

## UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

**ABERDEEN 2040 EDUCATION STEERING GROUP**

Note of the Meeting of the UEC held on 14 September 2022

*Present:* Ruth Taylor (Chair), Euan Bain, John Barrow, Leigh Bjorkvoll, Jason Bohan, Abbe Brown, David Burslem, Stuart Durkin, Bill Harrison, Peter Hicks, Kirsty Kiezebrink, Donna Maccallum, Samantha Newington, Shona Potts, Michelle Pinard, Anne-Michelle Slater, Lindsay Tibbetts, Joshua Wright with Julie Bray, Liam Dyker, Tracey Innes, Gillian Mackintosh, Rhona Moore, Ian Robotham, Patricia Spence and Emma Tough (Clerk) in attendance

*Apologies:* Akua Agyeman, Harminder Battu, Lyn Batchelor, Alison Jenkinson, Jennie Macdiarmid, David McCausland, Graeme Nixon, Vanessa Nzolo, Rona Patey, Susan Stokeld, Steve Tucker, and Louisa Stratton

**FOR DISCUSSION****ABERDEEN 2040 STEERING GROUP REMIT AND COMPOSITION**

*(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/001)*

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the first meeting of the Aberdeen 2040 Education Steering Group. Members of the Steering Group received the Group's remit and composition, noting it had been approved by the University Education Committee (UEC). It was noted that the remit of the Group aligned with the work of the UEC and provided a focus for the Group's work. The Group agreed that the remit should be reviewed regularly and amended as required.
- 1.2 Members of the Group noted the importance of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion as a thread throughout all work undertaken in regard to Aberdeen 2040 and, consequently by the Steering Group. The formal reporting line of the Group was noted as the UEC, with proposals to be taken to the UEC and Senate as appropriate. Members of the Group agreed their responsibilities as contributing to discussion, raising awareness, and feeding back to their Schools/sections as appropriate.
- 1.3 Members of the Group noted section 8 of the remit and the Committees with who the Group would interface. It was suggested that the list be expanded, to include Committees such as the Digital Strategy Committee. The Group agreed that the list should be expanded upon as work of the Group progressed, noting that work was likely to engage several University Committees and Groups.

**ABERDEEN 2040 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE**

*(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/002)*

- 2.1 Members of the Steering Group received the most recent update on the Aberdeen 2040 Implementation Plan for information. Members of the Group noted the update as providing a detailed summary of progress made to date. The Group was informed that an updated plan, together with associated actions, would follow to the next meeting of the UEC.

## **ABERDEEN 2040: CURRICULUM – AWAY DAY**

*(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/003)*

- 3.1 Members of the Steering Group received the paper providing the key points and themes discussed at the Education Away Day. In particular, the attention of members was drawn to the areas where some consensus had been reached on next steps for Aberdeen 2040 Education work. Members noted the success of the Away Day and were invited to feed back any comments/reflections from their experience of it.
- 3.2 Members of the Group queried 'decreasing course choice' as a topic discussed at the Away Day. The Group noted that discussions had taken place in this regard, as a starting point for consideration of issues in this vein, but that no decisions had been taken on how course choice would be handled going forward. The group agreed course choice as an area requiring further discussion.

### **UPDATES FROM THE TASK AND FINISH GROUPS (TFGS)**

- 4.1 Members of the Committee received updates on the work on the UEC Task and Finish Groups (TFGs) as follows:

**(i) Monitoring and Absence:** Abbe Brown *(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/004)*

Members of the Group received the paper provided by the TFG, including a summary of work in respect of Monitoring, Absence and Engagement. The Group noted that the TFG report would be considered, for an academic view, at the meeting of the Senate scheduled for 21 September.

**(ii) Pastoral Review:** Abbe Brown *(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/005)*

Members of the Group received the paper provided by the TFG, including a summary of work in respect of Pastoral Review. The Group noted that report of the TFG would also be considered, for an academic view, at the meeting of the Senate scheduled for 21 September.

**(iii) Graduate Attributes and Skills:** John Barrow/Kate Robertson  
*(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/006)*

The Group received a joint report from the Graduate Attributes and Skills and Enhanced Transcripts TFGs, noting that the two Groups had come together to progress their remits. The Group noted the updates provided in regard to areas for discussion (issues), areas impacting on progress, and next steps of the TFGs in taking forward the remits of the groups. In addition, the report updated the Group on consultation processes in place and planned.

**(iv) Decolonising the Curriculum:** Ruth Taylor *(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/007)*

Members of the Group received a short presentation providing an update on the Decolonising the Curriculum TFG. A copy of the presentation is available as A2040SG/140922/007. The Group noted the considerable work undertaken by the TFG and that a fuller report would follow to the next meetings of the UEC and Senate for an academic view.

**(v) International Experience:** John Barrow *(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/008)*

Members of the Group received an update on the work of the International Experience TFG. The Group noted specific updates in regard to work undertaken as follows:

- Finalisation of international experience definitions and the gathering of exemplar activity from across Schools;
- Work to approve the differential process for the European agreement renewals;
- The writing up of recommendations from the TFG linked to above definitions;
- Ongoing work to discuss recognition of small/non-standard credits that could be added to transcripts for recognition (presently these are not recorded)

**(vi) Work Placements and Volunteering:** Tracey Innes/John Barrow  
*(copy filed as A2040SG/140922/009)*

Finally, the Group received an update on the work of the Work Placements and Volunteering TFG. Members of the Group noted the need for staff resource and expertise to support the work of the TFG and the approval of two employer engagement posts in this regard, for which recruitment would shortly commence. The Group noted that to date, the TFG had:

- Submitted a paper to SMT (May 2022) reporting initial findings and recommendations from the initial TFG work;
- Commissioned a consultancy project, conducting an institutional placement and work-based learning review. The report and recommendations will be presented at SMT at the end of September.

*Further to this update, the Group were informed that the next phase of work would be scoped following the full report and associated discussion to agree next steps following consideration of the recommendations made. A revised remit, and consideration of the composition of a work stream or TFG will follow.*

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 5.1 The Group noted that the date of the next meeting of the Aberdeen 2040 Steering Group was to be confirmed and would be circulated to members in due course.

**Clerk's Note:** *Following the meeting, the next meeting of the Group was confirmed as Wednesday 9 November 2022, at 3.05pm via Microsoft Teams.*