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Title of paper:

Main purpose of the paper: Report from University Education Committee

Presenter(s): Professor Ruth Valentine

Date of paper: 13 October 2026

Purpose of the paper

Report from the 9 September meeting of University Education Committee.

Relation to strategy and values

Education Strategy

Recommendations:

Consultation to date (including any previous committee consideration and its outcome):

Information Classification:

☐ Strictly Confidential – Information that is deemed of higher risk if inappropriately disclosed. This includes information defined as 'Special Category' information in the UK GDPR.

☐ Confidential – Sensitive information that could cause harm to the University if disclosed and should be limited to specific groups within the University. Includes personal data and commercially sensitive information.

☒ Internal – Information intended for use by internal colleagues or trusted third parties.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

9 September 2026

Minutes

Present: Professor Ruth Valentine *(Chair)*, Dr Emma Cockburn, Dr Yvonne Chase, Rachel Dearlove, Dr Jo Elson, Dr Peter Gallagher, Dr Sarah Graham, Professor David Kennedy, Kirsty Lingstadt, Dr Sara Marsham, Erin Peart, Graeme Redshaw-Boxwell, Dr Helen St Clair Thompson and Anushka Sonwane

Apologies: Lucy Backhurst, Pauline Howie, Sally Ingram, Professor Rene Koglbauer, Professor Li Li, Dr Cees van der Land

In attendance: Janice Trewick (*Secretary*)

1. **Proposal to withdraw the use of Turnitin**

Received: UEC262-001

Noted that:

1. There are currently two systems for the submission of digital coursework: Canvas Assignments which is through the VLE, and Turnitin Feedback Studio which is via a third-party platform. Over the past year there had been several issues with the use of Turnitin which had not been quickly resolved by the company. Additionally, Turnitin had updated its End-User Licence Agreement to include the use of colleague and student data for AI purposes.
2. It had been reported that other institutions had also experienced similar issues with Turnitin and they were looking into other options.
3. It was proposed that the contract for Turnitin Feedback Studio and Turnitin Similarity would not be renewed when it expires in August 2027, and that all colleagues would use Canvas Assignment, and that LTDS would seek to procure a replacement similarity detection system. LTDS would work with colleagues to ensure that the replacement system meets the needs of colleagues across the institution. LTDS would work with academic units which need to transition to Canvas Assignments and would provide support and training for colleagues.
4. Existing marks and feedback which are hosted in Turnitin would need to remain accessible for a 12 month period, and this would need to be negotiated with Turnitin.
5. The committee agreed that there was a good rationale for not extending the contract and that the move to all colleagues using Canvas Assignments would further enhance the overall student experience.
6. The committee raised some concerns regarding the timeline for colleagues to transition and to familiarise themselves with the new system. LTDS were confident that the time-scale was achievable for the transition.
7. The committee acknowledged the concerns raised and but overall were happy to approve the proposal.

Resolved:

a. The committee approved the recommendation that the contract with Turnitin would not be renewed in August 2027.

2. **Assessment Feedback and Marking Policy**

Received: UEC2627-002

Noted that:

8. The Assessment, Feedback and Marking policy had been updated to include a new section relating to alternative assessments. Updated sections for the assessment typology and take-home examinations were also proposed. A section on encounters with the leading edge had been included, however, this was to be removed.
9. Over the coming months the policy will undergo a full review, with more substantive changes made to ensure that all requirements of the Leading Edge Curriculum are fully captured and formalised within the policy. It is proposed that the committee would receive the amended policy in January 2027 for consideration and approval.

Resolved:

a. The committee agreed that the revisions to the policy would be approved by the Chair.

3. **AI Boundaries of use in Education**

Received: UEC2627-003

Noted that:

10. The committee had previously agreed to the guidelines for the use of AI in education, following subsequent discussions the guidance had been reformatted and presented as a formal policy document for adherence by all colleagues.
11. Clarification was sought as to who would provide permission for the following requirement: '*Be secure. Do not upload copyright or intellectual property to AI without permission and a justifiable reason*.' It was agreed that details of the permission process would be included to the policy. **(Action: EPG to liaise with Prof Kennedy.)**

Resolved:

a. Notwithstanding the amendment required, the committee approved the policy.

4. **Any other business**

Noted that:

12. Professor Kennedy informed the committee that the University would be implementing an alternative AI tool, Edinburgh Language Module (ELM), which had been developed by The University of Edinburgh. ELM is an alternative to co-pilot which will be available for colleagues and students. ELM has been initially purchased for a trial period of 18 months.
13. The naming of ELM whilst in use was still to be agreed. Guidance and support will be available from the Digital Adopt team.

5. **Minutes of the previous meetings**

Received: Document UEC2627-004

Noted that:

14. The minutes of the meeting of UEC on 1 July 2026 were approved as a correct record.

6. **Action Log**

Received: Document UEC2627-005

7. **Report of decisions made on behalf of the committee**

Received: Document UEC2627-006