

SUALL

Widening Participation in Higher Education Sub -Committee

Monday 31 October 2005
Glasgow Caledonian University

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
Ian Morrison, UHI Millennium Institute
Lesley Gunn, Robert Gordon University
Aileen McGuigan, University of Dundee
John Blicharski, University of Dundee
Richard Fearn, Glasgow Caledonian University
Raymond Thomson, University of Strathclyde
Tracy Stuart, University of Aberdeen

Apologies: Hazel Knox, University of Paisley
Lucy MacLeod, Napier University
Jane O'Rorke, University of Paisley
Claire Campbell, Bell College
Kevin Brosnan, University of Stirling
Jonathan Staal, University of Abertay
Julie McAndrew, University of Aberdeen

Welcome: The Chair welcomed Ian Morrison to his first meeting of this group.

2 Report Of Meeting 24 May 2005

Accepted as an accurate record with two changes:

- i) Jonathan Staal should be listed under apologies and not as present
- ii) Under item 8 amend the spelling of O'Rourk to O'Rorke.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 SUALL Booklet and Statistical Returns

Lesley Gunn tabled a revised pro-forma for Statistical Returns, which incorporated suggestions and comments received.

The group were reminded that the collection of this data is one of the most important outputs of the group. The published statistics enable WPHE to provide information to a variety of stakeholders on the range and type of access provision offered by HEI's.

Members discussed some of the activity headings to help clarify how some activity should be recorded. It was suggested that a small working group could be set up to refine categories if needed.

(Lesley Gunn, Fiona Andrews, Helen Martin agreed to this)

In the meantime Lesley agreed to act as the conduit and provide advice.

It was suggested that it is vital that rural inclusion should be recorded.

Recommendations:

- i) Activities should be listed in chronological order
- ii) Any further comments should be sent to Lesley by mid November
- iii) Members should provide completed returns to Lesley by mid January 2006.

Action: All

3.2 PQA

It was reported:

- A consultation document had been circulated to stakeholders including the Universities Scotland Social Inclusion group, for comment with a request that any response to the document be returned by 5th December 2005.

The Chair agreed to try and obtain a copy of the response provided by Universities Scotland Social Inclusion group to the consultation and circulates this to members.

Action: Fiona Andrews

3.3 Forum Developments

The Chair reported that she had contacted M.Dundas, National Co-ordinator to ask her to provide an overview of the operation of the various forum activities. The Nat Co-ordinator indicated that a new web- site had been developed. However this did not provide the operational overview members had requested. The chair had received an e-mailed list of activities of each forum and circulated copies. A general discussion raised a number of issues and suggestions.

Issues:

Members expressed concern that with the loss of SNAP network there was now no national network to provide a forum for exchange of information at practitioner level. At present there was no two-way communication between practitioners and SWARF. Members suggested that forum management were detached from the activities directly involving practitioners who wanted and needed more engagement.

Suggestions:

- Invite the National Co-ordinator to attend the next meeting of WPHE sub-committee to update members on forum activities and to establish a two-way connection between practitioners and SWARF.
- As the Learning For All Report highlights the role of the National Co-ordinator members also suggested that WPHE sub-committee could offer the National Co-ordinator a forum for advice and comment.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a two-way dialog with Universities Scotland Social Inclusion group who discuss issues of interest to WPHE sub-committee members.

The chair agreed to contact Una Bartley.

Action: Fiona Andrews

3.4 Proposed Seminar

Chair reported that she had contacted the Scottish Executive that John Renwick is off ill and no suitable alternative contact could be identified.

It was suggested and agreed that the proposed seminar should be put on hold.

4 SUALL Council.

Raymond Thomson as secretary to SUALL reported:

- i) That the UALL new federal structure is now in place.
- ii) The Scottish Nominees to sit on the UALL executive are; Keith Mackle, July McAndrew, Jean Barr and Anne McGillvary. The Scottish Vice Chair is Jim Gallagher and Raymond Thomson is an ex officio member.
- iii) A strategy paper for the executive will be discussed at the next SUALL council meeting on 4 November 2005. He outlined the thinking behind the strategy paper that the strategy paper and indicated that it would include a suggestion that SUALL should hold an annual conference.

5 Widening Participation Review

It was reported that a preliminary meeting with L Howells from the Funding Council would be held prior to the SUALL Business meeting.

At this meeting members would have the opportunity to hear his response to questions council members had been asked to submit. Most of the questions relate to the Learning for All report.

The Chair asked members to comment on the review document. The general feeling was that the report did not contain anything unexpected. That the gender, ethnicity and disability imbalances highlighted in the report would need to be addressed.

Regional launch events are intended to provide opportunities to answer questions and address concerns.

6 Institutional Reports

Members provided an update on institutional activity.

7 AOCB

Members did not raise any other business.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 19 January 2006 at Perth College.