

# SUALL

Scottish Universities Association  
for  
Lifelong Learning

Hon Secretary  
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## Minutes of a meeting held at the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde on Thursday 23rd November 2006.

### Attendance

Muriel Alexander (Bell)  
Jean Barr (Glasgow)  
Pete Cannell (Open)  
Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian)  
Lesley Hart (Strathclyde)  
Theresa Hoare (Glasgow)  
Julie McAndrew (Aberdeen)  
Anne McGillivray (Paisley)  
Maggie McGougan (Robert Gordon)  
Alex McLennan (Chair)  
Keith Mackle (Dundee)  
Helen Martin (Glasgow Caledonian)  
Ian Morrison (UHI)  
Julia Preece (Glasgow)  
Alex Rougvie (St Andrews)  
Raymond Thomson (Secretary)

### Apologies

These were read.

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved after minor alteration.

### 2. Matters Arising

“Demographic Shifts and Older Learners” is still an on-going UALL theme.

### 3. Reports from Sub-Committees

(a) Widening Participation in HE: The group met in Dundee on 31 October. The flyer with 2004-2005 statistics has been widely distributed and preparations are in hand for the new flyer. Links have been made with the Universities Scotland Inclusion Advisory Group. The consultation about the review of Widening Access Fora was not as wide as it could have been. Colleagues on the review group agreed to circulate information. The Secretary will invite Simin Abraham to the next meeting. With regard to Widening Access Premia, the position of p/t students will be looked at by a “Skills Committee”. The premium should be redescribed as “Widening Access and Retention Premium”, because those institutions which are

widening access through bring in students from areas of social deprivation have low retention rates. It would be helpful if colleagues responded by saying that more funding is needed. The group will prepare a response along these lines.

(b) **MAULL:** The group met on 3 November and heard a presentation by Margaret Mill (Napier) on "Credit-rating as Academic Brokerage". More institutions are signing on to the ILA scheme, but there are still some areas of concern. With regard to HR issues, tutor contracts, Age Discrimination legislation and Disclosure are beginning to cause some difficulties. It was announced that Jackie Blake (Paisley) is the new Secretary and (from June 2007) Donald Paterson (Aberdeen) will be the new Convenor of the group.

(c) **Research:** The group has agreed to hold meetings in conjunction with other events so as to increase attendance. There will be a workshop on Action Research to be held in Dundee on 23 March.

#### **4. Review of Wider Access Regional Fora**

There is to be a new national committee, chaired by Laurence Howells, to have oversight of the regional fora. We should contact Laurence Howells with a view to being represented on this committee.

#### **5. Strathclyde Symposium**

The secretary reported on the arrangements for this.

#### **6. UALL AGM**

The Secretary reported on the AGM and his perception of the organisation. His views were confirmed by Julie McAndrew. Julie has been asked to take forward a piece of work on retention across the UK. UALL has just opened up a CPD network which may be useful to Scottish colleagues. There may be a meeting between UALL and FACE. Discussion took place on the benefits of membership and it was agreed to open up a discussion on how interaction can be improved. The Secretary will write to Professor Oglesby.

#### **7. Reports from Universities**

**Strathclyde:** The Summer School attracted 1500 registrations. Postgraduate qualifications in genealogy are being launched in January (to go on-line in October 2007). Colleagues were asked to note the major conference "A Legacy of Learning" to be held at Strathclyde on 9-11 May.

**UHI:** The process for taught degree awarding powers is still moving on. The institution will not get the University title in 2007 as hoped.

**Aberdeen:** The Access Summer School was successful. The centre has been re-branded as the Centre for Lifelong Learning. The Centre is getting equipment to pilot web-streaming.

**Glasgow Caledonian:** There has been a restructuring. A lot of activity has been supported by Widening Access premia and this has been kept on hold until the situation has clarified.

**Dundee:** There has been a big restructuring. The Centre for Learning and Teaching has been split up. Lifelong Learning now reports to the Head of Development and there will be a sustainability review. Activity is continuing, but it is not clear for how long.

**Edinburgh:** Part-time tutors have been placed on Grade 7. There is an increased demand for languages and there will shortly be an advert for a Student Support Officer.

**St Andrews:** There is the possibility of structural change.

**Robert Gordon:** Changes are in progress since the arrival of the new Principal.

**Open:** All course material is to be placed on-line as an open source. There is a longitudinal study of patterns of study life which is leading to a questioning of the definition of "retention".

**Bell:** Launching new modules in January.

**Glasgow:** The CRADALL seminar series and research seminar were advertised. Access courses have high numbers and there is now a Foundation Course for Access. The new BA in Community Development has been launched and is doing well. There is to be review of the Masters programme and also the MRes. The new enrolment system has presented problems.

**SUALL:** The Secretary gave a presentation at the North Forum. This was well received and interest was expressed in joint events.

## **8. AOCB**

None.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 23 February 2007, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

**Dr Raymond A Thomson, Hon Secretary SUALL**  
**11 January 2007**