 Hybrid Working Policy (Vicky Ferguson)

Approved

19.3 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy (Vicky Ferguson)

Approved

20. Minutes from Committees

Noted

21. Risk Register (Lydia Rohmer)

Noted

22. A.O.B.

None

Meeting closed at 1904