

**SUALL**  
**Widening Participation in Higher Education Sub -Committee**  
**Thursday 25 May 2006**  
**University of Paisley**

**DRAFT Note of Meeting**

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Fiona Andrews, University of Glasgow (Chair)  
Helen Martin, Glasgow Caledonian University  
Keith Mackle, University of Dundee  
Lesley Gunn, Robert Gordon University  
Jane O'Rorke, University of Paisley  
Kevin Brosnan, University of Stirling  
Antonia Palmer, Edinburgh College of Art  
Tracy Stewart, University of Aberdeen  
Anna Thomson, Policy Officer, Scottish Funding Council  
Margaret Dundas, Scottish Funding Council, SWARF

**Apologies:** John Blicharski, University of Dundee  
Hazel Knox, University of Paisley  
Ian Morrison, UHI Millennium Institute  
Richard Fearn, Glasgow Caledonian University

The chair welcomed Antonia Palmer from Edinburgh College of Art to her first meeting she also welcomed and introduced Anna Thomson and Margaret Dundas to the meeting. She indicated that the meeting would start with an update on the Funding Councils review of Widening Access premia and then the scheduled update and discussion with Margaret Dundas would follow.

**Scottish Funding Council Review of Widening Access premia**

The chair welcomed the Anna Thomson's request to attend this meeting and reported that the group was very pleased to be able to participate in the Funding Council's consultations over the widening access premia and welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the debate. Anna Thomson reported that:

- SFC had a 2-year action plan intended to refine Widening Access premia to better assist the learner
- it was hoped that any proposed changes would be reported for consideration by autumn '06 and that any decisions made could be implemented for 2007/2008.
- It is the intention to review the usefulness of all premia as part of the wider review. Funding for FE / HE and Summer Schools will be part of the wider review but are unlikely to be confirmed for '07/'08. A fruitful discussion ensued. The following lists outlines some of the queries and areas

discussed:

*Do we need the premia? Should it be part of the overall funding structure?  
Should it be ring fenced? Should it be part of each institutions funding?  
How should we measure deprivation- postcodes / data zones?  
Pre-access needs to be on a collaborative / partnership basis - should be  
for entry to HE. Effect of capping on additional funded places.*

*Any additional comments to be forwarded to Anna Thomson by 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June.*

## **2 Update and Discussion with Margaret Dundas**

Margaret Dundas reported that the SWARF website listed all new projects and that these were grouped under headings of Communities, Colleges and Schools. The group discussed ways in which staff across the various sectors could become involved. It was proposed that a conference could be organized perhaps next year. A number of themes were suggested: Family and work based learning, Children in Care, Improving work with re-generation areas, Easing transition to and within colleges (Extension to post 16), Working with disabled learners (Including mental health).

It was also suggested that SWARF could provide an input to the SUALL Symposium in November.

The chair indicated that WPHE members welcomed the opportunity to establish a dialogue with Margaret Dundas and to explore opportunities to work with SWARF. She thanked Margaret and expressed appreciation of her input.

## **3 Report of Meeting 19 January 2006**

Accepted as an accurate record with no amendments.

## **4 Matters Arising**

### **4.1 Statistical Returns**

It was reported that SUALL Council had given permission to publish and that funding could be provided. The working group had had a number of meetings to review the returns received and agree the format and layout of the publication. The group wished to record their thanks to Jane O'Rorke for undertaking the task of compiling the document.

The chair tabled the final draft for comment. Members discussed the layout suggested a few minor changes and approved its submission for publication.

### **4.2 Forum Developments**

The Chair reported that the meeting with Simine Abrahams, from Universities Scotland Social Inclusion Advisory Group, had taken place.

She reported that Simine was very keen to meet with the whole group and would be happy to feedback information and issues to the Social Inclusion advisory group. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged.

#### **4.2 Widening Participation Review**

The Chair reported that she was still awaiting an update on the response made by Universities Scotland Social Inclusion group to the Learning for All Report.

### **5 SUALL Council Update**

No report available.

It was noted that:

- Alex MacLellan would take over as the Chair of SUALL Council after the next AGM in June.
- Keith Mackle would report on behalf of SUALL to the UALL Executive Committee.
- The Research sub committee has met.
- The UALL admin conference in Maynooth had been very successful.
- The CPD sub committee would hold meetings using video conferencing.
- The next SUALL Council meeting in June would be held in Skye.

### **6 Institutional Reports**

Members provided an update on institutional activity.

### **7 AOCB**

Members were asked to check both individual and institutional details on the SUALL website for accuracy. Any amendments required should be forwarded to Helen Martin.

### **8 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the University of Dundee. Date confirmed as Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006.