

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE (UEC)

Minute of the Meeting held on 20 November 2025

Present: Jo-Anne Murray (Chair), Waheed Afzal, Lesley Anderson (in place of Rachel Shanks), Euan Bain, Tim Baker, John Barrow, Nigel Beacham, Leigh Bjorkvoll, Hannah Cowie, Helen Knight, Colin Lumsden, Heidi Mehrkens, John Mynott, Stuart Piertney, Michelle Pinard, Amudha Poobalan, Samuel Seymour, Anne-Michelle Slater, Ezel Tabur, Steve Tucker, and Joshua Wright, with Simon Bains, Scott Carle, Fiona Heinonen, Tracey Innes, Jemma Murdoch, Sara Preston, Ian Robotham, Kate Smith, Chris Souter, Patricia Spence, Jenna Stuart, Emma Tough, Isabella Fausti (Clerk), and Kyra Lamont (minutes) in attendance.

Apologies: Jason Bohan, Lyn Batchelor, Harminder Battu, Susan Caie, Lorna Cruickshank, Nick Edwards, Susan Halfpenny, Rachel Shanks, Louisa Stratton, Asha Venkatesh, and Russell Williams.

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

(copy filed as UEC/201125/001)

- 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 24 September 2025 and approved it as accurate.

MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

(copy filed as UEC/201125/002)

- 2.1 Members of the Committee received an update on the outstanding actions from the previous meetings, noting that 6.2 from 20 November 2024, and 7.2-7.3 from 24 September 2025 were still in progress, while the other actions were marked as completed.

NEW ACCESSIBLE COMMITTEE TEMPLATE

(Oral item)

- 3.1 Members were advised that a new accessible committee template had been made available for use on the website.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO UEC PUBLICATION OF PAPERS TIMELINE

(copy filed as UEC/221125/003)

- 4.1 The Committee approved the proposed change to the publication of papers timeline as detailed in the Remit and Composition document – noting that the agenda and papers will normally be made available two weeks (and at least one week) prior to committee meetings and published on University webpages/StaffNet for information when possible. Members queried whether the wording ‘University webpages/StaffNet’.

NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY OPTIONS 2026

(copy filed as UEC/221125/004)

- 5.1 UEC Members approved the recommendations in respect of the NSS 2026 options – noting the starting date of the 2026 NSS Survey is week 4 which aligns well with the opening of term on 19 January and start of teaching on 26 January 2026.
- 5.2 It was noted that the six optional questions will remain the same in the interests of continuity and to ensure the consistency of data with a view to analysing any potential trends. It was confirmed that student populations were accurate and that preferences should be submitted to Ipsos by 28 November 2025.

CHANGES TO GO ABROAD TUTOR ROLE

(copy filed as UEC/221125/014)

- 6.1 The UEC was provided with information regarding the strategic importance of the Go Abroad Tutor (GAT) role and a series of recommendations aimed at improving engagement and workload allocation by Schools as well as maintaining timely communication with the Go Abroad Team.
- 6.2 The discussion centred on improving training and workload allocation, raising awareness of out-going opportunities, ensuring that each school has at least one Go Abroad Tutor, and the appointment of a School-level liaison (e.g. GAT Lead, Director of Internationalisation or SAM) for continuity and to oversee GATs. Furthermore, it was noted that a form of central communication would be helpful for a transparent, consistent approach across Schools.
- 6.3 UEC Members approved the recommendations as detailed to support international mobility and recruitment - noting that international mobility is central to the University's Internationalisation Strategy.

CURRICULUM REVIEW AND TRANSFORMATION

(copies filed as UEC/221125/015)

- 7.1 Members received a presentation on the Curriculum Review which is planned to take place over the next 18-36 months. Members were provided with details of the planned course of action for both phases of the Curriculum Transformation project for approval – noting the SFC's three key recommendations to consider as part of the review process (Strategic Review and Planning, Internal Development Approval and Assurance, Delivery and Monitoring).
- 7.2 It was noted that this review is intended to be a collaborative process, but some concerns were raised about its timing, which would need to be carefully considered to maximise engagement. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have more than just two Heads of School (one for STEM and one SHAPE) as part of the Governance Group, as some Schools may have different requirements. Some members also raised concerns regarding late circulation of the paper. As a

result, the decision was made to seek approval via circulation, to ensure enough time to consult with colleagues in Schools (**Action: Clerk/Chair/JPM**)

PD2002: BUILDING SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FOR CAREER SUCCESS

(Oral Item)

- 8.1 UEC Members were given an oral update on the optional PD2002 course and discussed whether the course could be rolled out more widely to students. Members felt that it would be beneficial to provide the course more widely. It was further noted that this could be addressed as part of the proposed Curriculum Review.

EVALUATION OF EDUCATION STRATEGY 2021-2025 AND EDUCATION STRATEGY 2025-2030

(copy filed as UEC/221125/005)

- 9.1 Members received an update evaluating the 2021-2025 Education Strategy and introducing the 2025-2030 Education Strategy. The Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement outlined the agreed strategic aims and explained that the new strategy is comprised of three key pillars (Global Perspectives, Interdisciplinary and Innovative, and Collaborative Learning Culture).
- 9.2 Members discussed the paper and were positive with regards to the proposed action plan.

UPDATE ON TERTIARY QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REVIEW (TQER)

(copy filed as UEC/221125/006)

- 10.1 Members were provided with a confidential paper regarding the forthcoming Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER) scheduled for December 2025. The Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement provided a summary of the key points contained within the Strategic Impact Analysis for information – noting special thanks to Emma Tough, Liam Dyker and Samuel Seymour for their valuable input and those who attended the relevant workshops.

WEDNESDAY TEACHING POLICY

(copy filed as UEC/221125/007)

- 11.1 Members discussed the paper in relation to the Wednesday Teaching Policy. It was noted that there are compulsory practical sessions (particularly at PGT level) on Wednesday mornings for science disciplines and delivery is subject to current infrastructure, timetabling and resource constraints. It was further noted that technical staff do not work beyond 6pm so late delivery is not possible. Additionally, it was noted that Wednesday morning slots are also required for language disciplines, and altering this would have major changes on curriculum breadth. It was noted that the accommodations for student to attend specific events (e.g. sports competitions) may be possible and are reviewed on a case by case basis.

LECTURE CAPTURE AND VIDEO CAPTIONS SUPPORT

(copy filed as UEC/221125/008)

- 12.1 Members were provided with an update in respect of the availability of lecture capture - noting that the University's Digital Accessibility policy encourages videos to be captioned in line with statutory requirements - and members were reminded that the service provided by Panopto can also assist staff with making lectures more accessible.
- 12.2 It was noted that these features are very much valued by students – and that staff should continue to release their recordings in a timely manner. It was noted that there is currently no evidence to suggest that recording lectures results in decreased attendance at lectures. Indeed, it was observed anecdotally that students who watch lecture recordings are often the same students who attended the lecture. Members discussed the update and suggested whether timetabling and Panopto data could be used to produce reports at School level which detail engagement. Additionally, members acknowledged the importance of good quality equipment, such as microphones, to assist with delivery.

UPDATES FROM THE EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE (EEC)

(Copy filed as UEC/201125/009)

- 13.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the EEC meeting held on 6 November 2025.

UPDATES FROM THE STUDENT SUPPORT AND EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SSEC)

(Copy filed as UEC/201125/010)

- 14.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the SSEC meeting held on 4 November 2025 would be circulated in due course.

UPDATES FROM THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP

(Copy filed as UEC/201125/011)

- 15.1 The Committee noted the update from the Educational Technologies Advisory Group.

AI PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK & AI LEARNING LAB

(Copy filed as UEC/201125/012)

- 16.1 The Committee noted the AI Principles and Framework & AI Learning Lab updates.

UNIVERSITY RISK REGISTER

(Copy filed as UEC/201125/013)

- 17.1 The Committee noted the University Risk Register.