

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

A Meeting of SUALL was held within the Health and Social Care Building, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen on Friday 23rd February 2007.

Attendance

Mike Allardyce (Dundee), Fiona Andrews (Glasgow), Lucy Bate (UALL), Lesley Hart (Strathclyde), Theresa Hoare (Glasgow), Hazel Knox (Paisley), Julie McAndrew (Aberdeen), Maggie McGougan (Robert Gordon), Keith Mackle (Dundee), Leni Oglesby (UALL), Alex Rougvie (St Andrews), Raymond Thomson (SUALL), Viv Urquhart (Dundee)

Apologies were received.

Alex Rougvie chaired the meeting

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted after minor alteration.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Reports from Sub-Committees

- **Widening Participation in HE.** The Committee thanked Keith Mackle for preparing the response to the Review of Wider Access premiums. The preparations for the publication of widening participation data have begun. Simin Abraham will attend the next meeting to discuss social agendas.
- **MAULL.** There is still inconsistency with the way in which subjects are approved for ILAs. Glasgow is being audited by an ILA team. Questions were raised on how much administrative time is being used in operating the scheme. The HESA return is now more complex. A large Scottish contingent is going to the Administrators' Conference in Cambridge.
- **Research.** There will be an Action Research Day on 27 Feb. 40 attendees so far.

4. Correspondence

- P/T Funding methodologies is to be directed from the Skills Council.
- We have responded to the Review of Wider Access premiums.
- Building on Success: There have been 80 responses. The secretary was congratulated on the response. More information will be circulated if it becomes available.

5. New Age Discrimination Legislation

There are 2 issues: Employment Law relating to the retiral age of p/t tutors AND, as there is no longer a "minimum" age, there are difficulties for access courses and the use of terms such as "mature" and "adult", The secretary will approach Universities Scotland for guidance.

6. Interaction and Synergy with UALL

This was discussed. There were views that input from Scottish members was very helpful to UALL and that there was a greater Scottish presence since the last UALL/SUALL discussions. However, many Scottish members are under financial pressures and are having to consider future membership of UALL. It was agreed that discussion would open with a view to obtaining two days per month of dedicated time + looking after the website by the UALL Administrator.

7. EUCEN

Some members expressed dissatisfaction with not being able to access participation in EUCEN projects.

8. 2007-2008 Symposium

The Secretary will circulate, asking for suggestions. It would be useful to get participants from England and Wales. We will therefore have the conference around the UALL AGM. Secretary to liaise with Lucy.

9. UALL National Report

Leni spoke to her report which had been circulated previously by e-mail.

10. Reports from Universities

- (a) St Andrews: Summer School for American University Juniors + US school children. There is a shift from the public-funded arena.
- (b) RGU: The Centre is moving into another Department. The present work will continue and expand into adult learning in rural areas and other parts of the city.
- (c) Strathclyde: There are major budget stresses on the department and a realignment with the University's Excellence Agenda. It is anticipated that there will be a review.
- (d) Glasgow: 4 main student services are being combined into one. There have been discussion with the West Forum and DACE is unclear about the forum's business plans. Julia Preece is going to Lesotho.
- (e) Dundee: There is a new cost-recovery model. The restructurings were explained. Colleagues were recommended to purchase "The Successful Student".
- (f) Paisley: The new University is being formed. The withdrawal of Glasgow from the Crichton campus was noted. The First Year Student Experience Report is due on Friday. It has been awarded a QAA project strand on personalising the first year. Have received FACE funding for Paisley and Aberdeen to do work on the "first year experience for lifelong learners". There will be a seminar on this held at Strathclyde. The Part-time Forum will meet at Paisley on 30 May: "The Changing Policy Landscape".
- (g) Aberdeen: There is collaboration with RGU at pre-access level. The Regent Building has now been refurbished. There are new innovative IT and Video pilots, to expand choice and flexibility for students at a distance.

11. AOCB

None

12. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 15 June 2007, University of Paisley, Crichton Campus

Dr Raymond A Thomson, Hon Secretary SUALL
26 March 2007