

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**12 March 2026**

**Minutes**

Present: Professor Ruth Valentine (*Chair*), Lucy Backhurst, Dr Emma Cockburn, Yvonne Chase, Rachel Dearlove, Dr Peter Gallagher, Dr Sarah Graham, Pauline Howie, Hibah Hussain, Sally Ingram, Professor David Kennedy, Dr Chris O'Malley (*vice Dr Sara Marsham*), Graeme Redshaw-Boxwell, Charu Saini, Dr Helen St Clair Thompson, Jill Taylor-Roe and Gina Tindale

Apologies: Professor Rene Koglbauer, Professor Li Li, Dr Sara Marsham, Somy Ogbuoto, Erin Peart, Dr Cees van der Land

In attendance: Janice Trewick (*Secretary*)

**53. Education Strategy Programme Board Report**

Received: UEC2526-046

Noted that:

1. The Programme Board had considered the Academic Advising Framework and role descriptors which had been approved by the Committee ahead of submitting to Senate for final approval.
2. There had been some discussions focused on the role of the Director of Academic Advising and how the Framework would be implemented in academic units. It had been agreed that the Dean of Students would attend Faculty Executive Boards to provide more details regarding the Framework and the roles, and to provide assurance that consultation had taken place with the existing Senior Tutors.
3. The Directors of Academic Advising are required to be in post by June 2026 ahead of the Framework being implemented in September 2026.
4. Training to support colleagues with the Framework is planned to take place later this year. Additional resource had been secured and a new position within the Learning and Teaching Development Service has been approved to provide dedicated support.
5. There was some discussion around communications with colleagues regarding the Leading Edge Curriculum (LEC) including the timing, the way in which the information is presented to colleagues, and the need to ensure that these reach all colleagues across the institution.

**54. Reflections on Educational Risks and Student Experience Actions**

Received: Tabled Risk Register

Noted that:

6. The committee received the educational institutional risks: SR1 Our educational offer does not meet expectations and SR2: Students do not have a positive, inclusive and supportive experience.
7. The committee discussed the individual triggers and these were updated where appropriate.

8. It had been agreed going forward that the committee would receive a regular report from the Deputy Director of Academic Services in relation to Academic Skills to provide the committee with oversight in this area.
9. The committee discussed the integrity of assessments and how these would be managed as part of the implementation of the LEC Framework. It was commented that academic units were seeking examples of both effective and less-effective approaches to support them as they go through the transformation process. This is an area of focus for the LEC fellows and they would be developing case studies and examples of assured assessments to support academic units.
10. The committee discussed the development of the joint education institutions in China and the development of NU Online programmes. It was agreed that a new risk should be added to the register to reflect the University's expansion into new modes of delivery, ensuring that the student experience remains high-quality and that all provision reflects a Newcastle experience, regardless of location or delivery mode. **(Action: Rachel Dearlove)**
11. They committee also received an update on the actions which had been developed by the Deans of Education following the NSS 2025 results. It was noted that some of the actions were progressing. It was agreed that these actions would be shared with the committee. (Action: Rachel Dearlove)

#### **55. Reports from sub-committees of UEC**

Received reports from:

- i. Digital Education – 28 January 2026 [UEC2526-047]
- ii. Postgraduate Research – 11 December 2025 [UEC2526-048]
- iii. Taught Programmes –27 January 2026 [UEC2526-049]

#### **56. Minutes of the previous meetings**

Received: Document UEC2526-050

Noted that:

12. The minutes of the meeting of UEC on 21 January 2026 were approved as a correct record.

#### **57. Action Log**

Received: Document UEC2526-051

#### **58. Report of decisions made on behalf of the committee**

Received: Document UEC2526-052