

UHI | NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES A TUATH, AN IAR IS INNSE GALL

NWH Learning, Teaching & Research Committee Meeting

Chair – Willie Macdonald

Wednesday 11th June 2025, 16:15 - 18:00 via MS Teams

Present

Derek Lewis, Chairman of the Board of Management
Diana MacLeod, Head of Curriculum & Student Services
Fiona Grant, Director of Curriculum & Student Experience
Hannah Ritchie-Muir, Vice Principal Academic
Lydia Rohmer, Principal & Chief Executive
Rupert Marshall, Independent Non-Executive Board Member
Caroline MacPherson, HISA Development Manager North, West & Hebrides
William Macdonald, Interim LT&R Chair & Vice Chair Board of Management
Stuart Gibb, Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange
Fiona Hamilton, Head of Student Experience
Tracy Kerr, Head of Performance and Planning

1. Quorum, Welcome and Apologies (WM)

Apologies were received from Debbie Miller, Vice Principal Strategic Development and Michael Foxley, Independent Board Member.

The meeting was quorate

2. Declarations of Interest and Connection (WM)

None

3. Minutes 19th March 2025 (WM)

Approved

4. Request to star unstarred agenda items (WM)

6,7 & 9

5. HISA Report – Caroline Macpherson (CM)

CM talked through HISA developments over the past months. New HISA officers would be taking up their posts from 1st August 2025. Three officers had been elected within North, West and Hebrides, two of which would be joining the Board of Management. There were also two new part time paid officers who would bring the student voice through the appropriate channels. An elections report had been submitted for inclusion in the HISA report to the June Board of Management meeting.

It was noted that the issue of lifts not working, as hi-lighted in the report, in either Stornoway or Thurso campus had been partially resolved, with the Stornoway lift now being operational again.

The Committee suggested that a student experience sub-committee could be formed to look at issues such as the cost of living and other impacts on learners which could in turn be brought to the Board, giving further insight into the student experience. CM agreed to take the suggestion away for consideration.

Noted

1626 CM left

6. *R&KE Report – Stuart Gibb (SG)

SG presented an informative update on the R&KE report covering the period December 2024 to February 2025. There would be a new structure for reporting KPIs, etc for the next quarterly report if the strategy following this item was to be approved. The Principal commended the quality of the report, commenting that there had been a significant number of projects over several years that SG and his department had undertaken, which was a key part of the sustainable vision of the Organisation.

The Committee suggested sharing the R&KE achievements with the local press. SG acknowledge that although these has not been reported via the main media channels, the team had received excellent support from the marketing and communications team.

Noted

7. *R&KE Strategy – Stuart Gibb (SG) requesting endorsement

The draft strategy for NWH had been constructed in close alignment with the NWH wider strategical plan. The last version had been approved in September 2023. Due to changes through merger and the external environment, extensive revisions had been required in some parts. Cross cutting opportunities had been identified with the development of strategic alliances. The strategy aligns with the wider UHI through the research clusters. The work also aligns with the Scottish national performance framework which in turn feeds into the UN goals.

The Chair complimented SG's hugely impressive report and welcomed the strategy. It was proposed that some of the KPIs could be linked up with the curriculum strategy. Fiona Grant (FG) and SG agreed to collaborate in the sharing of data for this purpose.

Endorsed

1717 FG and SG left the meeting

8. Confidential item

Withheld

9. *Student experience strategy – restricted item, requesting approval

This document was specifically focused on local learner engagement strategic objectives. It had been developed to support students referencing SPARQS (engagement and partnership). It was linked to other key enabling strategies, to support all students within NWH. Mental health & wellbeing was a key aspect. The strategy would enable tie in with the corporate parenting plan, safeguarding plan, SPARQS and HISA memorandum of understanding. There were three strategic aims: inclusion, involvement and influence. There would be assurance that staff were trained to support students, encouraging involvement in activities. A data officer was now employed within the department, KPIs were being shared with other areas throughout NWH.

Approved

1807 TK & FH left

10. Confidential item

withheld

11. Confidential item

withheld

12. Terms of reference

The committee agreed that a re-write of the Terms of reference was required rather than minor updates. Items to consider would include -

- A review of marketing strategies.
- The monitoring of professional development and standards.
- To consider the work of the committee as split into four clearly defined categories.
- The reviewing and recommendations to board on strategies and KPIs.
- Identifying issues from Committee to Board.
- The NWH Digital Strategy, which would include our approach to AI.

13. A.O.B.

None

Meeting closed 1842