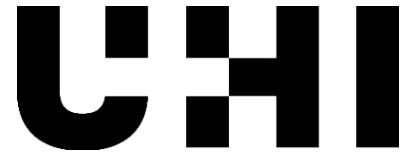


UHI Court Conference

Tue 21 November 2023, 09:30 - 15:30

UHI House



Attendees

Alastair MacColl, Alex Paterson, Allan Clow, Andrea Robertson, Angus Campbell, Calum Ross, Derek Lewis, Emma Simmons, Gary Souter, Fiona McLean, Heather Offord, Helen MacInnes, Lorna Walker, Mei-Li Roberts, Neil Simco (Vice Principal Research & Impact), Paul Travill, Poonam Malik, Rosemary McCormack, Sara O'Hagan, Scott Rhynas, Sheena Stewart, Vicki Nairn, William Campbell, Max Brown, Su Bryan, Brian Williams, Alison Wilson, Roger Sendall, Phil McNaull, Sally Mapstone

Absent: Malcolm Burr, David Sandison

Lecture Theatre, UHI House: Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3JH

Conference record - key points and actions only.

1. Session 1 - Overview of Partnership Financial Position

The interim Principal & Vice Chancellor and Mr McNaull provided the conference with a presentation outlining the current financial position of the University, individual academic partners and the collective position. A copy of the presentation slides is appended to this note.

Court agreed to progress the following actions:

- To direct the Finance and General Purposes Committee to undertake a full review of all University and academic partner finances by 5th December 2023 in order to fully understand and capture the collective UHI position and to provide a recommendation for consideration by Court on 14th December 2023 in relation to next steps.
- To provide the Scottish Funding Council with formal notification of the material risks identified within UHI Moray and UHI Shetland that threaten continued existence without further emergency funding in the short term.
- To provide the Scottish Funding Council with a total partnership view of financial sustainability.
- To inform the Scottish Funding Council that the University as the Regional Strategic Body does not have the capacity to assist academic partners with forecast cashflow deficits in 2023/24 of approximately (£9M).

It was also agreed that at the December 2023 Court meeting, the Court will be asked to consider issuing a formal notification to academic partners outlining significant concerns about financial sustainability including the need for an urgent review of decisions and action plans and to seeking additional assurances from partners. Court should also consider additional formal intervention and special measures in the context of its RSB and fundable body status particularly in connection with addressing identified failings at UHI Moray and UHI Shetland.

Court Conference Programme Nov 2023.pdf

Session 1 Welcome slides.pdf

Session 1 Slides Confidential Finance data slides.pdf

2. Session 2 - Guest Speaker - Professor Dame Sally Mapstone DBE

Professor Mapstone provided the conference with a key note speech outlining key challenges and opportunities for the Higher Education sector at a global, national and local level followed by questions and answers.

- Court noted the benefit of working with key stakeholders and seeking support from independent partners to lobby on behalf of the institution with government officials as this is often more powerful than direct


liaison.

- The importance of working with multiple government agencies and directorates was highlighted as a more effective engagement mechanism that just directing requests through the Education minister or via the Scottish Funding Council.

3. Lunch

4. Session 3 - Curriculum Developments

Professor Williams and Dr Bryan delivered a presentation outlining curriculum review developments including a focus on new opportunities and areas for growth and rationalisation. A copy of the presentation slides is appended to this note.

 [Session 3 slides.pdf](#)

5. Session 4 - Collaboration & Partnerships


Mrs Wilson and Dr Bryan provided a presentation showcasing successful collaboration and industry partnerships including sponsorship and future development opportunities. A copy of the presentation slides is appended to this note.

 [Session 4 slides.pdf](#)

6. Session 5 - Future for UHI & Plenary

Mr Brown provided an overview of progress made to date with partnership discussion and consultations related to identifying a new target operating model for UHI consistent with aspirations contained within the University's Strategic Plan. A copy of the presentation slides is appended to this note.

Court was pleased to note the progress made to date with regard to agreeing to progress closer integration but highlighted an urgent need to act proactively to deliver efficiencies and make these changes now that are already within our control. Court noted that real change needed to be properly resourced and done properly and considered that it would be appropriate to ask the Scottish funding Council and Scottish Government to support change via an invest to save style approach and recognising the special value that a successful UHI provided across the regions for vulnerable communities.

 [Session 5 slides.pdf](#)

7. Concluding Remarks

Noted that Court members had found the conference incredibly useful and informative and it was agreed to try to hold two face to face per annum going forward.

Court agreed to hold the December 2023 meeting online and to seek to meet in person in January (date tbc).

CHI