

NWH Learning, Teaching & Research Committee Meeting

Chair – Sarah Fraser

Tuesday 18 June 2024, 16:15 - 18:00 via MS Teams

1. Quorum, Welcome and Apologies

Present

Debbie Miller, Vice Principal (Operations) & SRO North Highland

Derek Lewis, Chairman of the Board of Management

Diana MacLeod, Interim Head of Curriculum & Student Services

Fiona Grant, Senior Responsible Officer / Director of AA (West)

Flora Miller, Interim Project Support officer

Hannah Ritchie-Muir, Vice Principal (Academic) & SRO Outer Hebrides

Lydia Rohmer, Principal & Chief Executive

Michael Foxley, Independent Non-Executive Board Member

Rupert Marshall, Independent Non-Executive Board Member

Sarah Fraser, Chair of LT&R Committee & Independent Non-Executive Board Member

Ellen Maclean, Board Secretary – Minutes of meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest and Connection

None

3. Minutes 27.03.2024

Approved.

4. Curriculum

Discussion was lead by Sarah Fraser who asked the Committee to consider what is to be delivered in 2024/2025. Points had been brought up throughout the meeting based on this discussion for taking forward to September 2025 strategy day.

4.1. Curriculum delivery plan AY2024/25 – changes, locations, and modes of delivery.
Verbal -Hannah Ritchie-Muir and Fiona Grant

NWH had worked on the single aligned curriculum for next year. There had been a simplification of the framework of delivery. Extensive consultations were conducted with partners & stakeholders. Applications for next year were up compared to last year.

After engaging with employers, feedback was taken on board to help sculpture courses with a view to employment and career progression. Referring to the attached summary, most FT FE qualifications would be delivered on site in NW&H.

There had been some changes to Stornoway, Thurso and the legacy NH area. West already had a programme in place to deliver coursework in classrooms on campus. NWH could now deliver courses online up to Degree & Masters.

The team had been working closely with marketing, looking at the best practicable delivery of how home learners would learn. Online & virtual delivery was timetabled in real time – Students were able to join a classroom online from home or from one of our centres or a workplace if suitable, or from a local high school and meet with other students in real time with their lecturer. Creative arts courses, for example, would join groups from other areas and for certain course elements.

Strategy Meeting Item: The draft curriculum strategy will be open to exceptions dependent on sustainability / gain, and such exceptions would be considered within a curriculum review.

Strategy Meeting Item: The committee asked to see a draft curriculum strategy as soon as possible.

Strategy Meeting Item: Look at marketing re student attraction, capitalise on funding opportunities.

The paper reflected full time FE figures only, it showed curriculum was delivering more courses to more people in more places.

NWH remained committed to having a meaningful impact in our communities. There was a need to provide maximum flexibility, considering different learners of different academic levels & differing ages. This was a structured, designed, online learning package. Quality and student experience were considered in the first instance. There had been positive student feedback relating to progression into jobs.

Noted

Action: The UHI Website required standardisation of terminology describing course delivery. There were 300 courses on offer on the website.

5. Research – Sarah Fraser

The Chair asked what would UHI NWH become known for and requested the matter be discussed at strategy day in September.

5.1. Strategy - Verbal Debbie Miller

The Chair asked that the standout specialties of the College be discussed at the September strategy day.

5.2. Theme Leaders for Quarterly Meetings - Verbal Debbie Miller

There was a proposal to invite Subject Matter Experts to LT&R committee meetings to inform the committee of areas of excellence within the college.

Theme Experts.pdf (1 pages).

Agreed.

6. NWH Academic Malpractice Policy

Endorsed

7. Student Experience Performance Indicators - Discussion Hannah Ritchie-Muir.

Noted

8. A.O.B.

8.1 After last week's Education Scotland Visit, the verbal report was highly positive. A written report was expected to be received in 4-6 weeks' time. Feedback from our students and our stakeholders had been positive. There may be areas to improve on, though overall, the results looked very positive.

8.2 There had been 81 HISA student nominations – full details of these nominations would be brought forward to the Board meeting on 26th June 2025. It was an incredibly positive recognition of our students & staff.

8.3 Further discussions required in September - AI re research & digital application going forward.

9. Date of next meeting 04-09-24

Meeting Closed 1828