

## UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

### UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE (UEC)

Minute of the Meeting held on 24 February 2026

*Present:* Jo-Anne Murray (Chair), Waheed Afzal, Euan Bain, Tim Baker, Nigel Beacham, Leigh Bjorkvoll, Jason Bohan, Susan Caie, Scott Carle, Chris Collins, Hannah Cowie, Ewan Grant, Tracey Innes, Helen Knight, Colin Lumsden, Heidi Mehrkens, Jemma Murdoch, John Mynott, Stuart Piertney, Ian Robotham, Samuel Seymour, Rachel Shanks, Anne-Michelle Slater, Kate Smith, Patricia Spence, Louisa Stratton, Jenna Stuart, Steve Tucker, Joshua Wright, and Isabella Fausti (Clerk) in attendance.

*Apologies:* Simon Bains, John Barrow, Harminder Battu, Nick Edwards, Fiona Heinonen, Michelle Pinard, Amudha Poobalan, Ezel Tabur, Emma Tough and Russell Williams.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2026

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/001)*

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members.
- 1.2 Members of the Committee considered the minute of the meeting held on 13 January 2026 and approved it as an accurate representation of discussions held, without amendments.

#### MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

*(copies filed as UEC/240226/002)*

- 2.1 The Chair noted the items on the action log still in progress.

#### WORK-BASED LEARNING POLICY

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/003)*

- 3.1 Members received an update on the final draft of the Work-Based Learning Policy and approved it.

#### CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION

*(Oral Update)*

- 4.1 The UEC received an update on the progress of the Curriculum Transformation project. The Committee discussed membership and meeting frequency of the Curriculum Transformation working group. It was clarified that meetings for the working group would take place every three weeks, with sprint group meetings happening more frequently. It was noted that the agenda for the first meeting of the group, which would take place on week commencing 9 March, would include terms of reference, EDI risk management and a communication plan (**Action: JPM/IF**).

## **CODE OF PRACTICE ON ASSESSMENT (POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT)**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/004)*

- 5.1 The Committee received an update on the key proposed amendments to the Code of Practice on Assessment (PGT) and commended the thoroughness of the consultation process. Members discussed in detail the proposed changes relating to resits of dissertations and to the criteria for considering borderline candidates, providing additional feedback on both areas. The Committee expressed broad support for the removal of a minimum project/dissertation grade as a separate criterion for the award of Master's Degrees with Commendation and Distinction, in addition to the GPA.

## **CODE OF PRACTICE ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE (ACADEMIC)**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/005)*

- 6.1 The Committee received an update on the key proposed amendments to the Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic) and commended the consultation process. Members expressed broad support for future-proofing the definition of academic misconduct, and for streamlining the processes involved in investigating cases of academic misconduct and their possible outcomes, and suggested that additional guidance could be provided in due course to accompany the Code.
- 6.2 Discussions also focused on the management of large-scale cases of academic misconduct arising within a single cohort, as well as the increasing cases of academic misconduct involving misuse of GenAI.
- 6.3 It was suggested that follow-up discussions should take place with the Dean for Postgraduate Research and the Head of Student Support (**Action: JBo/IF**).

## **UPDATE ON TERTIARY QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REVIEW (TQER)**

*(Oral Update)*

- 7.1 The Committee received an oral update on the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER), noting that a letter outlining the provisional key findings had been received following the main review visit. The letter identified eight areas of good practice and five recommendations. Members congratulated all those involved on the excellent outcome, including Emma Tough, Steve Tucker, Liam Dyker and Samuel Seymour.

## **STUDENT CASEWORK UPDATE**

*(copies filed as UEC/240226/007 and UEC/240226/008)*

- 8.1 The Committee received an update on Appeals and Complaints data, and one on Academic Discipline data, for 2024/25.
- 8.2 Members noted that the changes to the Policy and Procedures on Student Appeals, particularly the expectations on attempting frontline resolution and the introduction of competency checks prior to progressing appeals, had come into effect in Academic Year 2024/25 and were reflected in the data. The Committee noted that these changes had been very positively received by Schools. Discussion took place regarding cases deemed not competent and the importance of ensuring that, where mitigating circumstances were raised, they would be appropriately considered by Schools even if the appeals process was

not the correct mechanism. It was agreed that improved communication was needed to ensure clarity on how such circumstances should be raised and addressed.

- 8.3 With regard to the Academic Discipline data, it was noted that the ongoing review of the Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic) was not yet reflected in the data presented. However, the format in which the data is reported had been updated for ease of use. Members also noted a slight overall increase in the total number of cases, with a significant increase in the number of AI-related cases.

#### **UPDATE ON ERASMUS**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/009)*

- 9.1 Members welcomed the news of the UK's planned reassociation to the Erasmus programme for the remainder of the 2021-2027 funding cycle. Erasmus, the EU's flagship programme for education and training, provides a framework and source of funding for student mobility, exchange and placements, staff mobility, and collaborative projects. Plans are currently in progress for the University to apply for an Erasmus Charter for HE, with the submission deadline in mid-March and outcomes expected in summer 2026. Securing the ECHE would enable the University to apply for funding for the remainder of the current funding cycle. It was noted that a renegotiation would be required for the next funding cycle (2028-2034).

#### **UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/010)*

- 10.1 Members noted that updates would be required to the University Risk Register.

#### **UEC REMIT AND COMPOSITION UPDATE**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/011)*

- 11.1 Members approved, by routine approval, changes to the composition and membership of the Committee.

#### **OMNIBUS RESOLUTION 2026/27**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/012)*

- 12.1 Members noted the Changes to Regulations for Various Degrees to be introduced with effect from AY 2025/26.

#### **STUDENT PROGRESS COMMITTEE (SPC) DATA 21-25**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/013)*

- 13.1 Members noted the Student Progress Committee (SPC) Data from Academic Year 2021-22 to Academic Year 2024-25.

#### **INSTITUTIONAL LIAISON MEETING GUIDANCE UPDATE**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/014)*

- 14.1 Members noted the updated guidance for Institutional Liaison Meetings from the Quality Assurance Agency for Scotland.

## **QUALITY AND PLANNING SHAREPOINT SITE**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/015)*

- 15.1 Members noted the update on the Quality and Planning SharePoint Site.

### **UPDATES FROM THE EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE (EEC)**

*(copy filed as UEC/240226/016)*

- 16.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the EEC meeting held on 12 February 2026 would be circulated in due course.

### **UPDATES FROM THE STUDENT SUPPORT AND EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SSEC)**

*(Copy filed as UEC/240226/017)*

- 17.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the SSEC meeting held on 12 February 2026 would be circulated in due course.

### **UPDATES FROM THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP (ETAG)**

*(Copy filed as UEC/240226/018)*

- 18.1 The Committee noted the updates from ETAG.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 19.1 The Committee noted that the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) have published the scope of a review of the arrangements for awarding of qualifications across Scottish HE institutions. The review will be delivered in four phases, with phase one comprising a desk-based exercise reviewing existing evidence held by the QAA to identify current risks. It was noted that phase one is expected to conclude by April and further information would be provided in due course.
- 19.2 The Committee noted that an application for funding had been submitted to the SFC under the University Transformation Framework (UTF), with the outcome expected in April 2026. The Chair thanked all those involved in the development of the application, with particular thanks to Tracey Innes.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 20.1 The Committee noted that the next meeting of the UEC would take place on 21 April at 1:05pm in the Committee Room 2, University Office, or by Microsoft Teams.