



Academic Board

LEARNING, TEACHING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2026 in room EP1-015 on Frenchay Campus.

Present Umar Abbasi, Emmanuel Adukwu, Abdullahi Arabo, Amanda Coffey (Chair), Mark Coombs, Rachel Cowie, Delia Fairburn, Richard Falle, Simon Flenley, Pujan Ghosh, Georgina Gough, Bernhard Gross, Tuong Huynh, Ana Kvetenadze, Antony Hill, Rachael Miles, Cathy Minett-Smith, Carolyn Paul, Aashish Piskala, Jackie Rogers, Lucy Scott, Jonathan Winfield, Mercy Roa Vargas, Osman Yukselturk, Hsu Yar Zar

Apologies: Jason Briddon, Maria Casado-Diaz, Jennifer Dye, James Hazzard, Khadiza Hossain, Moya Lerigo-Sampson, James Macdonald, Jo Midgley, Moya Lerigo-Sampson, Gerry Rice

Attendees: Jedd Billing (Secretary), Dan Bougourd (items 3.1, 6.2 and 7.1), Hannah Cavender-Deere (Officer), Laura Howe-Haysom (item 4.2), Mike Ratcliffe (all meeting)

LTSEC.26.04.1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
LTSEC.26.04.1.1	The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were recorded in the normal way.
LTSEC.26.04.1.2	No declarations of interest were received.
LTSEC.26.04.2	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING
LTSEC.26.04.2.1	Previous minutes Paper LTSEC.26.04.01 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.2.1.1	Members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2026.
LTSEC.26.04.2.2	Action sheet and matters arising Paper LTSEC.26.04.02 was received.

LTSEC.26.04.2.2.1	Members noted that all actions are complete.
LTSEC.26.04.2.2.2	No matters arising were raised.
LTSEC.26.04.3	DEEP DIVE
LTSEC.26.04.3.1	TEF Update – Data Insights and Institutional Approach
LTSEC.26.04.3.1.1	LTSEC received a presentation on insights from Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) data and considered UWE's strategic intentions for TEF through breakout group discussions.
LTSEC.26.04.3.1.2	It was noted that the OfS is consulting on significant changes to quality assurance, including TEF, with a phased implementation likely over several years. Planned developments include closer attention to student experience, broader measures of graduate outcomes, and expansion to cover areas such as degree apprenticeships, collaborative provision, and postgraduate taught courses.
LTSEC.26.04.3.1.3	Recent TEF data releases were introduced alongside external benchmarking analysis, which indicates that UWE currently aligns with a Silver rating for both student experience and outcomes. While there are areas performing at or above benchmark, there are also concerns, particularly around student completion. It was noted that some datasets are incomplete or limited, for example in relation to apprenticeships, part-time students, collaborative provision, and postgraduate courses.
LTSEC.26.04.3.1.4	During discussion, it was emphasised that TEF data, particularly outcomes data, are lag data, drawing on older cohorts, and therefore needs to be supplemented with more recent internal data to properly understand current performance and the impact of recent initiatives. Ongoing work to bridge this gap was highlighted through combining TEF datasets with internal dashboards that provide more timely and detailed insights at subject and programme level.
LTSEC.26.04.3.1.5	A key theme is consistency of experience and outcomes across all student groups. The current regulatory context places greater scrutiny on inconsistencies, reinforcing the need for a whole-institution approach. Understanding which of UWE's current

LTSEC.26.04.3.1.6	initiatives are most effective, and scaling those appropriately, was identified as an important next step. It was agreed that TEF should be a standing item at LTSEC, with continued attention on high-risk areas relating to student experience and outcomes.
LTSEC.26.04.3.2	Student Experience and Student Outcomes Risk Descriptors Paper LTSEC.26.04.03 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.3.2.1	It was noted that the strategic risks relating to student experience and student outcomes have not significantly changed. However, risks related to student wellbeing and inclusivity will be incorporated into the existing student experience risk, to be monitored through LTSEC. This will be presented at the next LTSEC meeting in June. [Action: Deputy Registrar]
LTSEC.26.04.4	ITEMS FOR ENDORSEMENT OR APPROVAL
LTSEC.26.04.4.1	Collaborative Provision Annual Report 2024/25 Paper LTSEC.26.04.04 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.4.1.1	The Interim Senior Advisor – Regulatory and Compliance introduced a draft annual report on collaborative provision, intended to provide assurance to the Board of Governors that appropriate oversight and processes are in place. It was noted that recent internal review activity and an audit relating to market exit arrangements are already informing improvements to current processes.
LTSEC.26.04.4.1.2	Overall, the report was positively received, and comments were received to simplify and strengthen the report. There was support for the risk ratings presented, alongside suggestions to clarify how decisions about new partnerships are made. There were also requests for greater detail on amber-rated areas, how student feedback is gathered and used, and student protection arrangements in the event of partnership closures. The inclusion of more visual elements, such as tables or summaries, was also recommended.

LTSEC.26.04.4.1.3	Members agreed to endorse the report as a first draft to Academic Board, subject to further refinement. [Action: Academic Governance Officer]
LTSEC.26.04.4.2	Updated UWE Student Drugs Including Alcohol Policy Paper LTSEC.26.04.05 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.4.2.1	The Head of Safeguarding introduced the updated policy. It was noted that the policy was originally introduced several years ago as part of a harm reduction approach. The current revisions do not represent a change in approach but instead reflect feedback from students about making the policy more concise and reducing repetition.
LTSEC.26.04.4.2.2	Discussion focused on a number of areas where further clarification or adjustment could strengthen the document, such as improving connections to related policies and support frameworks. It was also clarified that while the policy itself is primarily an internal framework for how the university responds to these issues, supporting information for students remains available elsewhere through linked guidance.
LTSEC.26.04.4.2.3	The updated version of the policy was approved, subject to final amendments being agreed through Chair's action.
LTSEC.26.04.4.3	Intervention Strategy for 2026/27 Paper LTSEC.26.04.07 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.4.3.1	Members were updated on the University Intervention Strategy Working Group and considered the proposed action plan to improve continuation and completion for all students, with a phased rollout planned from September 2026. The strategy brings together streams of activity across the University into a unified approach, utilising current engagement and assessment data to inform intervention plans and provide the structure for collaborative intervention across university teams. It was noted that consultation so far has been positive.
LTSEC.26.04.4.3.2	Discussion focused on the pace and scale of rollout, and on striking an appropriate balance between a unified institutional approach and more tailored, nuanced support for at-risk students. It was noted that confidence is stronger in rolling out the new approach for level 3 and 4 students and a more targeted approach is

	suggested for later stages. A phased but proactive rollout was favoured, with learning and refinement as the strategy is implemented. The development of a more integrated, live student data dashboard was highlighted as key to enabling timely and effective interventions, alongside aligning this work with existing initiatives, such as touchpoint.
LTSEC.26.04.4.3.3	There was also emphasis on defining clear indicators of student engagement and using data more intelligently to understand different patterns of behaviour and outcomes, including where disengagement does not necessarily lead to poor results.
LTSEC.26.04.4.3.4	LTSEC endorsed the direction of travel, with an update to return to the June meeting.
LTSEC.26.04.5	STUDENT VOICE
LTSEC.26.04.5.1	The Students' Union Report Paper LTSEC.26.04.08 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.5.1.1	The Vice President for Societies & Community presented on the Students' Union's current priorities, recent activity, and forthcoming plans.
LTSEC.26.04.5.1.2	Members received an update on the SU election results, noting that the Reimagining Representation Project had helped to create a strong talent pipeline for student reps. Members were also updated on the work of the SU Advice Centre, which has over 367 new cases since the start of the academic year, mostly relating to academic matters.
LTSEC.26.04.5.1.3	Members heard that a significant focus for the SU is the upcoming Renter's Rights Act, as well as the SU's move on the Glenside Campus. Updates were also shared on strong society and sports club engagement.
LTSEC.26.04.6	ITEMS FOR ASSURANCE
LTSEC.26.04.6.1	UWE programmes: progress update Paper LTSEC.26.04.09 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.6.1.1	LTSEC received a short update on UWE Programmes activity.

LTSEC.26.04.6.2	Degree Outcomes Statement: data report 2024-25 Paper LTSEC.26.04.10 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.6.2.1	The Interim Senior Advisor – Regulatory and Compliance introduced the report, intended for public publication, which provides assurance on UWE’s maintenance of academic standards over time. It was noted that UWE’s proportion of good degrees is roughly the same as it was five years ago. It was also highlighted that the report is based on external data, hence there is a time lag, and that it only includes top-level demographic data.
LTSEC.26.04.6.2.2	The wider regulatory context was discussed, including concerns from the OfS about grade inflation and “unexplained” increases in good awards linked to UWE students performing better than OfS expectations. Although UWE is not currently at risk of grade inflation as its good honours rates track slightly below the sector average, areas of concern relate to how outcomes align with the expected profile of its student intake, particularly given the diversity of backgrounds and entry qualifications. It was noted that such statistical models may not fully account for the impact on outcomes of teaching and support provided by the University.
LTSEC.26.04.6.2.3	LTSEC endorsed the statement to 13 May Academic Board, with further refinement to be done prior to publication [Action: Academic Governance Officer].
LTSEC.26.04.6.3	New OfS E10 requirement on subcontracting Paper LTSEC.26.04.11 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.6.3.1	The Interim Senior Advisor – Regulatory and Compliance provided an overview of the new OfS E10 requirement, which applies to a small and limited number of UWE’s UK subcontracted partnerships.
LTSEC.26.04.6.3.2	It was noted that a single source of information on how those courses operate is required, and a gap analysis has confirmed this can be achieved despite some contractual complexity, which could be smoothed out in future.
LTSEC.26.04.6.3.3	Members were assured that UWE can meet the E10 condition.
LTSEC.26.04.7	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
LTSEC.26.04.7.1	Course Survey 2025-26 Paper LTSEC.26.04.12 was received.

LTSEC.26.04.7.1.1	The Head of Student Analytics presented the high level results from the 2025/26 course survey, which saw a modest increase in response rates, although overall response numbers were affected by smaller cohort sizes.
LTSEC.26.04.7.1.2	Overall improvements in satisfaction were noted, broadly aligning with NSS themes. Differences in satisfaction were highlighted across year groups and schools, including a persistent dip in Year 2 satisfaction. Foundation year students had a higher response rate and reported lower satisfaction compared to the previous year.
LTSEC.26.04.7.1.3	Members heard that there has also been an increase in the number of students indicating that certain questions do not apply to them, raising questions about survey design and clarity which could be brought to the student consultation panel.
LTSEC.26.04.7.1.4	Demographic analysis was also shared, which showed some positive trends, including improved satisfaction among disabled students, international students, and Black and Asian students. However, gaps remain, particularly between disabled and non-disabled students.
LTSEC.26.04.7.1.5	Members agreed that a paper will return to the next LTSEC sharing school-level analysis, key feedback, and action plans [Action: College Deans of Learning and Teaching]
LTSEC.26.04.8	SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTING
LTSEC.26.04.8.1	University Quality and Standards Sub-Committee Paper LTSEC.26.04.13 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.8.1.1	Members noted key headlines from UQSSC, including a deep dive on QAA Principle 1, changes to the Academic Regulations and Academic Conduct Policy, a review of Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) outcomes, updates on Partnership Lead reports and reviews and interim risk updates, an update on Ofsted preparations, and endorsed an updated proposal to adopt Cite them Right for referencing support.
LTSEC.26.04.8.1.2	Members were also informed that some minor corrections will be made to the summary report, which will be recirculated to LTSEC members after the meeting. [Action: Academic Governance Officer]

LTSEC.26.04.9	LTSEC BUSINESS
LTSEC.26.04.9.1	Audit of Chair's actions
LTSEC.26.04.9.1.1	The Director of Learning and Teaching for the School of Arts volunteered to audit this academic year's 2025/26 Chair's actions that will feed into LTSEC's 25/26 Annual Assurance report. [Action: Academic Governance Officer to forward details]
AGENDA B	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
LTSEC.26.04.B.1	Chair's actions Paper LTSEC.26.04.14 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.B.1.1	It was noted that the following action was approved by the Chair on behalf of LTSEC since the meeting on 3 February 2026: On 21 February 2026, the Chair approved two corrected versions of UWE's Complaints Policy and Procedure (formerly Complaints Procedure) that was initially considered by LTSEC on 17 September 2025. The policy is split into student and non-student versions.
LTSEC.26.04.B.2	External environment scan Paper LTSEC.26.04.15 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.B.2.1	Members noted this paper, which surveyed external developments in the wider environment that create potential challenges and opportunities for UWE Bristol in the areas of learning, teaching and the student experience.
LTSEC.26.04.B.3	Policy update tracker Link to online tracker provided.
LTSEC.26.04.B.3.1	The progress of policy updates under the Policy Governance Framework was noted.
LTSEC.26.04.B.3.2	Members noted that the review of the following policies remains a work in progress, with policy authors scheduled to bring them to the June LTSEC: i. Conduct ii. Fitness to Study iii. Professional suitability
LTSEC.26.04.B.4	AHEP LLE Report

	Paper LTSEC.26.04.16 was received.
LTSEC.26.04.B.4.1	Members noted the readiness report from the consultancy.
LTSEC.26.04.10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
LTSEC.26.04.10.1	The Chair thanked the Interim Senior Advisor – Regulatory and Compliance at his last meeting for all his contributions to LTSEC over the past year.
LTSEC.26.04.11	DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS
LTSEC.26.04.11.1	Next meeting dates for academic year 2025/26: • 10 June 2026