

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

NWH Learning, Teaching & Research Committee Meeting

Chair – Sarah Fraser

Wednesday 4th September 2024, 16:15 - 18:00 via MS Teams

Present

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

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

Steve Taylor, Director, Centre for Recreation & Tourism

Stuart Gibb, ERI Director of Research

Ellen Maclean, Board Secretary

1. Quorum, Welcome and Apologies

Apologies; Derek Lewis, Chairman of the Board of Management

Diana MacLeod, Interim Head of Curriculum & Student Services

Nicolas Kowalczyk, HISA Board Member

The meeting is quorate

2. Declarations of Interest and Connections

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes 18th June 2024

Approved – noted that there are many items in the minutes for strategy day – these will be covered next week and included in the structure of the agenda.

4. Committee HISA Member

Introduction of Nicolas by Chair – although not present at this meeting, the Chair met with the new HISA Member 1:1. She found him to be extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

5. SME Presentation – Steve Taylor (ST)

ST gave a ppt presentation to this committee and explained that he has been involved in the Centre for Recreation & Tourism since its beginning in 2012. There were three core staff members. Applied research was 90% of the work carried out with multi partner projects.

The principal commented that the research complemented the NWH curriculum delivery & knowledge exchange. This was the only spin out to have had a commercial success in UHI. There had been no infrastructure to support commercialisation . There was limited capability of spin out within UHI, which should be developed further.

The Chair acknowledged the need to drive commercialisation in this area.

6. HISA Report – Nicolas Kowalczuk

Noted (in Board pack)

7. NWH Research & Knowledge Exchange Quarterly Report – Stuart Gibb (SG)

The March–May 2024 report was presented, and SG advised that the next report would be for period June – August 2024, which was currently being compiled. The report was for information only.

Key points included winning two knowledge exchange awards and the hosting of two international conferences which were of huge economic as well as academic value.

An update given was to Caithness being successful in being awarded the status of being declared a world heritage site. The site was officially opened by King Charles three weeks prior.

Page 3 – report structure will be modified. The team would update K&E strategy for the next meeting of this group.

RM referenced Highland Park with peatlands and asked if NWH were exploring a knowledge transfer partnership with the distillery as they own their own peatland? This could be a sustainable distinctive branding opportunity.

MF acknowledged Becky & the archaeology unit who had done excellent work, though he advised that there seemed to be resistance to locating PHd students within the Southern Isles.

Within the UHI directorship, Alison Wilson has been successful securing some funds. For example, £1.5m had been secured for STEM projects.

The Committee Chair summed up the urgency of preparing & strategising to capitalise on all current and future opportunities available.

Noted

8. Annual Engagement – Fiona Grant (FG)

8.1. Draft Annual Engagement Report – FG

This would be the last report from Education Scotland. The report summarised their visit on 11th June 2024 & provided a perspective through the angle of improvement, reflecting exceptionally well on the quality & professionalism of staff involved in the visit. HRM echoed comments of FG. LR congratulated all staff responsible for such a positive report. Highlights included the students recommended that the college was a great place to study. The students' comments were the benchmark of the success of NWH.

Noted

9. College Performance & Student Experience – Fiona Grant (FG)

This report would be called “the curriculum performance report” going forward and will be produced quarterly. KPIs for performance planning will also be included.

Noted

9.1 Student Applications 2024 v 2023 – Hannah Ritchie-Muir (HRM)

Updated information was included in the report. (Confidential item – withheld)

The Chair commented that it would be interesting to find out where students were applying from for online courses.

The committee members discussed the website not being fit for purpose re advertising courses & enrolment and asked that this be addressed sooner rather than later, noting that the website had been an ongoing issue; it had not been updated in more than 13 years. The structure underneath needed to be looked at. Effectively, it needed a minimum £1m investment to serve all of the partnership.

Action – HRM – Updated enrolment data for next Committee meeting

Action - HRM & FG – Overview of where our students are applying from for online courses.

10. LT&R Terms of Reference – Sarah Fraser (Chair)

The Chair referenced the original terms as being fairly generic. It would now be useful to look at the ToFR to make sure it is fit for purpose. What data can be provided and when would it be available throughout the year? As the meeting had over-run; the Chair asked that the Committee revise the document at home. A Word document should be created on SP with a link sent out to Committee Members inviting suggestions for improvement/amendment.

Action – Board Secretary to create document on SP and email out to Committee

10.1. Annual Reporting Structure – Hannah Ritchie-Muir

Deferred

11.0 A.O.B.

None

Meeting closed at 1815