1. **Purpose of the Paper**

   This paper provides University Education Committee with an update on the Pastoral Review Task and Finish Group (TFG) in the light of the meeting of Senate on 21 September 2022.

   University Education Committee are invited to **note** this paper and to comment on the initial proposals made for the future.

2. **Previous Consideration By /Further Approval Required**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board/Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previously considered/approved by</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further consideration/approval required by</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Background**

   3.1 The Pastoral Review Task and Finish Group (the TFG) was established in 2021. Updates were provided to the Student Support Committee/Student Support and Experience Committee (SSEC) on 2 June 2021, 18 October 2021, 8 December 2021, 3 February 2022, 21 March 2022, 7 April 2022 and 23 August 2022. Updates were provided to University Education Committee (UEC) on 6 December 2021, 17 February 2022, 17 March 2022, 13 April 2022 (with further opportunities for comment thereafter by email) 10 May 2022, 25 August 2022 and 14 September 2022.

   3.2 A report of the TFG, a set of recommendations and initial proposals for implementation were considered by Senate for a further academic view on 21 September 2022 as **SEN22.03**. That report build on the paper considered by UEC in September as **UEC/250822/007**, taking into account feedback received.

4. **Update and Suggestions Future Steps**

   4.1 Some positive comment was received from Senate, particularly regarding proposals for support of PGT students. Significant concern was expressed, however, at the additional workload which would (as indicated in the report and its initial implementation thoughts), be needed to deliver the recommendations. This was particularly so regarding the engagement with academic matters for UG students and the formal creation of a new PGT personal tutor role. The Principal noted the importance of PGT support and also indicated that there were significant demands on resource, particularly given demands on staff regarding research. He also noted the strong feedback which had been received from the National Student Survey regarding the support and experience being provided within the present system. The Principal asked that the TFG reflect and return.
4.2 The Dean for Student Support, who led the TFG, leaves post in January. It is suggested that the new Dean for Student Support explores the following with the TFG, with a view to a revised proposal being put before SSEC, UEC and Senate after the Winter Break. Given that the TFG is a UEC body, the thoughts of UEC are most welcome.

4.2.1 Work continues on the UG personal tutor online resources and training to make clear the scope of the role and the place of the personal tutor alongside other support which is available across the University. This aligns will proposed work by the Wellbeing Team in Student Experience.

4.2.2 The UG personal tutor role is not expanded to cover the provision of initial academic advice. Proposed Aberdeen 2040 in relation to streamlining the Curriculum will address some issues identified in the consultation regarding academic choices and paths.

4.2.3 A new request is developed for Digital Strategy Committee which sets out changes sought to MyAberdeen and/or Student Record System to make the present UG personal tutor system more manageable, supportive and user friendly for staff and for students. The details of this request would be the subject of discussion. Possibilities include making clearer to personal tutors and to students their attendance at meetings, the making of invitations to meetings, and stating if students have a monitoring notice and the fact that a student has engaged with student support.

4.2.4 There is to be no new formal PGT role. Rather, the TFG will build on the material gathered in its consultation, and the more informal support which is being provided to PGT students and guidance in respect of it, and create more formalised scope of support. It would be left to Schools to determine who is to deliver this support in their Schools, including between administrative and academic colleagues, and to arrange for meetings and any establishment of groups.

4.2.5 A new request is developed for Digital Strategy Committee to enable changes to be made to Student Records System and the Student Hub so that it is clear to each student which person, or role holder, is to provide PGT personal tutor support to them.

4.2.6 The present TFG report and recommendations are to remain as an output and a base for future work alongside other projects and feedback, including the University’s possible participation in PTES, a Postgraduate Student Survey.

5. Further Information

Further information is available from Abbe Brown, Dean for Student Support (abbe.brown@abdn.ac.uk).

September 2022

Freedom of Information/Confidentiality Status: Open