

Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Trustee Board	
	Management Board	
	Executive Committee	
	Finance & Commercial Development	
	Appointments & Remuneration	
	Compliance, Governance & Risk	
	Other: All Student Meeting	

Meeting Date	7 th March 2024
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Meeting Time	13.00 – 14.00
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Attendance	
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Present	<p>Regional Officers William Campbell (President) Gary Souter (Vice President (Education))</p> <p>Local Officers Fiona Smith (Perth President) – joined from Perth Holly Pearce (Inverness Depute President – Education) – joined from Inverness Ahren Armstrong (Argyll Depute President) – joined from Argyll Rebecca Bond (Perth Depute President Activities and Welfare) – joined from Perth Kian McDonald (SAMS Depute President) – joined from SAMS</p> <p>Students – Online and in AP locations</p> <p><u>Argyll</u> - Bethany James - Beauty Level 5 - Ellie Johnston - Beauty Level 5 - Rebecca Woolcock - Beauty Level 5 - Imogen Carnie - Beauty Level 5 - Lucy Anderson - Beauty Level 6</p> <p><u>NWH</u> - Leah Low - Nat 5 - Iona MacLeod - Highers - Sarah MacDonald - Child, Health & Social Care - Kayleigh Carr - Business, Leisure and the Creative Economy - Mark MacLeod - Supported Learning - Lisa MacIsaac - Supported Learning - Ceitlin MacMaster - Supported Learning - Lynne McGovern - Supported Learning - John-Angus Sillars - Supported Learning - Cameron Falconer - Supported Learning</p>
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- Michael Jones - Supported Learning
- Corey Abbs - Supported Learning
- Joan MacRaild - SLP

Moray

- Tasmin Robertson - Horticulture

Perth

- Logan Harding - New Opportunities
- Konrad Miller - New Opportunities
- Xander McDade - Humanities, Applied Social Sciences and Gaelic
- Scott Forsyth - Humanities, Applied Social Sciences and Gaelic

SAMS

- Christie Arthur - Marine Science
- Danny Morrison - Marine Science
- Jamie McCracken - Marine Science
- Lara Summerscales - Marine Science
- John Rimicans Mcleod - Marine Science
- Merlin Farrell - Marine Science
- Lara Dillon - Marine Science
- Lexie Robertson - Marine Science

Shetland

- Jane Ronie - Business, Leisure and the Creative Economy
- Alyson Hinchliffe
- Harley Green - Business, Leisure and the Creative Economy
- Keith Massey - Business, Leisure and the Creative Economy

Students' Association Staff

- Aimee Cuthbert, Development Manager - Perth and Moray
- Amanda Fleet, Sports Development Coordinator
- Caroline MacPherson, Development Manager – North, West & Hebrides
- Francesca Meneghetti, Local Coordinator – Orkney
- Elena Arroyo, Advice Service Coordinator
- Elliot Stradling, Student Engagement & Representation Coordinator
- Emma Miller, Community Engagement Manager
- Harry Main, Local Coordinator - West Highland
- Mark Stanley, Communications and Commercial Development Manager
- Méabh O'Connor, Local Coordinator - Inverness
- Melissa O'Keeffe, Resource Coordinator
- Rachel Burn, Chief Executive Officer
- Sara Fox, Development Manager – Islands
- Scarlett Fox, Local Coordinator - Outer Hebrides
- Simon Varwell, Director of Student Engagement & Representation
- Wendy L Day, Director of Finance and Operations

UHI Staff

- Katrina MacLeod, Centre Admin & Support/Guidance Officer

Apologies

Non-Attendance	
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Section	Minutes
1. Welcome and Introductions	<p>All attendees introduced themselves, including their qualifications and Academic Partners.</p> <p>Quorum was achieved.</p> <p>WC welcomed all attendees to this meeting and introduced himself and GS. WC covered basic online housekeeping rules around the meeting.</p>
2. Why are we here? What is the purpose of an All Student Meeting	<p>WC shared the agenda for the meeting which is focusing on cuts and ASOS as a result of decisions made by the EIS-FELA union to strike and then announcement by UHI about potential cuts to courses. The purpose of this meeting is to collect student feedback on impact so the Students' Association can present this in a consolidated and anonymous form to UHI be able to advocate for students and their outcomes.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting is also to highlight our new newsletter and upcoming elections to students and to approve new Trustees to the Students' Association Board.</p>
3. Student newsletter	<p>Detailing the launch of a new newsletter for all students by the Students' Association. The purpose of the newsletter will be to inform students about activity ongoing across the partnership and includes a competition to name the newsletter, a recipe and to encourage students to submit articles going forward.</p>
4. Minutes of the previous meeting	<p>These were approved by the meeting.</p> <p>DECISIONS: Approved</p>
5. New members of the Students' Association Trustee Board	<p>Carly-Skye Fraser and Victoria Hutchinson were approved as Student Trustees and Edward Abbott-Halpin as an External Trustee of the Students' Association.</p> <p>DECISIONS: Approved.</p>
6. ASOS, cuts and strikes	<p>WC outlined the purpose of this section which is to collect student feedback and worries around ASOS an strikes so the Association can represent,</p>

support and help students and also to provide a summary to UHI management on behalf of the meeting. A summary of the issues raised is as follows:

- Significant concern was expressed by students about the proposed cuts or pauses to the Moray Fine Art course and its impact on Moray and Shetland part-time students; a huge amount of time and money already expended by students on their studies and yet there is currently no clarity as to how the Moray announcements will be managed through and picked up by other APs. This is causing understandable significant concern to students.
- Following on from the proposed Moray cuts, students asked about their contractual rights under CMA regulations. Students were asking for UHI to at least teach out the programmes where students are already studying as part of their contractual obligations.
- The Students' Association is writing to MSPs and Regional MSPs about the cuts which are caused by a reduction on funding from the Scottish Government. Students asked if they could also write to their local MSPs and if a template could be provided to students for this purpose.
- Concerns that decisions will be made before students have a chance to be involved or consulted – i.e. UHI Shetland decisions are being made on 27th March potentially which may not join up in terms of decision by other APs and the knock on effects.
- Questions from students about the impact of changes on upcoming exams in this academic year. WS confirm that no changes will be made this academic year so all exams or final assessments this academic year will proceed as normal. However, Action Short of Strike (ASOS) may cause a delay in marks being submitted to UHI over the summer and therefore a delay in results being obtained by students. This could impact on students going on to other studies or into employment. UHI is currently working on a range of mitigations for students to support them should this situation occur.
- A strong request for urgent comms from UHI to explain the mitigations to students.
- A concern expressed about the 100% pay deduction
- A request for UHI and the Unions to get back round the table to stop the impact on students. Student morale is poor after many years of the impacts of strikes and the meeting wanted student frustration to be passed on to UHI and the unions over this ongoing dispute not be resolved.
- Students are happy to support lecturers in their pay dispute but ASOS directly affects the very people whose support the union is asking for, so frustration about the union taking this stance which directly affects students whose support they need.

- A concern expressed students studying HNCs at UHI and hoping to progress to HND or degree but results might not be in because of ASOS which will prevent this from happening. Students are starting to look elsewhere for courses outside of the UHI offering as a result. Students must use the Red Button if they are concerned about this.
- Questions were asked about UHI's Finances and transparency over costs at APs vs the centre.
- A request that the SA raised with the University the issue that FE money being top sliced by the University and that in some cases this equates to cuts being proposed in some Colleges.
- A concern was raised for the wellbeing of lecturers – lecturers working environments are student learning environments.
- A concern raised about family members who are made redundant by any cuts in areas where there are few jobs and what this might mean for their own studies on a UHI campus and unemployment numbers in local areas.
- Students likely to set up a strike solidarity group and undertake protests in various locations. For Shetland based students, there is an EIS/FELA community march being planned which student reps have asked that the Students' Association to communicate to students.

WC ended this section of the meeting by thanking all students for attending and providing such rich feedback. The Student's Association is a member based organisation and we are here to support students.

ACTIONS:

The Students' Association will proactively raise these issues with UHI management – both centrally and at relevant APs.

The Students' Association will provide students with a template letter to write to their MSPs if they wish to.

The Students' Association is working with UHI to create a statement and FAQs covering all of these topics to keep students informed. This should ideally cover CMA student rights/legislation and progression rules and mitigations which explain how students can potentially continue their studies with UHI even if their results are delayed.

The Students' Association will feedback student frustration to both the Unions and UHI management and make the point that students should be their main focus and come first in their negotiations.

The Students' Association will feedback comments made about the FE top slice.

The Students' Association will feedback to UHI and MSPs the impact that cuts and redundancies will have on unemployment rates, especially in poorer rural areas.

	<p>More information can be found at: Undergraduate students: your rights under consumer law (publishing.service.gov.uk) and Consumer law advice for higher education providers (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> <p>Students are reminded about the HIA advice service and how it can support them with their studies: https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/advice</p> <p>The Red Button - https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/support/red-button</p>
7. Elections	Elections open 11 th to 14 th March. Team of student officers who will represent you next year across UHI. Please use your vote.
8. Any Other Business	No items were discussed.
9. Date of next meeting – 21 st April at 12.	<p>WC noted that the date and time of the next meeting which is 23rd April at 12-1.30pm.</p> <p>WC thanked all attendees for their attendance and participation.</p> <p>WC closed the meeting.</p>