UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Minute of the Meeting held on 15 April 2026

Present: Steve Tucker **(Chair)**, Will Barras, Nadia DeGama, Lois Gall, Nathaniel Greene, Alex Menshykov, Gareth Norton, Cerni Roig Rabada, Samuel Seymour, Virtu Solano, Fiona Stoddard, Thanga Thevar, with Natalie Kinchin-Williams, Megan McFarlane, Mary Pryor (*vice* Darren Comber) Rhiannon Thompson with Liam Dyker **(Clerk**), and Jen Reilly **(Assistant Clerk)** in attendance.

Apologies: Scott Carle, Darren Comber, Nick Edwards, Mark Grant, Faye Hendry, Jacqui Hutchison, Piotr Niewiadomski, Sharon Palla, Roy Partain, Rachel Smith, and Emma Tough.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(copy filed as QAC/150426/001a, 001b and 001c)

1.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meetings held on (i) 18 February 2026; (ii) 11 March 2026; and (iii) 23 March 2026.

MATTERS ARISING

(i) ACTION LOG

(copy filed as QAC/150426/002a)

2.1 Use of AI for UG and PGT Dissertations *(Minute 8.2, Nov 2025 refers)*: The Chair advised the Committee that a response is awaited to a paper presented to URC regarding PGR guidance.

2.2 Guidance for Development of Programme ILOs *(Minute 4.2, Dec 2025)*: The Chair updated members regarding his commitment to meet with CAD to progress this.

(ii) SCHOOL OF EDUCATION INTERNAL TEACHING REVIEW ANNUAL FOLLOW-UP REPORT

(copy filed as QAC/150426/002b)

2.3 The Committee approved the updated School of Education Internal Teaching Review Annual Follow-Up Report, noting an error in the previous submission.

(iii) PGT PROGRAMMES WITH POPULATIONS LESS THAN 6FTE

(copy filed as QAC/150426/002c)

2.4 The Committee noted the updated paper regarding PGT Programmes with Populations Less than 6FTE.

POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT POLICY REVIEW TFG

(i) CODE OF PRACTICE ON ASSESSMENT (POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT)

(copy filed as QAC/150426/003)

[Clerk's Note: Jason Bohan and Isabella Fausti were in attendance for this item.]

3.1 The Committee heard an overview of the Code of Practice on Assessment (Postgraduate Taught), which was presented to the Committee for approval.

3.2 The group discussed the paper and the latest version of the Code of Practice.

3.2.1 It was confirmed that after approval by Senate, the new Code of Practice will take effect from September 2026 and will also apply to the PGT cohort who began their programme in January 2026. It is not intended that any cases dealt with under the previous Code of Practice between January 2026 and September 2026 will be reviewed retrospectively.

3.2.2 Regarding the reassessment by *viva*, (section 6.2 refers), it was agreed that the phrase 'at the School's discretion' would be re-worded to cover more specific scenario(s) where this discretion may be used, or to specify the Schools/programmes where this applies, to remove any ambiguity around when and how a School may use their discretion.

3.2.3 Concerns were raised that the worked examples of GPA do not accurately reflect the 'real world' calculations carried out and displayed on SRS after rounding *(sections 2 and 3 refer)*. It was agreed that the ongoing work with Grades Journey should address this.

3.2.4 A separate point will be added below section 3.10 (a) to clearly differentiate the compensatory credit requirements for the Master's degree from those of Postgraduate Diploma.

3.3 Members approved the latest amendments to the Code of Practice on Assessment (Postgraduate Taught), subject to the changes proposed above.

(ii) CODE OF PRACTICE ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE (ACADEMIC)

(copy filed as QAC/150426/004)

[Clerk's Note: Jason Bohan and Isabella Fausti were in attendance for this item.]

3.4 The Committee heard an overview of the Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic), which was presented to the Committee for approval.

3.5 Members approved the latest changes to the Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic)

3.6 The Chair thanked Jason Bohan and Isabella Fausti for all their work on the thorough consultation and drafting process and the much-improved Code of Practice as a result. Thanks were expressed to the Committee for their consideration and input throughout the process.

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECTS

(i) CHINA UNIVERSITY OF GEOSCIENCES (BEIJING): BUSINESS SCHOOL PROGRAMMES (EDUCATION POLICY AND TERM DATES)

(copy filed as QAC/150426/005 and 006)

[Clerk's Note: Alex Brasier was in attendance for this item.]

4.1 The Committee heard an overview of how the existing University of Aberdeen Education Policies will be applied to the proposed new Programmes (MA Digital Economy and MA Big Data Management & Application). This is based on the current partnership model with SCNU. The deviations to this are around grade mapping and the timing of reassessment, as outlined in the paper.

4.2 The proposed term dates reflect the longer teaching term at China University of Geosciences (Beijing), or (CUGB).

4.3 The Committee approved the proposed approaches to Education Policy and term dates for MA Digital Economy and MA Big Data Management & Application (CUGB) (Hainan Campus).

(ii) CHINA UNIVERSITY OF GEOSCIENCES (BEIJING): SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES PROGRAMMES (EDUCATION POLICY AND TERM DATES)

(copy filed as QAC/150426/007 and 008)

[Clerk's Note: Alex Brasier was in attendance for this item.]

4.4 The Committee heard an overview of the proposed approach to the BSc Applied Biology Programme Education Policy and term dates. This will mirror the approach taken to the Business School Programmes, outlined above. The Programme prescriptions and credit totals will be the only variations specific to the School of Geosciences.

4.5 The Committee approved the proposed approaches to Education Policy and term dates for BSc Applied Biology (CUGB) (Hainan Campus).

(iii) CHINA UNIVERSITY OF GEOSCIENCES (BEIJING): REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

(copy filed as QAC/150426/009)

[Clerk's Note: Alex Brasier was in attendance for this item.]

4.6 Members heard an overview of the paper outlining the Regulatory Requirements for the Business School partnership programmes of MA Digital Economy and MA Big Data Management & Application and School of Geosciences partnership programme of BSc Applied Geology. One set of Degree Regulations is proposed for the three Programmes, all of which are run in a similar model to the current Joint Institution partnerships already in place. The Clerk drew members' attention to an updated version of the paper which corrected a typo in level 4 credit for the BSc Applied Geology, to account for a dissertation which CUGB requires.

4.7 Members approved the proposed Regulatory Requirements for the Business School partnership programmes of MA Digital Economy and MA Big Data Management & Application and School of Geosciences partnership programme of BSc Applied Geology.

(iv) NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: EDUCATION POLICY
(v) NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: TERM DATES
(vi) NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

(copy filed as QAC/150426/010, 011 and 012)

4.8 The Chair confirmed that a paper regarding Northwestern University's Education Policy, Term Dates and Regulatory Requirements will be circulated in due course for approval by the Committee.

FUTURE OF ACADEMIC POLICY AND REGULATIONS GROUP

(copy filed as QAC/150426/013)

5.1 The Committee heard an overview of the proposals to disband the Academic Policy and Regulations Group, and the plan to replace this by forming ad-hoc groups to consult on relevant matters as these arise.

5.2 Members approved the proposal to dissolve APRG. This will be formally noted by Senate in the QAC Report. The Committee was advised that the decision to disband the Group was in the remit of the QAC.

UPDATE ON TERTIARY QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REVIEW (TQER)

6.1 Members received an update on the preliminary report and recommendations from the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER). The report is overall a positive one, which highlights the effective management of academic standards.

6.2 Eight areas of good practice were identified: the alignment with the Aberdeen 2040 strategy, the growing TNE portfolio, the oversight provided by QAC, the work around the VLE templates, approaches to employability and workplace skills, student support and wellbeing, amplifying the student voice and staff dedication to improving the student experience and the role of Centre for Academic Development.

6.3 The recommendations are around consistency and transparency in assessment and feedback and suggest setting out criteria for assessment more clearly, external examination and how the collaborative provision is reviewed as part of the external examination process, and finally, the access to data within Schools. There were no new issues identified in the recommendations, and some of these enhancements had already been identified internally and improvements have been made, as in the case of improvements to the VLE, for example.

6.4 The report has been checked for factual accuracy internally and returned to the TQER panel. The final report will be published by the end of April 2026, whereby it can be circulated. The next steps post-TQER will be to compile an Action Plan in response to the recommendations. The Chair commended the work of Emma Tough, Liam Dyker and the wider University community for their input throughout the whole process.

6.5 It was noted that the fora held to prepare for the TQER case studies were valuable to staff, and these types of meetings have been identified as good practice within the University. A similar model will be used to inform the internal Curriculum Transformation project.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING: IN-PERSON GRADUATION

(copy filed as QAC/150426/025)

7.1 The Committee approved, by routine approval, the proposals for in-person graduation for the Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling.

REPORTS FROM ACADEMIC POLICY AND REGULATIONS GROUP

(copy filed as QAC/150426/014a and 014b)

8.1 The Committee noted the reports from the Academic Policy and Regulations Group from (i) 13 February 2026; and (ii) 31 March 2026).

MATTERS APPROVED BY CIRCULATION AND CONVENOR'S ACTION

(copy filed as QAC/150426/015 and 016)

9.1 The Committee noted the following matters considered and approved by Circulation and/or Convenor's Action:

(i) Qatar Term Dates 2026/27
(ii) MBChB Intercalated PhD Opportunity

PROFESSIONAL, STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BODIES

10.1 The Committee noted the following matters related to Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies:

(i) Health & Care Professions Council *(copy filed as QAC/150426/017)*
(ii) Nursing & Midwifery Council *(copy filed as QAC/150426/018)*
(iii) Chartered Institute of Arbitrators *(copy filed as QAC/150426/019)*

(iv) Principles for Responsible Management Education *(copy filed as QAC/150426/020)*
(v) Energy Institute *(copy filed as QAC/150426/021)*
(vi) Association of Chartered Certified Accountants *(copy filed as QAC/150426/022)*
(vii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales *(copy filed as QAC/150426/023)*
(viii) Chartered Institute of Marketing *(copy filed as QAC/150426/024)*

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE PROVISION: UNIVERSITIES OF GLASGOW AND STRATHCLYDE – DELIVERY OF PMPI PROGRAMME

11.1 The Committee noted that the partnership with the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde related to the delivery of the PMPI programme has now ended.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.1 The approvals required for the Mumbai TNE partnership will necessitate a meeting be held in August, however, the next ordinary meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 2:05pm at Committee Room 2, University Office and via Microsoft Teams.

12.2 The Chair thanked all members of the Committee for their time and input during the past academic year.