BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Audit and Risk Committee

Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 5pm in room K-TO-624 and via MS Teams

Minute of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 5pm in Room K-TO-624 Kingsway Campus and via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT: Helen Honeyman (Chair Audit), Ronnie Donegan, Brian Mooney, Kelly McIntosh, Richard Gordon, Carri Cussick, Jenna Lawrence

IN ATTENDANCE: S McNaught (Henderson Loggie), Michael Speight (Forvis Mazars), David Robertson (HEFESTIS), Steve Taylor (Vice Principal Support and Organisation), Andy Ross (Director of Infrastructure), Nicky Anderson (Director of Finance), Megan MacQueen (Executive Coordinator), Holly Farningham (Finance Manager)

1. WELCOME

H Honeyman welcomed members of the Audit & Risk Committee and R Donegan to her first Audit and Risk committee.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from D Smith and D Archibald

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR CONNECTION

No declarations of interest or connection were noted.

4. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee and Joint Audit & Risk and Finance & Infrastructure meetings held on 2 December 2025 were approved as an accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

One matter arising was still to be progressed as part of a future Chairs Committee meeting with the date to be confirmed.

6. HEFESTIS CYBER SECURITY & MATURITY REPORT

D Robertson joined the audit and risk committee from HEFESTIS and delivered an overview of the College's cyber security maturity review. The College achieved an overall rating of 95.5%, reflecting strong cyber resilience. AI-related risks are not yet covered in the formal report due to the evolving nature of the technology, but the recommendation is to treat AI systems with the same governance and security controls applied to any other software.

Several attempted attacks during the previous year were successfully blocked through staff vigilance and system safeguards. The College's risk posture is considered stable and well within acceptable tolerance.

Committee members discussed AI governance, software visibility across the organisation, and web application vulnerabilities. R. Gordon also reported the recent phishing exercise conducted across staff and students, with positive engagement noted.

The Committee agreed that AI presents opportunities for efficiency savings, and C. Cussick offered support drawing on experience with Scottish Enterprise. Training on responsible AI use was noted as a priority.

H. Honeyman thanked D. Robertson for the detailed and informative report.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT

7.1 DIGITAL STRATEGY AUDIT REPORT

S McNaught summarised his report, highlighting the scope and areas of strength and weaknesses. delivered the report. C Cussick praised the report and noted the recommendations seem sensible. H Honeyman asked if the implementation roadmap would be extended longer than a year. A Ross confirmed that the recommendations had been accepted and work was progressing on a 3-year roadmap and investment plan that would align with the Finance Strategy.

The report was approved.

7.2 2025/26 PROGRESS REPORT

S. McNaught confirmed that audit work is progressing as scheduled.

7.3 FOLLOW UP SUMMARY

S. Taylor reported that all follow-up actions were up to date. Henderson Loggie will undertake their annual summer review. The Committee noted the positive position.

H Honeyman thanked S McNaught for the updated reports, presented to the Committee.

8. D&A RESPONSE TO SFC GOOD GOVERNANCE REPORT

S Taylor summarised the College's response to the SFC Good Governance Review, undertaken following issues raised in Parliament, regarding Dundee University.

S Taylor noted that following on from the College's own evaluation based on the available information in respect of the university it had then looked at the Gillies Report checklist and the SFC governance expectations document. All of these had now been pulled together into a single document and the various action points RAG rated in respect of progress. This provided a single document for all of these points and steps.

S Taylor noted that the Financial Strategy, originally planned for December, has moved to March and would come to the Board meeting for final approval.

R Donegan looked at issues with international students and asked, with conflict happening in the middle east, if this was a growing risk. S Taylor noted that the number of international students was very low (c.15 students) and very few of these actually travelled specifically to study at the College. Given this, the financial risk was minimal.
There were, however, needs that were being supported for students with families in the areas

impacted by the war.

B Mooney asked how much longer it will take for the Board Secretary role to be appointed. S Taylor advised that he was not directly involved as this was sitting with the Board Chair , but that he knew that arrangements were being discussed.

S Taylor advised that the report would go to the Board meeting for discussion, with any update to be noted from a meeting with SFC on 12 March 2026.

The Committee welcomed the report and clear progress against the action points.

9. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

S. Taylor presented the Strategic Risk Register, confirming no changes to risk scoring were proposed. Financial sustainability remains a key risk, with the 2025/26 forecast out-turn improving from -£2.5m to -£800k, largely due to staff reductions and course changes.

The RAAC risk remains unchanged and is reviewed quarterly, with the issues and impacts of this shared regularly with SFC.

The credit risk remain low, with overall student activity levels expected to remain within the 2% tolerance threshold.

Committee members discussed whether an AI related risk should be adopted at a strategic level and noted the pros and cons of this. This would be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and reported back at the next meeting. **S Taylor to progress.**

H Honeyman thanked S Taylor for the update and confirmed approval of the Strategic Risk Register.

10. DATA REPORTING

S Taylor noted there had been no reportable data breaches.

11. EXTERNAL AUDIT

M. Speight (Mazars) delivered a verbal update recognising the progress made on audit arrangements between 2024 and 2025. Mazars will host a Public Sector Forum on 26 March in Glasgow, and Audit & Risk Committee members are invited to attend.

H. Honeyman thanked M Speight for his update and commended N. Anderson for achieving a 40% reduction in audit completion time.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2 June 2026 at 5.00pm in room K-TO-624, Kingsway Campus.

Action Point Summary

Action	Responsibility	Date
Potential Strategic AI Risk to be considered by SLT and reported back .	S Taylor	2 June 2026