

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE (UEC)

Minute of the Meeting held on 13 January 2026

Present: Jo-Anne Murray (Chair), Euan Bain, Tim Baker, John Barrow, Nigel Beacham, Leigh Bjorkvoll, Jason Bohan, Susan Caie, Hannah Cowie, Fiona Heinonen, Tracey Innes, Helen Knight, Colin Lumsden, Heidi Mehrkens, John Mynott, Stuart Piertney, Michelle Pinard, Amudha Poobalan, Sara Preston, Ian Robotham, Samuel Seymour, Anne-Michelle Slater, Kate Smith, Patricia Spence, Louisa Stratton, Jenna Stuart, Ezel Tabur, Steve Tucker, Russell Williams, Joshua Wright, and Isabella Fausti (Clerk) and Jen Reilly (Minutes) in attendance.

Apologies: Waheed Afzal, Simon Bains, Lyn Batchelor, Harminder Battu, Scott Carle, Nick Edwards, Jemma Murdoch, Rachel Shanks, Emma Tough and Asha Venkatesh

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2025

(copy filed as UEC/130126/001)

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the new members of the Committee.
- 1.2 Members of the Committee considered the minute of the meeting held on 20 November 2025 and approved it as an accurate representation of discussions held.

MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

(copies filed as UEC/130126/002)

- 2.1 The Chair noted there were still items awaiting action from herself, on both the degree classification and Power BI dashboards, but the rest were completed.

CURRICULUM REVIEW AND TRANSFORMATION

(copy filed as UEC/130126/003)

- 3.1 The Committee received an update on the progress of the Curriculum Review and Transformation project. Members discussed the paper, accompanying presentation slides and recording, and agreed that curriculum review should be carried out as part of the wider Adapting for Continued Success programme, rather than as two wholly separate initiatives.
- 3.2 Members advocated for extending the discovery phase as far as possible to ensure the quality of the data gathered and to allow colleagues to balance this with their wider workload. It was agreed the timeline could be adjusted to some extent if needed, whilst bearing in mind there are elements that will need to be agreed by certain points in time.
- 3.3 Members received an update on the plans for the move to a new student management system. This will be carried out on a phased basis, migrating different aspect(s) of the system at each phase, with a view to achieving full implementation in 7 to 8 years. The project will commence in April, with the recruitment of two Business Analysts to scope and plan the project, before the procurement phase begins. Overall funding will then be sought.

- 3.4 The curriculum elements will likely be the first thing to change, with the Chair noting that the curriculum review piece needs to be completed ahead of these system changes. Similarly, the TQER recommendations should be received by early March and should be incorporated into the Curriculum Review piece.
- 3.5 The Chair noted that there is an option to apply for government funding, with the deadline for applications in mid-February, but that this required Phase 1 to have commenced.
- 3.6 It was noted that when this paper was first presented to UEC at the meeting on 20 November, it was circulated later than planned and stated that it had previously been considered by QAC, SSEC and EEC. However, it should have been clarified that these committees had discussed curriculum transformation as an oral item only, and had not considered the paper itself.
- 3.7 The Chair proposed that members were happy to move to the discovery phase, including establishing the Governance Group. Members suggested this Group should include representatives from technical staff, as well as academic and professional services staff; it may also serve to include external members, although it was suggested that these could be involved in sub-groups focussing on specific aspects of the curriculum review such as, for example, employability.

WORK-BASED LEARNING POLICY

(copy filed as UEC/130126/004)

- 4.1 Members received an update on the formation of the Work-Based Learning Policy and discussed the content.
- 4.2 It was suggested that students engaging in work-based learning are signposted to the insurance requirements of such placements within the Policy, and that the Policy should ensure that Host Organisations confirm their intention to uphold and adhere to the UOA inclusion policies.
- 4.3 The Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement confirmed that this Policy should be approved by QAC as well as UEC.

AI PILOT: ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK – PROJECT OVERVIEW

(copy filed as UEC/130126/005)

- 5.1 Members received an update on the Pilot, and the key points of the paper were highlighted. These were that the Digital Strategy Committee has approved the funding for the piloting of two systems, and that the project team and Board have been proposed.
- 5.2 The Board's Remit and Composition has been drafted for approval at the first Project Board meeting.

AUTOMATIONS AND PREMIUM BLACKBOARD AI FEATURES

(copy filed as UEC/130126/006)

- 6.1 Members received an update from the Educational Technologies Advisory Group (ETAG) around their work on the automation and AI features currently available in Blackboard and Panopto.
- 6.2 The Committee discussed the paper and raised concerns about utilising image-based GenAI. It was agreed that this will continue to inform part of future discussions within ETAG, as will the ongoing ethical and environmental concerns. Transparency from the University will be key as this is rolled out, and critical reflection will still need to be carried out by staff when assessing the efficiency/outputs of certain features. It was confirmed that the group are considering these aspects prior to agreeing to a rolling out a pilot.
- 6.3 The Chair suggested involving students in the piloting stage, both as a learning opportunity for them, and to assist in the overall piloting process.
- 6.4 UEC members approved the activation of automations within Blackboard, rules-based functionality which will allow staff to trigger messages to students via MyAberdeen.

UPDATE FROM EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP (ETAG), FOLLOWING DEC 2025 MEETING

(Oral Update)

- 7.1 UEC members received an update on the group's activities.
- 7.2 There is no Clerk for the group, so they have decided to use MS CoPilot to record the meetings, and agreed on 'rules of engagement' when utilising this and the transcription tools to take a record of their meetings going forward.

UPDATE ON TERTIARY QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REVIEW (TQER)

(Oral Update)

- 8.1 The Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement thanked all those who have been involved in the process so far, including the students who participated in the initial review visit meetings at short notice and during the December exam diet, and the colleagues who facilitated their participation.
- 8.2 The main TQER review visit will take place during the first week of February. Their meeting schedule has been planned, with various colleagues from across the University taking part, including some UEC members present today. Briefings will take place ahead of the review itself to prepare those involved and to highlight any recurring themes or areas of interest already expressed by the panel.
- 8.3 It was reported that the initial review visit seemed to go well, with an approachable panel who conducted fairly informal discussions; the hope is that there will be a similar approach in February.
- 8.4 Once received, the report and its recommendations will be circulated to the Education Committees in due course.

- 8.5 The Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement confirmed that any students who had agreed to take part in meetings with the panel during their main visit should be kept on standby, should the panel wish request their participation closer to the time.

UPDATES FROM THE EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE (EEC)

- 9.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the EEC meeting held on 16 December 2025 would be circulated in due course.

[Clerk's Note: Following the meeting, it was confirmed that the EEC meeting scheduled for 16 December 2025 was cancelled due to low attendance, so no minutes are available for this.]

UPDATES FROM THE STUDENT SUPPORT AND EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SSEC)

(Copy filed as UEC/130126/008)

- 10.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the SSEC meeting held on 17 December would be circulated in due course.

UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER

(Copy filed as UEC/130126/009)

- 11.1 The Committee noted the University Risk Register.

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- 12.1 The Chair raised the subject of supporting individuals in their career progression, and invited comment around this. Members discussed the networks and mechanisms available, including through CAD, and the concerns from staff around not having the time to engage with and participate in these. It was suggested that work could be done to build on or adapt existing networks, such as the Pedagogical Inquiry Network.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 13.1 The Committee noted that the next meeting of the UEC would take place on 24 February at 1:05pm in the Committee Room 2, University Office, or by Microsoft Teams.