

SUALL

Scottish Universities
Association for
Lifelong Learning

Secretary: Dr Raymond Thomson

TEL: 0141 548 2239

E-mail: r.a.thomson@strath.ac.uk

SUALL Research Sub-committee

Secretary to the Sub-Committee:

Mr Michael Allardice

Wider Access Study Centre

Centre for Learning & Teaching

University of Dundee

Dundee DD1 4HN

Tel: 01382 344127 / Fax: 01382 344105

E-mail: m.allardice@dundee.ac.uk

Minutes for meeting of the SUALL Research Sub-committee, held on 13th November 2006 at the University of Paisley.

Present: Michael Allardice (Secretary), University of Dundee; Margaret Dundas, SFC; Hazel Knox, University of Paisley; John Leavey, Communities Scotland; Julia Preece, University of Glasgow (Chair); Raymond Thomson, University of Strathclyde; Derek Young, University of Stirling.

1. Julia Preece welcomed members and thanked Hazel for rearranging the booking from the postponed meeting date in October.

2. **Apologies:** Sam Allwinkle, Napier University; Pete Cannell, Open University Scotland; Sonia Filby, Scottish Agricultural College; John McCann, SFEU; Jill McKay, University of Dundee; Anne McGillivray, University of Paisley.

3. **The minute of the previous meeting was approved.**

4. **Matters Arising:** Prof Preece highlighted the conference plans which would be discussed under item six.

5. **Relevant Correspondence:** Prof Preece told the committee of the recent difficulties she and the Secretary had been experiencing with e-mail communication. She was presently using Dr Knox as an intermediary for all e-mails. The problem seemed peculiar to this one direct link and had been ongoing since the early summer. No one seemed able to identify the cause but it was hoped that the situation would improve shortly.

6. **Plans for Future Events:** Due to the Secretary's recent change in post within the University of Dundee which was part of a major re-organisation, the Action Research Event has been rescheduled. The new date agreed by the committee was 27th February 2007, and the venue would be Dudhope Castle in Dundee. As this would be a joint event with the Scottish Wider Access Regional Forum (SWARF), it was agreed that there would be no charge for those attending. It was also agreed to hold the next Sub-committee meeting during the lunch break of this event to maximise attendance at both.

7. **RAE Update:** No new information



8 & 9 (Combined). Notes on Research Related Projects from Member Institutions & other Research Activities:

Raymond Thomson reminded the meeting of the SUALL Conference taking place on 24th November at the University of Strathclyde. There will be a wide variety of presentations at the conference. He also indicated that his department were involved in the evaluation of a number of projects in Scotland and overseas.

Julia Preece highlighted a new project she is involved with looking at non-formal education based in Nigeria, Botswana and Malawi. It will centre on capacity-building activity and is due to last three years.

Hazel Knox told the meeting that she had now submitted her report on Adult Literacy's and the impact of Education to Renfrewshire Council. She has also just embarked on a project to examine the First Year Student Experience in association with the QAA. Hazel also has a small grant from FACE to look at personalisation of the First Year Experience for Lifelong Learners.

John Leavey was able to give the meeting an outline of the various projects that Communities Scotland is involved in: including the re-launch of SCARF; an Effective Learning for Adults with Disabilities project in association with University of Strathclyde; OECD research into formative assessment across Europe, including three case-studies from Scotland. John also hopes to conduct some mapping of Adult Literacy's research across Scotland and he is keen to develop dissemination networks for research as well.

Margaret Dundas highlighted the SWARF website as a good starting point for up-coming events, and for providing an overview of Regional Forum projects. She commented that the SFEU web pages also had a variety of materials which would interest those in Lifelong Learning and widening participation. Dundee City Council are conducting a research project to examine which areas students in Dundee are coming from, looking specifically for low participation neighbourhoods. LEAD Scotland has some continuing research examining the retention of students in education who have disabilities. Finally, Margaret noted the launch of a project to be lead by Universities Scotland on retention.

Derek Young informed every one of the dates for two conferences in 22007. Firstly, CRLL are holding a conference at University of Stirling from 22-24 June. Secondly, A joint conference to be held in May in Nottingham (Derek can supply details). He also spoke about an on-line Student Experience Survey which is being organised jointly by HEA, ESCALATE and Bristol for March 2007.

Michael Allardice did not have anything to update the group about at present due to the ongoing reorganisation process within the University of Dundee.

10. AOCB- None

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Lunchtime, Tuesday 27th February 2007, Dudhope Castle, Dundee, as part of the Action Research Event.