

# SUALL

Scottish Universities Association  
for Lifelong Learning

Hon Secretary  
Theresa Hoare  
Department of Adult and Continuing  
Education  
University of Glasgow  
St Andrew's Building  
Glasgow G3 6NH  
Tel: 0141 330 1852  
Fax: 0141 330 1821  
E-mail: t.hoare@educ.gla.ac.uk

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at the Open University, Edinburgh.

**Present:** Laura Barjonas (Scottish Government), Lucy Bate (UALL), Jim Bradley (Stirling), Lesley Hart (Strathclyde), Theresa Hoare (Glasgow), Alex MacLennan (chair - no institution), Anne McGillivray (UWS), Geraldine Prince (Edinburgh College of Art), Iain Morrison (UHI), Peter Murray (Aberdeen), Donald Paterson (Aberdeen), Jennie Paul (Napier), Rod Purcell (Glasgow), Colin Thorne (Strathclyde), Hilary Westwood (Scottish Government)

**Apologies:** Muriel Alexander (UWS), Fiona Andrews (Glasgow), Jean Barr (Glasgow), Alison Dix (UHI), Jackie Dunne (UALL), Con Gillen (Edinburgh), Lesley Gunn (RGU), Graeme Ligterwood (SAC), Helen Martin (Glasgow Caledonian), Lea McKay (UWS), Raymond Thomson (Strathclyde), Ruth Whittaker (Glasgow Caledonian)

Professor MacLennan welcomed Laura Barjonas, Hilary Westwood and Peter Murray to their first meeting.

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were accepted as an accurate record.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### a) Meeting with Andrew Scott

Professor MacLennan and Ms Hoare had met with Andrew Scott and Laura Barjonas to discuss ways in which SUALL could advise the Government. It had been agreed that appropriate members of the Lifelong Learning Directorate would attend Council meetings whenever there were particular topics of interest to discuss. We were delighted to welcome two members today to follow up on two issues raised at the part-time forum.

- Information, advice and guidance for part-time learners

There was a wide ranging discussion on this. Although members were keen to see this better co-ordinated, there was a feeling that the one stop shop was not the answer. It would be necessary to identify how much was generic. There were issues with inconsistent messages and no consensus on terminology. There were also concerns about what Careers Scotland (in its new guise) was doing with community guidance and that this agency needed to have higher visibility. It was noted that more use should be made of the Forums and the good work from previous projects should be sustained. There was a feeling that learners who don't come under the WP label were marginalised in some institutions and that there needed to be a shifting of resources from the 'norm' of young, full-time but a critical mass of learners would be

needed to make part time learners a key driver. It was noted that the Cabinet Secretary was keen on introducing a right to request time off for training and providers should be planning for this now.

- **Funding for part-time learners**

Some information on the uptake of ILA200 and ILA500 was provided and changes to the scheme advised. It was noted that the union learning reps were concerned about the threshold, feeling that too many people fell just either side of the boundary, making it difficult to plan training for similar groups of workers. The main users of ILA500 were women returning to study and people topping up existing qualifications eg HNC to HND.

Council would consider what other topics it would like to discuss with the Lifelong Learning Directorate.

- b) **UALL Awards Scheme**

Lesley Hart reported that five applications had been shortlisted and the winner would be announced at the UALL conference in March. A few changes would be made to the scheme next year.

- c) **Website**

It was confirmed the University of Aberdeen could cope with the technical aspects of the site and would nominate a contact. Much of the content needed to be updated and the register of expertise incorporated.

### **3. Chair's business**

Professor MacLennan brought to members' attention an international conference looking at national qualifications frameworks and learner mobility. It was pointed out that there were problems with the mapping of Scottish and English qualifications to the European framework as this then did not always match the direct mapping between the two, for example HND and Foundation degrees. This would have an impact on learner mobility.

### **4. Reports from Sub-Committees**

- a) **Widening Participation in HE.**

The group were currently collecting the annual statistics and urged those who had not yet completed their return to do so. There had been some discussion on the remit of the Forums and it was agreed that it would be useful to have a presentation from the Chair of the appropriate one at future Council meetings. The North Forum would be asked to speak at the next meeting in Aberdeen. It was also suggested that a speaker from the Access Inclusion Committee be invited at some point.

- b) **Management and Administration**

The Chair of this group had been ill and there was currently no secretary. The last meeting had been poorly attended so efforts would be made to get each institution to nominate two members. Those who had attended had been rewarded with a very interesting presentation on the development of the part time degree at Edinburgh College of Art.

- c) **Research**

This group had not met and efforts would be made to refresh the membership.

#### d) KILTS

This group was developing quite strongly and now had 17 members from 11 institutions. At the last meeting there was a presentation from Jacquie Hepburn, Director of the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils. A meeting had also been held with the Training Gateway and it was noted that they would be running events in Scotland.

Geraldine Prince reported on her efforts to establish a Creative Industries CPD network, linked to the employer engagement strand of UALL.

### 5. Reports from Universities

*Napier:* On 23<sup>rd</sup> February the name would change to Edinburgh Napier University. Lifelong Learning as an entity has gone, mostly into Academic Development. Wp and workforce development activities were now through Community Engagement. CPD and customised programme provision was now with faculties. They were spearheading one of the articulation hubs.

*Strathclyde:* the new principal was expected to re-profile the university in the next two months; how CLL would fit into the structure was unclear. Tom Schuller had been appointed as a visiting professor.

*Glasgow:* a Centre for Social Inclusion had been formed in the Faculty of Education. New initiatives on marginalised learners were being undertaken. A targeted CPD programme would be offered in the autumn. The Access programme had been running for 30 years and a celebration was planned.

*OU Scotland:* They originally reviewed and rewrote the WP strategy for Scotland and this has now been extended to the whole organisation, although there is divergence across the UK in the student profile. They have a national role in the articulation programme, working with every college in Scotland. They are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and will mark this by holding their degree ceremony in Shetland, where most people per head of population have done OU degrees.

*UWS:* They were also re-structuring but the university was very positive and the Centre for Lifelong Learning which would become a Lifelong Learning Academy. All widening access, articulation, customised programmes would remain under their remit.

*Aberdeen:* Peter Murray was now overseeing the work of the department. The focus was shifting to credit bearing activities and they were working more closely with departments. Joint activities with Banff and Buchan College were planned.

*Stirling:* They had abandoned the evening degree and the access course for young people had been dropped. They were re-focusing on articulation. Forum funding had been lost and the projects had not been supported by the university. Bob Matthew was running the Centre for Academic Practice and Learning.

*ECA:* In addition to items reported earlier under KILTS they were also developing a partnership with Hereford College.

*UHI:* They now have their own degree awarding powers. The strategic plan includes lifelong learning and numerous projects related to widening access were underway. Jim Gallagher had been appointed as Associate Professor. The North Forum was working well.

**6. UALL report**

The conference in Brighton would include a session, in four mixed groups, on issues for part-time students, sharing information on what is happening in the four nations. The AGM may be held in Dublin and Oxford was a possibility for next year's conference.

**7. AOB**

Thanks for her contributions over the years were given to Jean Barr who had now retired.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 12 June 2009, University of Aberdeen

**Theresa Hoare, Hon Secretary SUALL**  
**10 March 2009**