

SUALL
Widening Participation in Higher Education Sub -Committee
Tuesday 31st October 2006
University of Dundee

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
Jill McKay, University of Dundee
Ian Morrison, UHI Millennium Institute
John Blicharski, University of Dundee

Apologies: Hazel Knox, University of Paisley
Richard Fearn, Glasgow Caledonian University
Kevin Brosnan, University of Stirling
Antonia Palmer, Edinburgh College of Art
Raymond Thomson, University of Strathclyde
Muriel Alexander, Bell College
Lindsay Hewitt, Open University.

2. Report of Meeting on 25th May 2006

Accepted as an accurate record

3. Matters Arising

***SUALL Publication**

The Chair thanked members of the working group for their help in collating the statistics. She reported that SUALL Council members had received the publication positively and that it would be posted on the SUALL website. Copies to be sent to Universities Scotland, the Scottish Executive and Forum Chairs.

Members were provided with copies for internal distribution. It was suggested that Raymond Thomson be provided with copies for inclusion in the SUALL Council Conference packs and that copies also be sent for distribution at the UALL AGM.

Members should keep a note of any costs incurred distributing the publication.

It was agreed that the pro forma be circulated with a request that members gather statistics for '05 / '06.

ACTION: Helen /All

4 National Development: Updates & Discussion

It was reported that the Funding Council intended to consult institutions in early November on the Review of the Wider Access Premiums. It was also reported that there had been recent SFC consultations regarding:

- Future / Continuing role of the Fora.
- Summer Schools (suggested that the funding of Summer Schools would be a decision for the local forum).

Following the Forum Consultation it was reported that Lawrence Howells (SFC) would chair a new forum group and that there would be a 2-year funding period for planning

Members requested clarification on the link between the new Funding Council Forum Group and the UUK Social Inclusion Advisory committee. The Chair then outlined the contents of the letter sent from the funding Council to the Chairs of the Fora as not all members were aware of or had seen the letter. There was some discussion about the future operation of the Fora and the affect this could have on the employment of staff for particular projects.

The Chair asked members if they felt that they were able to influence the work of their local forum? This question provided a mixed response as some members said yes because they had fairly regular personal contact with forum staff but others felt that they had no opportunity to input. Members were concerned that regional representation on regional forums can mean that at institutional level communication can break down.

Members were referred to both the Social inclusion Advisory Group website and the Scottish Funding Council website.

The Chair asked members if any were aware of responses made by their local Forum to the consultation letter. Members discussed what was known but the information available was not consistent across the Fora.

(Ian Morrison reported that the North Forum meeting would be held on 14th November in Inverness. He extended an invitation to members to attend and agreed to circulate the Agenda.)

Members noted with concern that there was no longer a group focused at practioner level on sharing good practice (SNAP). The emphasis is now more on dissemination at executive level.

Members agreed that this group (WPHE) propose the Chair of WPHE be the representative of the SUALL Council on the National Strategic Level group.

Actions:

- Liaise with Raymond Thomson re SUALL representation on the National Strategic group.

Fiona Andrews

Reported:

- * That there would be Learning for All dissemination event at Lauder College on 27 November 2006. This date has now been moved to the New Year – date as yet to be confirmed.
- * Lesley Gunn has been nominated to serve on the Universities Scotland Tuition Fees Information working Group. Members welcomed her inclusion on the group.
- * SIAG- the remit for this group has been expanded to include equality compliance. Members observed that this legislation could lead to difficulties for widening access initiatives focused on particular groups.

5 Institutional Reports

Members provided an update on institutional developments.

6 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held on Monday 29 January in the University of Stirling.