

SUALL

Scottish Universities Association
For Lifelong Learning

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Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20th November 2008 at the University of Glasgow

Present:

Fiona Andrews (Glasgow), Jean Barr (Glasgow), Ruth Harris (St Andrews), Lesley Hart (Strathclyde), Theresa Hoare (Glasgow), Helen Martin (Glasgow Caledonian), Anne McGillivray (UWS), Lea McKay (UWS), Alex MacLennan (chair), Jennie Paul (Napier), Geraldine Prince (ECA), Rod Purcell (Glasgow), Alex Rougvie (St Andrews), Raymond Thomson (Strathclyde), Colin Thorne (Strathclyde), Ruth Whittaker (Glasgow Caledonian)

Apologies:

Lucy Bate (UALL), Jim Bradley (Stirling), Pete Cannell (OU), Alison Dix (UHI), Richard Dockrell (Stirling), Con Gillen (Edinburgh), Jim Gallacher (Glasgow Caledonian), Graeme Ligertwood (SAC), Jill McKay (Dundee), Iain Morrison (UHI), Leni Oglesby (UALL), Donald Paterson (Aberdeen)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved, subject to the change of the word 'would' to 'could' in the sentence from the Strathclyde report: their community engagement and access work, which was seen to be important, would be subsidised.

2. Matters Arising

a) *Briefing paper for Fiona Hyslop*

The status of the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary was now uncertain as Mark Batho had moved on to become CEO of the Funding Council. His successor was Andrew Scott and a meeting would be sought with him to try and get things moving again. The draft briefing paper was discussed. Geraldine Prince agreed to re-write it.

b) *New Horizons Stakeholders meeting*

Alex MacLennan and Lesley Hart had attended this meeting and a report had been circulated. It was noted that a big chunk of the current funding for widening participation activities would fall into the new Horizons fund and it was unclear what effect this would have.

c) *UALL Awards Scheme for Good Practice*

It was reported that 21 applications had been received, 5 of which had been from Scotland. Those shortlisted would be asked to provide an expanded submission by the end of January and a decision would be made in February. It was noted that these would provide good case studies for the website.

d) *Website*

It had not been possible to progress discussion of the website as Donald Paterson had been ill. Raymond Thomson agreed to take forward a short life working group along with Sherrey Landles from ECA to look at the shape, form and content and liaise with Aberdeen over its sustainability there. Some funding was available to support this.

e) *Creative Industries network*

Geraldine Prince was proposing to try and start up a UALL network around the creative industries (drawing on art, music and computer-based skills) and particularly targeted at young people, especially boys. She noted that all of the English and Welsh art schools belonged to the National Arts Learning Network rather than UALL.

3. Chair's Business

Professor MacLennan reported from the SCQF Partnership Board that the extension of credit rating bodies was expected to be approved in December. Benchmarking to EQF was on-going, with a publication expected in the New Year.

4. Reports from Sub-Committees

a) *Widening Participation in HE*

There were concerns that the new articulation funding was limiting choice for students in that it was being used to support existing articulation routes rather than developing new ones. Phase 3 of the Forum funding was now in place but much of the implementation was still under development. Members were urged to submit their responses for the statistical return.

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

The last meeting had concentrated on ILA matters.

c) *Research*

This group had not met.

d) *KILTS*

A publicity leaflet had been circulated and had resulted in three new members. Eleven institutions were now attending. A survey had shown that responsibility for CPD activity was mostly located within research and enterprise/innovation departments. Jacqui Hepburn, acting director of the Alliance of Sector skills Councils would be invited to the next meeting. People had been making use of the Training Gateway and it was planned to invite someone from this to a future meeting and to investigate if one of their training events could be delivered in Scotland. There was some discussion by Council members about whether the Training Gateway had the infrastructure to support the activity levels being generated. Geraldine Prince offered to circulate some correspondence she had had with Amanda Selveratnam.

5. Reports from Universities

Strathclyde: They were now at the implementation stage of the review, looking at status, remit and structure. The proposal to locate within a faculty was still to be agreed. 975 students were using ILAs.

UWS: Seven schools were being merged into three faculties. Lifelong Learning was seen as a model of good practice, to be mirrored by other services. A trimester system was being introduced and all provision had been re-designed into 20 credit modules. The summer programme had been very successful but it would now be a challenge to fit the

20 credit structure into the truncated timescale. They were developing the community aspect of their work. The Part Time Forum meeting had been arranged for 12th January.

Napier: A major re-structure had taken place. There was no longer a dedicated Lifelong Learning department. 75% had been subsumed into Academic Development, which was problematic for community engagement work. They were leading the articulation hub, involving also QMU, Heriot Watt and the colleges. Employability was a big strand being developed along with volunteering opportunities. Provision was all now in 20 credit modules.

ECA: The part time degree was flourishing. The model had been exported to Estonia and Dubai. One third of lifelong learning students were using ILAs. There was still no institutional strategy for LLL despite it being a recommendation from the 2004 ELIR.

Glasgow: Another attempt had been made to get permission for a proper part time degree route. It was agreed to keep it under review but meanwhile the CertHE programme would be extended to diploma level, creating a pathway for students to complete a degree. The BA degree in Community Development had received CeVe endorsement. Enrolments on the open programme were up.

Glasgow Caledonian: A new widening participation policy had been developed in which CRLI had an expanded remit. CRLI was also now the focus for academic support. They were a hub for articulation funding. An RPL network had been instituted. They were an SCQF recognition centre for refugees and migrant workers.

St Andrews: The part time degree now had 160 students and they had seen an increase in numbers on their adult liberal education courses and languages. All short courses were now captured in the student record system.

6. Annual Report to UALL Council

This report was noted.

7. Meetings via video conferencing

Iain Morrison had requested that we examine the feasibility of holding meetings by video conferencing. Members were happy with this in principle but had concerns about the quality of equipment. Speakerphones were discussed but felt not to be appropriate for a large group. The possibility of trying it out at the next meeting at the OU would be investigated.

8. AOB

Thanks for his contributions over the years were given to Alex Rougvie who was attending his last meeting.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

13th February 2009 - OU (Edinburgh)

12th June 2009 - University of Aberdeen