

# SUALL

Scottish Universities Association  
for  
Lifelong Learning

Hon Secretary  
Dr R A Thomson  
Centre for Lifelong Learning  
University of Strathclyde  
40 George Street  
Glasgow G1 1QE  
Tel: 0141 548 2239  
Fax: 0141 553 1270  
E-mail: r.a.thomson@strath.ac.uk

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## Minutes of a meeting held within Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye on Thursday 15 June 2006

### Attendance

Fiona Andrews (Glasgow), Alison Dix (Sabhal Mòr Ostaig), Brian Findsen (Glasgow), Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian), Con Gillen (Edinburgh), Lesley Hart (Strathclyde), Theresa Hoare (Glasgow), Julie McAndrews (Aberdeen), Anne McGillivray (Paisley), Keith Mackle (Dundee), Iain Morrison (UHI), Donald Paterson (Aberdeen), Julia Preece (Glasgow), Oliver Reed (Edinburgh College of Art), Alex Rougvie (Chair and St Andrews), Raymond Thomson (SUALL and Strathclyde), Viv Urquhart (Dundee), Derek Young (Stirling)

### Apologies

These were read.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted as accurate.

### Matters Arising

None

### Reports from Sub-Committees

#### WPHE (Fiona Andrews):

1. There had been a successful meeting with Simin Abrahims at Universities Scotland, as a result of which there will be liaison with the Social Inclusion Advisory Group.
2. There had been an approach by the Policy Officer of the Funding Council regarding Widening Access premia, A fruitful discussion ensued. Colleagues with potential input on Wider Access premia should contact Jim Gallacher. It was agreed that Fiona Andrews should contact Laurence Howells of the Funding Council on the worth of creating a SUALL response.
3. The group met Margaret Dundas of the Funding Council (with responsibility for Access) who is keen to see SWARF and SUALL joint events. The meeting welcomed the fact that we are now being approached, and suggested Margaret Dundas as a speaker for the November conference.
4. The Statistical Data collection has been completed and published in glossy leaflet form for wide circulation. The meeting was delighted at the publication.
5. Harinder Lawley (UALL Widening Access Sub-committee) will be contacting Fiona to set up joint events. There is also a new UALL group on Citizenship and Lifelong Learning. It would be useful if SUALL had representation on this.

### **CPD (Sam Allwinkle)**

There was no report and the meeting agreed that the Secretary should contact Sam Allwinkle with a view to disbanding the group.

### **Administration (Theresa Hoare)**

1. The Convenor intimated that the group wished to change its name to the Management and Administration of Lifelong Learning Sub-committee (MAULL). This was agreed.
2. The ILA Working group has met and things are more positive, although there are still some concerns about eligible learning.
3. The Sub-committee has discovered that there is no common approach to HR issues such as modernisation and part-time tutors, payment of casual employees, and Disclosure Scotland.
4. There are potential problems with HESA statistics and spot-checks.
5. The Convenor had worked with the SUALL Secretary and SUALL was now linked from the following websites: Careers Scotland, FACE, ESCALATE.
6. The Open University in Scotland has produced "Diverse Routes" detailing ways of entry into HE.

### **Research (Julia Preece)**

1. Julia outlined the aims of the group in terms of Networking, Resources and Methodologies.
2. A seminar on Action research is being planned for offer in Dundee to be run jointly with SWARF.
3. There has been a bid from UALL for £30000 to produce research on "The Restructuring of University Adult and Continuing Education in the Traditional University sector, c.1980 to 2005". Julia will be the SUALL rep on this.

### **UALL National Report**

1. The UALL theme for 2006-2007 is "Part-time Education", with the Paisley Part-Time Forum part of this. The next UALL conference will be at Queen's University, Belfast, with this as its theme. Ideas are needed from colleagues to progress issues around this theme.
2. The UALL Year Book is going on-line.
3. UALL wants more international link using the Commonwealth Universities League.
4. Other areas of UALL concern included Demographic Shifts and Older Learners, Migrant Workers, Flexible Learning, Citizenship. It was suggested that SUALL could lead the work on "Demographic Shifts and Older Learners" and Jim Gallacher will take this suggestion to the UALL Executive.

### **Reports from Universities**

**Strathclyde:** The Summer programme is about to commence. A new Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Genealogical Studies is being prepared.

**UHI:** The review is now concluded to potentially lead to a University title. There are new articulation arrangements with RGU. "Engaging with men" is a new imaginative project.

**Stirling:** There is a project on student retention.

**Edinburgh College of Art:** The Summer programme is about to start.

**Paisley:** ELIR review is completed. Summer School is just starting. The Bell merger is on track. Muriel Alexander is new Head of Lifelong Learning at Bell.

**Aberdeen:** Now degrees with Foundation Studies: Access Courses are part of this and now eligible for fee-waiver. New developments include pod-casting and a Centre for Learning and Teaching

**Caledonian:** New Principal Pamela Gillies is restructuring with a smaller executive.

**Dundee:** Centre for Learning and Teaching is still being reviewed.

**Glasgow:** New Rowntree project and seminar series being planned. Still looking for funding for international research. Have been reviewed and expect focus on part-time study. Vacancies about to be advertised. Working towards RAE. New degree in Community development. Widening participation Strategy gone through Senate.

**Edinburgh:** Pay Review: Central part of HR did p/t tutors as a batch. Expect them to be Grade 6, because worries about salary impact if graded higher.

**St Andrews:** ELIR completed. New Access from HN to Medicine (with Perth College).

## **AOCB**

1. SUALL will respond to the papers on Teaching Funding Methodology. A group (Anne McGillivray (Convenor), Brian Findsen, Julie McAndrews and Alex Rougvie) will prepare a response and offer their results at the November Conference.

2. Suggested names for conference are Margaret Dundas (Funding Council) and Laura Margolis of ILAs.

Thanks were expressed to Dr Iain Morrison for the help given to the Secretary in setting up the meeting at such a splendid venue.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 23 November 2006, University of Strathclyde

**Dr Raymond A Thomson, Hon Secretary SUALL**

**6 June 2006**