

UACE(S)

Universities Association
for
Continuing Education (Scotland)

Hon Secretary
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**A meeting of UACE(S) was held at 2.05pm
on Friday 25 June 2004
at Bell College
Hamilton**

Present: Lucy Bate, UACE Administrator; Wilma Clark, UHI; Dorothy Christie, Stirling; Jim Galacher, Glasgow Caledonian; Ralph Gunn, Bell College; Theresa Hoare, Glasgow; Tom Inglis, Heriot-Watt; Hazel Knox, Paisley; Julie McAndrews, Aberdeen; Keith Mackle, Dundee (Secretary); Helen Martin, Glasgow Caledonian; Margaret Mill, Napier; Alex Neil MSP (Chair); Leni Oglesby, UACE Secretary; Alex Rougvie, St Andrews; Raymond Thomson, Strathclyde; Colin Thorne, Strathclyde.

1. Apologies

Jean Barr, Glasgow; Una Bartley, Universities Scotland; Martin Cloonan, Glasgow; John Field, Stirling; Lesley Hart, Strathclyde; Graeme Ligertwood, SAC; Lucy Macleod, Napier; Anne McGillivray, Paisley; Pauline Parr, UHI; Donald Paterson, Aberdeen; Kate Sankey, Stirling; Margaret Timms, Robert Gordons; Viv Urquhart, Dundee.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 06 February 2004 in Napier

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chair's comments

None

5. Reports from Sub-Committees

(a) WPHE (Dr Hazel Knox)

Dr Knox tabled a written report (enclosed with this minute) and made four comments under numbered items.

2. She encouraged members to submit the forms for the register
3. She reinforced concerns about the demise of SNAP and the need for a practitioners' network and maintenance of an up-to-date membership list.
4. She reported that she had received 13 returns and was waiting on 3 to complete the statistical report. A summary and a press release will be prepared once all the information has been gathered. A sub-group of WPHE will meet to draft a brief report on community involvement and may organise a seminar on good practice in community involvement.
7. She reminded members that she would be standing down after the next meeting and reported that Helen Martin would continue as secretary for a further year.

(b) CPD (Professor Sam Allwinkle)

The secretary, Colin Thorne, reported on the meeting held on 11 June in the University of Glasgow and Chaired by Keith Mackle. The attendance was low. Keith Mackle gave a report from UACE(S). Kevin Cullen, the Director of Research and Enterprise at the University of Glasgow, gave a useful and informative presentation on Knowledge Transfer Metrics. The return will be unlikely to change for the next two years. The highest weighting for funding will go to Outreach activities, CPD will be in the middle and the lowest rating will be for venturing activities.

(c) Administration (Ms Theresa Hoare)

Ms Hoare reported on the joint seminar held with the WPHE group on 18 June in Edinburgh College of Art. The groups heard a presentation by Sean Stronach of Communities Scotland on the new guidelines for Community Learning and Development Strategies – Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities. The presentation was followed by a useful discussion. A meeting of the Administration Sub-committee followed the presentation. The members discussed ILAs. It would appear that lots of institutions are not signing up immediately. Questions were raised as to whether it will actually be launched at the end of July or the beginning of August. It is now too late for advertisement in many institutions' publicity materials. Three representatives from Scotland attended the UACE Administrators Conference in Warwick. Many of the issues discussed there had already been tackled by the UACE(S) Administration Sub-committee. A small group met in Glasgow on 01 June to discuss ideas for a UACE(S) website. The ideas were presented and approved by Council. It was agreed, in principle, that the Website should be hosted by at the Secretary's institution and that the Secretary would have a maintenance role. It was agreed that each secretary of the sub-committees would provide information for the website. Ralph Gunn suggested that in linking to members' sites a new window was opened up otherwise there would be no way back to the UACE(S) site. Council agreed to allocate £1000 of UACE(S) funds to development of the website.

(d) Linguists (Ms Gillian Brown)

The Linguists Sub-committee had not met for some considerable time. It was agreed during the AGM that a meeting of interested parties should be convened to discuss the viability of the Sub-committee.

(e) SNAP (Ms Lucy Macleod)

The Secretary reported on a conversation he had had with Margaret Dundas, the National Co-ordinator for Wider Access. The proposal was that SNAP would be subsumed within the Regional Access For a. It would be steered by the Fora Chair's Group and national events for practitioners would be organised by an individual Forum depending on interest and expertise. It was accepted that each Forum would also organise events on a regional basis.

6. SHEFC Review of Widening Participation

Lucy Macleod, Alex Rougvie, Raymond Thomson and the Secretary attended a two hour meeting with Tom Ward, Senior Policy Adviser at the Scottish Funding Councils on 15 June. The group was one of approximately 37 reference groups that the Funding Councils are consulting. The discussion ranged over all the questions and issues raised by the discussion paper circulated to UACE(S) members. It was accepted that the Funding Councils could not tackle all of the issues and that other Executive Departments and agencies have important roles to play. Some of the main issues were that there is a need to focus on schools to encourage achievement and progression into HE; equality of funding for part-time students; funding for non-accredited outreach activities – particularly to enable institutions to contribute to Community Learning & Development Activities. Julie MacAndrews reported that the same issues were raised at a recent Universities Scotland event. Hazel Knox agreed to receive comments from UACE(S) members which she will compile into a written response to send to Tom Ward.

7. Consultation on the merger of the Funding Councils

The Chair stated that he believed the merger of the Funding Council was the right thing to do. The Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee's report, which he chaired, made that recommendation and the executive agreed in principle. The consultation document has caused some consternation across the sector and it has been admitted that some of the details were mistaken. It is likely that when the legislation appears some of the ideas will not be in it. It was agreed that UACE(S) would not comment on the consultation document.

The Secretary apologised that there were two item 7s on the agenda

7. Reports from Universities

Aberdeen: The Centre for Lifelong Learning will be launched on 8th October 2004 replacing Key Learning Opportunities. The Summer School for Access has appointed Tracey Stewart as its new co-ordinator.

Dundee: Business as usual

St Andrews: This year the first 6 people have graduated from the Part-time degree.

Napier: The strategic review is now complete and staff are anticipating the finding which will be published in the middle of July.

Heriot-Watt: Tom Inglis had taken part in the Napier review and it was business as usual at Heriot-Watt.

Stirling: DAICE will merge with the Institute of Education from 1st August 2004.

Glasgow: The Chair of Adult and Continuing Education will be filled by Julia Priest from Botswana who will take up post on 1st September 2004.

Strathclyde: 900 students will start on the summer school organised on a fun (not for credit basis). The following new courses will be offered – Post Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching, MSc in Safety Management. The CPD grant was second only to RGU. Partnerships are being developed with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and Glasgow Botanic Gardens.

Glasgow Caledonian: Summer School starts week beginning 28th June and there have been changes in senior management.

Paisley: There will be changes over the summer. Continuing Education and Access have been brought back together into the Centre for Lifelong Learning. From the 1st August Nursing and health will be brought into Lifelong learning where all part-time provision will be centralised. At present they will continue to be physically located in 3 separate areas. Hazel Knox will be carrying out a 2 year research study for Renfrewshire Adult Literacy Project.

Bell college: 16 out of 30 participants on the You Can Do It confidence building programme for returners will be entering part-time provision. The College is currently carrying out a study to look at the market for part-time and flexible learning in their locality. They can already see some interesting things emerging.

UHI Millenium Institute: Business as usual. They are working on access to part-time study for remote learners. HIE has a learning centre development strategy. Part-time access courses are going on-line.

8. AOCB

None

8. Date of next meeting

Friday 29 October 2004, University of St Andrews

Keith Mackle, Hon Secretary UACE(S), 07 July 2004