

SUALL

Scottish Universities Association
For Lifelong Learning

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Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 13th November 2007 at Edinburgh College of Art

Present:

Fiona Andrews (Glasgow), Pete Cannell (OU), Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian), Con Gillen (Edinburgh), Lesley Hart (Strathclyde), Theresa Hoare (Glasgow), Marion Judge (Edinburgh), Anne McGillivray (Paisley), Alex MacLennan (Paisley), Iain Morrison (UHI), Geraldine Prince (Edinburgh College of Art), Raymond Thomson (Strathclyde)

Attending:

Lucy Bate (UALL), Leni Oglesby (UALL), Richard Evans (UALL), Bill Jones (NIACE)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved

2. Reports from Sub-Committees

a. Widening Participation in HE

It had emerged that institutions were using the Widening Access and Retention Premium in different ways and that there were various interpretations being made of the advice governing its use eg for pre-entry courses and summer schools. The guidance given was that there should be clear evidence that the funding was being used appropriately, in broad terms, to meet the objectives of the scheme. The response to the initial reports provided was awaited. Institutions had been asked to share good practice. The situation regarding the Forum funding was unresolved. There may be some redundancies in some projects; formal notification was expected in March.

b. Management and Administration of Lifelong Learning (MAULL)

The group had a presentation from ECA on their studentship scheme. Only three institutions had expressed an interest in setting up a guidance sub-group so it had been agreed that their issues could be dealt with perhaps once a year as part of MAULL or WPHE. ILAs continued to present problems. It was noted that the HE sector working group had not met since 29th March so the convener would pursue this. Hazel Rutherford had taken over responsibility for policy from Laura Barjonas.

c. Research

The group had had to work hard to get a reasonable attendance at seminars. A day school had been run, supported by SWARF. It was intended to run another in March but funding was an issue. Council regretted that it had no funds to support this. The group's priority was to support younger researchers.

d. KILTS

The meeting planned for 7th November had been cancelled. A proper mailing list was being compiled and the terms of reference of the former CPD group considered. It was anticipated that there would be an inaugural meeting in January.

action RT

3. UALL and SUALL Council Membership

Members were asked to check that the nominated contacts for both organisations were the most appropriate. It was noted that there was a vacancy on UALL Executive for a Scottish member and some thought should be given to the possibility of co-opting someone.

action all

4. Skills for Scotland: A Lifelong Skills Strategy

It was noted that the presentation on this by Mark Batho at the conference had been very good. It was agreed that Lucy should ask if he would speak at the main UALL conference in March, where a comparison of the approaches taken by the four nations could be undertaken.

The Council noted that the document did not have much to say about the role of universities, concentrating more on college progression routes. It was felt that SUALL therefore needed to be proactive. Lesley agreed to send a paper to Mark Batho indicating how universities could help the Government to implement the strategy, in areas such as flexibility, employer engagement, work-based learning, although it was noted that the sector was not homogeneous.

action LH

There was also discussion about how best to engage with the Sector Skills Councils. Further information was required on which were the key ones to be involved with.

5. UALL Awards Scheme for Good Practice

Council approved the suggestion that it would be good to recognise good practice in some way, along the same lines as the Careers service awards. Lucy would gather information on awards already available in the sector. Lesley would submit a paper to the next UALL Executive meeting for approval. Issues to be covered included criteria, judging panel, possible sponsorship.

action LB/LH

6. NIACE Commission of Inquiry: The future for lifelong learning: a national strategy

This was noted and members encouraged to feedback via John Field.

7. UALL National Report

It was noted that a draft of this would be prepared soon for approval at the annual conference to be held in York on 17/18 March.

8. Reports from Universities

UHI: ELIR success; another visit in January re taught degree awarding powers following which can apply for university title; changes to management and governance; engaging men project funded by North Forum; new access programme; updated policies on RPL and will need staff development for implementation

Open: issues arising from the fact that it spans different jurisdictions, particularly highlighted by ELQ situation; working with trade unions on work-based learning; projects around new migrants and refugees eg beyond ESOL, academic literacy

ECA: internal review of academic programmes has led to part time study being embedded in mainstream; two new staff; first 8 ftes given; whole team moved to one site; corporate education creative thinking workshops; links with Edinburgh twin city Kyoto; two staff obtained PhDs

Glasgow: T&L strategy seeks to embed WP across the institution; 11 KPIs, one of which is major WP benchmark to double numbers in professional faculties by 2010/11; faculty WP officers appointed at associate dean level; awaiting information on future of West Forum and GOALS project; Brian Findsen returning to New Zealand; Mike Osborne moving from Stirling to become Director of CRADALL; working with Glasgow City Council on learning at work activities; targeted use of ILAs for open programme at low participation neighbourhoods

Paisley: Gill Troup appointed as deputy principal; approval of new name expected any time; review of organisational structure with possible reduction in number of schools; LL subject health review being done; re-validating programmes with course structure moving from 15 to 20 credits; part time retention study complete - paper to be presented to next meeting

Edinburgh: Institute for Applied Language Studies which has 16,000 enrolments, merging with OLL; developing a one year tourist guide training course for the Russian and Chinese market; international summer school targeted at East Asia and North America; part time CertHE offered, to be completed in a minimum of two years, maximum of four; hosting EUCEN conference in June, hoping that Fiona Hyslop will open

Caledonian: John Field replacing Mike Osborne as co-director of CRL; project looking at decline in male participation (suggestion from ECA to target the army); successful student mentoring programme as part of FE/HE articulation; looking at work based learning via foundation degrees in England and HNs in Scotland; ILA evaluation; paper from Scottish perspective on impact of devolution on higher education

Strathclyde: being reviewed in the new year; courses recruited well, numbers are up; introduced postgrad certificate in genealogy; 'All Our Futures' report has led to setting up of Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice with Brian McKechnie as director; hosting conference of Silver Economy Network in Nov

9. AOCB

- a. Members were advised of the SFC consultation paper on articulation
- b. Thanks were expressed to Geraldine and her team for hosting a very successful conference.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

Friday 22 February 2008, UHI, Inverness
Thursday 5 June 2008, University of Edinburgh