

SUALL

Scottish Universities Association
for Lifelong Learning

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Report on activities 2008-09

Context

Council met three times during the year. Meetings were ably chaired by Alex MacLennan in his usual friendly manner. Many departments again found themselves subject to university restructurings but there were no real casualties.

The chair and vice-chair attended the stakeholders meeting in August to discuss the 'New Horizons' report. This had been arranged following the meeting with Mark Batho, who had also agreed to try and set up a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop. However, Mark moved on to be Chief Executive of the Funding Council so discussions had to be initiated with his successor, Andrew Scott. The briefing paper initially prepared for Fiona Hyslop was used to introduce Andrew to the work of SUALL. The preparation of this document had been a very useful exercise as it made us clarify our thoughts on a number of issues. It was also sent to UALL Executive who commended it and suggested that a similar document be prepared for UALL. Following the meeting with Andrew it was agreed that members of his team at the Lifelong Learning Directorate would attend SUALL Council meetings whenever there were appropriate items on the agenda.

Members of the Funding for Learners policy team then came to the next Council meeting to follow up on some issues raised at the Part-Time Forum related to information, advice, guidance and funding for part time learners. Shortly afterwards changes were announced to the ILA scheme, incorporating a number of the suggestions made by Council.

The SFC grant letter at the end of March introduced the Horizons fund, with over 11% of the budget being allocated to this. Further guidance will be issued over the summer which may give a better picture of the possible impact on Lifelong Learning and Continuing Education activities. Existing schemes were continued for 09/10 but were aligned with seven priority areas eg the Part Time Incentive Grant belongs to employability and skills intervention and the Widening Access Retention Premium to access and progression. The Funding Council indicated that these would be reviewed in the next few months.

The UALL Awards scheme attracted 21 applications in its first year, five from Scotland. The winner was the 'Realising your Potential' project at the University of Strathclyde, with the 'Activate' project from Glasgow one of the runners-up.

Sub Committees

As in the past, the main work of SUALL has been progressed through its sub-committees.

Management and Administration of Lifelong Learning (MAULL)

Convenor: Donald Paterson (Aberdeen) Secretary: Marion Judge (Edinburgh)

It was a slightly strange year for this group. Donald was ill for several months and Marion left her post early in the year. Many thanks are due to Raymond Thomson who picked up the reins and acted as both convenor and secretary for a good part of the year. Jackie Blake has now returned from maternity leave and has agreed to resume being secretary. Attendance at meetings was patchy but following a push in April it was good to see several new members at the May meeting as well as welcoming back some old ones. ILAs continued to dominate the agenda with both

Strathclyde and Glasgow having around 1,000 students using them. Other issues of concern were related to the employment and training of tutors.

Widening Participation in HE

Convenor: Fiona Andrews (Glasgow) Secretary: Helen Martin (Glasgow Caledonian)

The group again collected statistics on widening access activities. The new funding arrangements and remits for the Forums had led to a disconnection so discussion had been initiated to establish a new relationship. The group was also keeping an eye on the activities supported by the articulation funding as there were concerns that it was not being used to develop new routes.

Research

Convenor: Pete Cannell (OU) Secretary: Ralf St Clair (Glasgow)

This group did not meet this year.

Knowledge, Information, Learning, Training and Skills (KILTS)

Convenor: Colin Thorne (Strathclyde) Secretary: Lea McKay (UWS)

This group has established itself securely this year and has succeeded in identifying suitable representatives in most universities. Responsibility for CPD appears to reside mainly in Research and Enterprise departments. Presentations were made by Jacquie Hepburn, Director of the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils and Kevin McCrudden of Asset Skills, the Sector Skills Council for Facilities Management. Contact was established with the Training Gateway.

Changes in membership

We said farewell to several members this year, among them Michael Allardice, Jean Barr, John Field, Jim Gallagher and Alex Rougvie, who had all been very active members, chairing or clerking sub committees or representing us on UALL Executive. Leni Oglesby also retired as UALL Secretary; she was a faithful attendee at SUALL Council and will be missed. We now look forward to working with her successor, Jackie Dunne.

Financial Statement

<i>income</i>	
Brought forward from 07/08	£3,365
Subscriptions: 16 @ £125	£2,000
Total	£5,365
<i>Expenditure</i>	
WP statistics leaflet 06/07	£605
WP statistics leaflet 08/09	£700
Secretary's travel and subsistence to date	£1,730
Estimate for travel June and July	£130
Total	£3,165
<i>Funds remaining</i>	£2,200

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Hon Sec SUALL
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