

**Minutes of the Meeting of Senate Education Committee
held via Microsoft Teams at 2.00pm on Thursday 12 May 2022**

1. Attendance

Present	Position
Colm Harmon	Vice-Principal Students (Convener) – Ex Officio
Tina Harrison	Assistant Principal Academic Standards and Quality Assurance (Vice-Convener) – Ex Officio
Sabine Rolle	Representative of CAHSS (Learning and Teaching)
Stephen Bowd	Representative of CAHSS (Postgraduate Research)
Judy Hardy	Representative of CSE (Learning and Teaching)
Antony Maciocia	Representative of CSE (Postgraduate Research)
Sarah Henderson	Representative of CMVM (Learning and Teaching, PGT)
Paddy Hadoke	Representative of CMVM (Postgraduate Research)
Mike Shipston	Head of Deanery, CMVM
Richard Andrews	Head of School, CAHSS
Iain Gordon	Head of School, CSE
Stuart Lamont	Edinburgh University Students' Association, Permanent Staff Member
Tara Gold	Edinburgh University Students' Association, Vice President Education
Marie-Louise Wohrle	Postgraduate Research Student Representative
Shelagh Green	Director for Careers & Employability – Ex Officio
Melissa Highton	Director of Learning, Teaching and Web Division of Information Services – Ex Officio; Assistant Principal (Online and Open Learning)
Rebecca Gaukroger	Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions – Ex Officio
Sue Macgregor	Director of Academic Services – Ex Officio
Marianne Brown	Head of Student Analytics, Insights and Modelling (Interim)
Sian Bayne	Assistant Principal Digital Education
Philippa Ward	Academic Services (Secretary)
In Attendance	
Teresa Ironside	Director of Data Science Education
Amanda Percy	Curriculum Transformation
Jon Turner	Curriculum Transformation and Director of Institute for Academic Development
Patrick Walsh	Representative of CSE (Learning and Teaching)
Apologies	
Andy Dugmore	Representative of CSE (Learning and Teaching)
Lisa Kendall	Representative of CAHSS (Learning and Teaching)
Jamie Davies	Representative of CMVM (Learning and Teaching, UG)
Velda McCune	Representing Director of Institute for Academic Development – Ex Officio

Members who were leaving were thanked for their considerable contribution to the work of the Committee over the year.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

3. Convener's Communications

3.1 Management of Open and Closed Papers

The Convener reported that the views of Education Committee and the other Senate Standing Committees on this matter had been relayed to those raising concerns. A paper discussing the management of closed papers would be taken to the 25 May meeting of Senate for consideration.

4. For Discussion

4.1 Microcredentials: Issues and Principles

Members noted that the paper had previously been discussed by the Curriculum Transformation Board. The paper set out the current 'state of play' within the University; provided an overview of current sector trajectories for microcredentials and short courses; and proposed a set of principles to guide the development of University strategy in this area.

Members endorsed the paper and the set of principles in particular. The following was noted:

- The importance of ensuring that any work in this area was adequately resourced
- The potential to develop links with the NHS and NHS Education for Scotland
- The benefit of aligning microcredentials with the University's core programmes wherever possible to avoid creating two separate streams of learners
- The Postgraduate Working Group of the Curriculum Transformation Programme would give further consideration to the issue of microcredentials.

It was agreed that the Convener and paper authors would establish a group to take this work forward.

4.2 Assessment and Feedback Update – Responding to ELIR

Members noted that a previous version of the paper had been considered at the March meeting of the Committee. The version now being considered included an additional principle relating to the student voice; clarified content relating to learning technologies; and alongside each principle provided a priority, aligned with Curriculum Transformation, to address previous concerns about the document not being sufficiently aspirational.

The Committee endorsed the principles and discussed ways in which the ideas presented in the paper might be socialised and embedded within Schools. Members proposed:

- Asking all Schools to undertake a mapping exercise to assess the extent to which they were aligned with the principles
- Using Course Evaluation Questionnaires to ask students to identify aspects of their courses that had been run in particularly innovative ways
- Running a Teaching Matters blog series showcasing relevant work that was already being done within the University.
- Developing a community of practice to share insights and encourage innovation.

4.3 Tutors and Demonstrators Training Working Group

Members noted that the training and support offered by the University for tutors and demonstrators was inconsistent and required improvement. The paper proposed the creation of a Tutors' and Demonstrators' Training Working Group to explore and recommend changes to provision.

Members approved the creation of the group, recognising that it should help to address recommendations coming out of the recent Enhancement-led Institutional Review.

4.4 Committee Administration

4.4.1 Senate Education Committee Membership 2022/23

The paper was noted.

4.4.2 Draft Annual Report to Senate

The paper was noted and approved in advanced of it being taken to the May meeting of Senate.

4.4.3 Plans for Annual Review of Effectiveness of the Senate Standing Committees

Members noted the plans for the annual review of the effectiveness of the Senate Standing Committees and were encouraged to engage with opportunities to provide feedback.

4.4.4 Senate Presentation and Discussion Themes for 2022/23 Meetings

Members proposed the following potential themes:

- Staff wellbeing
- Assessment and feedback
- Interdisciplinary teaching and learning (and University-wide initiatives to develop this)
- The Doctoral College

5. Standing Items

5.1 Curriculum Transformation – Consultation on the Edinburgh Student Vision

Members noted that the consultation on the Edinburgh Student Vision was underway, and responses to the online survey were being received. These responses indicated that there was general support for the objectives, principles and approach. Comments and

suggestions had been received around wording and phrasing. Members were encouraged to feed into the consultation.

In response to requests from across the University, early archetypes and prototypes had been designed and had generated useful discussion in Schools, including identification of gaps. These discussions were being used to develop the next iteration of the archetypes and were feeding into initial conversations around the scoping and supporting of the curriculum work stream. Work on the climate emergency was also being taken into account.

5.2 Student Experience

Members noted the updates taken to the 15 March and 5 April 2022 meetings of University Executive.

5.3 Doctoral College

Updates were provided on the following PGR-related activity:

- Maternity and family leave policies – work was being undertaken to ensure that funded PGR students received paid maternity and family leave.
- Use of Turnitin for PGR student work – this would be permitted, but not mandated.
- Student Wellbeing – work was being done on the introduction of a case management system, leave of absence arrangements and escalation processes.
- Doctoral College Review – a formal review, including externality, had been proposed. Plans for this would be taken forward by Senate Quality Assurance Committee.
- Networking events – a series of three mini conference evenings had been set up to help support PGR students over the summer. Staff were also welcome to attend.

Professor Stephen Bowd, who was leaving the position of Dean of Postgraduate Studies for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, was thanked for his considerable contribution to the work of the Doctoral College.

6. For Approval

6.1 Policy Updates to Reflect New Student Support Model

Members approved minor changes to the following policies to reflect the new Student Support Model:

- Virtual Classroom Policy
- Policy for the Recruitment, Support and Development of Tutors and Demonstrators

It was noted that it had not yet proved possible to finalise required changes to the Academic and Pastoral Support Policy. It was agreed that the Committee would consider and approve a revised policy later in the summer.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Follow-up from Academic Integrity Meeting with University of Sydney

Members were advised that a list of potential issues for further consideration had been drawn up:

- Development of a mandatory academic integrity module for all students (potentially delivered pre-arrival)
- Looking at whether the Cohort Lead role in the new Student Support model could be used to provide ongoing education and support for students in this area
- Undertaking risk assessments for all assessments
- Taking steps to address contract cheating
- Detection software – looking at whether a University-wide policy on this and a list of ‘approved’ software should be developed
- Taking steps to address academic misconduct-related workloads

Members agreed that action should be taken in relation to the first two points over the summer. The Committee expressed strong support for tackling academic misconduct-related workloads.

Philippa Ward
Academic Services