

# SUALL

Scottish Universities Association  
For Lifelong Learning

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the University of Paisley

**Present:** Brian Findsen (Glasgow), Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian), Lesley Hart (Strathclyde), Theresa Hoare (Glasgow), Helen Martin (Glasgow Caledonian), Anne McGillivray (Paisley), Alex MacLennan (Bell College), Jennie Paul (Napier), Geraldine Prince (Edinburgh College of Art), Raymond Thomson (Strathclyde)

**Attending:** Lucy Bate (UALL), Russell Moseley (UALL)

### 1. Change of Office Bearers

Thanks were expressed to Raymond Thomson and Alex Rougvie, who had now come to the end of their terms of office as Secretary and Vice Chair. The new office bearers confirmed at the AGM were Theresa Hoare and Lesley Hart.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved

### 3. Reports from Sub-Committees

#### *a. Widening Participation in HE*

It was reported that Keith Mackle and Hazel Knox would no longer be members of this group; thanks were given for their valuable input over the years. The leaflet covering the statistical returns was not yet complete but a small team would progress this in the next week. There was some concern over the future of summer schools as this activity could no longer be funded from the Widening Access premium and although main T grant funding could now be used for pre level 7 work not many institutions had spare ftes.

The group had also looked at the new fields required for UCAS. It was unclear how some of these new data would be used eg parental occupation and there was a view that the statistics could be misleading. Other issues being discussed included FE/HE articulation, an audit of informal learning opportunities in communities, tracking and reporting the WARP retention policies.

#### *b. Management and Administration of Lifelong Learning (MAULL)*

The group had a presentation from Irene Vezza, University of Glasgow, on guidance for adults returning to education. Following a lively discussion it was suggested that Council would be asked about establishing a Guidance sub group as there was no

suitable national network in Scotland for these practitioners. Council members agreed that they would sound out the relevant people in their institutions with a view to an exploratory meeting being held.

ILAs still continue to be a matter for concern and it was agreed that another meeting of the HE sector working group be requested. Glasgow, Strathclyde and Paisley had all been audited with the same issues arising for all eg tokens not signed by the provider, proof of attendance.

Following lobbying of the funding council by the chair, agreement had been reached for Scottish institutions to make a 'reduced return' to HESA, in line with English CE/LL departments.

The impact of the Age Discrimination legislation on tutors over the age of 65 was discussed. It appeared that there was no standard approach being taken by HR departments to this. The case law was not yet well established and it was thought that Age Concern had lost their recent appeal taken to Europe.

Sherrey Landles from Edinburgh College of Art presented some information on their studentship scheme, where students gain credit of up to 5% per 10 credit module for participation in student activities, student/staff forums etc. Students self-evaluated against specified studentship learning outcomes. Although students had been negative at the start, all had participated and feedback was positive.

#### *c. Research*

It was reported that the numbers attending meetings had dropped. A research seminar on Action Research had been organised for 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **4. Open discussion on areas of concern**

The chair raised the question of how best to interact with the new Scottish Government in a strategic way. It was felt that there were opportunities to influence the agenda. Fiona Hyslop was enthusiastic about lifelong learning but her main area of interest appeared to be the skills base. In this context the demise of the SUALL CPD group was not good. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to revive this with a broader remit to include business and personal skills and work-based learning. It was suggested that it could be named KILTS (Knowledge, Information, Learning, Training and Skills). Raymond Thomson agreed to set up an exploratory meeting.

**Action RT**

It was suggested that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary tried to get a meeting with Stephen Kerr, the new head of HE in LL, to get a feel for their perception of the problems and to discuss SUALL's distinctive contribution to any review of LL strategy. The Chair would also try to get invited to a meeting being held on 28<sup>th</sup> June between Fiona Hyslop and lifelong learning stakeholders.

**Action AM**

#### **5. UALL National Report**

It was agreed to hold a joint UALL/SUALL conference along with the UALL AGM in Edinburgh on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November. The topic would be concerned with changing demography and its implications for lifelong learning. It was expected that this would attract papers on both research and good practice projects addressing issues such as older learners, asylum seekers, economic migrants, urban/rural dimension and gender. Lucy Bate would put out a call for papers with a deadline of mid September. Lucy, Theresa Hoare and Geraldine Prince would make the administrative arrangements and finalise the programme.

**Action LB/TH/GP**

It was reported that the networks were active and in particular the CPD network had a new impetus with 120 members. Many institutions were waiting to see the impact of higher part time fees. The key issue was to keep adults on the agenda in the context of the increasing focus on the 14-19 demographic. In the light of the Leitch report, employer engagement was a top priority. There was a feeling that there were too many conferences; the function of the UALL conference would be a topic at future Executive meetings. The proposal that Lucy devote two days per month to SUALL would be considered at the next meeting.

## 6. Reports from Universities

*Glasgow:* working through the recommendations of the DACE departmental review; still trying to get a proper part-time degree route established - at the moment all provision is daytime; hosting the BAICE conference in Sept 08 on the theme of internationalisation; Children's Hearings training unit extended to produce e-learning materials for national use; STRADA (Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol) contract extended until March 2010.

*Paisley:* the recent meeting of the part time forum, on the theme of funding, had attracted its biggest audience ever; involved in a project with OU, Birkbeck, Glamorgan and Ulster to look at retention and progression of part time students and to develop a model.

*Napier:* being re-structured from 10 departments to 4, concern that LL won't exist; a schism between WA work, which has joined services involved with retention, and community work which has retained an academic development focus; there are concerns about the interface with agencies.

*Strathclyde:* have been aligned with new university strategic plan and have been told to prove their excellence by benchmarking against other departments.

*Glasgow Caledonian:* the summer school numbers were looking healthy; a new Head of Access and Community Engagement was being appointed; there were issues around retention problems and the WARP; an international conference being run by CRLI on 22 June had attracted 200 delegates.

*Edinburgh College of Art:* the part-time degree which was previously full cost recovery now had 8 funded places; lifelong learning numbers are up 12% with 85% of all classes full; the academic review was positive and recommended embedding LL in main provision although the strategic plan does not mention LL.

## 7. Dates of Future Meetings

Friday 22 February 2008, UHI, Inverness

Thursday 5 June 2008, University of Edinburgh