

UACE (S)

Widening Participation in Higher Education Sub -Committee

Friday 31 October 2003

Perth College

Note of Meeting

1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Hazel Knox, University of Paisley (Chair)
Helen Martin, Glasgow Caledonian University
Keith Mackle, University of Dundee
Anna Spackman, University of Dundee
Tracy Stewart, University of Abertay
Julie McAndrew, University of Aberdeen
Kevin Brosnan, University of Stirling
Paul Powrie, University of Edinburgh
Raymond Thomson, University of Strathclyde
Wilma Clark, UHI
Colin Thorn, University of Strathclyde

Apologies: Chetna Patel, Robert Gordon University
Lesley Gunn, Rober Gordon University
Maggie P Mcgougan, Robert Gordon University
Stan Farrow, University of St Andrews
Lesley Gunn, Robert Gordon University
Alex Mackinnon, University of Glasgow
Fiona Andrews, University of Glasgow
Lucy MacLeod, Napier University
Jill Thomson, SAC

2 Report Of Meeting 5 June 2003

Accepted as an accurate record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Feed back from UACE(S) meeting on 27/6/03

The UACE(S) Council approved the revised remit for this group and agreed that the group would now be called the *Widening Participation in Higher Education (WPHE) Sub-committee*.

A final copy of the remit has been circulated to members.

It was agreed that each institution would be entitled to send 2 representatives on this group. A membership list would be circulated and additional representatives sought where appropriate.

Kathy Fowler from the University of Aberdeen had indicated that she would no longer be a member of the group but asked that we record her thanks to all members for their generosity in sharing experience and for their support as colleagues. The group in turn wished her well in her new post.

3.2 Future Funding of Strand 4 projects, SNAP and regional Fora

Keith Mackle reported that, as requested by the group, he had written two letters to Morag Campell (SHEFC), one relating to the future funding of Strand Four Projects and one relating to the Community Learning and Development Strategies. The replies received had been circulated and no further feedback from the Funding Council had been forthcoming.

Members expressed disappointment at the responses received and their concern at the lack of clarity particularly with respect to the funding of projects where decisions regarding the employment of individuals depended on future funding arrangements.

4 New Chair of UACE(S)

It was reported that Alex Neil MSP had agreed to become Chair of the UACE(S) Council. The members of the group expressed pleasure at this appointment.

5 Future of UACE(S)

The Chair reported that a meeting had been held on 8 October 2003 to discuss the future of UACE(S) and UACE UK. A note of the meeting, chaired by Raymond Thomson, had been circulated to UACE(S) Council members. It was reported that a working party was to be set up to look at the Federal Structure of UACE which would report in six months. A paper outlining the financial implications both for institutions and for UACE was tabled and discussed. The view of members was that UACE(S) had few explicit links with UACE national and that they did not see the benefit of belonging to the UK wide organisation.

6 Register of Expertise

The WPHE remit indicates the intention to establish and maintain a register of professional expertise of its members. It was agreed that the chair would draw up a simple pro-forma to include name, subject, contact and area of interest which would be e-mailed to members. It was agreed that this would be a useful exercise for UACE(S) and not just this sub-committee. It was agreed that the WHPE sub-committee would recommend to the UACE(S) Council that they consider setting up a similar database for council members. In addition they proposed setting up a website for UACE(S).

7 Statistical Returns

The Chair thanked members for providing the information which allowed her to collate the statistical returns for 2001/2002. The information highlights the numbers involved as well as the range and scope of widening participation / access activities which occur in institutions. In 2001/2002, 34,500 individuals were involved and these figures do not include statistics from the UHI for which it is very difficult to gather exact figures as it involves FE.

A verbal report pointed out that around 5000 students were involved in UHI programmes and that around 50% of the students were part time and around 70% were over 21.

It was noted that the focus for WPHE is direct entry to HE but that in future there may be a need to consider the FE/ HE interface.

It was agreed that a press release should be drawn up to highlight the numbers supported into HE within institutions and that this should be sent to; Chair of UACE(S), Funding Council, Times Higher, Universities Scotland, Chairs of the Regional Fora, Scottish Executive, Principals of institutions, Jim Wallace.

The Statistical returns for 2002/2003 to be requested.

8 Community Learning and Development Strategies and HEI involvement

A wide ranging discussion took place with various points made:

- Regional Fora are being linked to Community Learning and Development Strategies
- The SE Forum has set up a research project
- There is feeling that there is an obligation on institutions to participate
- The perception that Colleges are local and FE is not is false. Napier is very active in community learning
- FE is now more constrained (new targets to meet) and HE may now be in a more flexible position.

It was felt that there were two main issues to be addressed.

- i) How are institutions engaging in the planning process?
- ii) What activities are taking place in the community?

Members agreed that these issues were part of an evolving process particularly in respect to activities but that the initial focus should be centred round the planning process.

It was agreed that at the next meeting of the group on January that each institution should present an honest account on each of these issues. This would then allow the group to decide on the next step.

9 SNAP

It was reported that the funding for SNAP had been due to finish in July 2003 but that a series of meetings had been held throughout the summer the outcome of which was that funding had been continued until December 2003.

Lucy McLeod had become the new chair of SNAP and a proposal on the future of SNAP had been submitted to the Funding Council by the SNAP committee.

It was reported that the Chair's of the Regional Fora had been asked to comment on the future of SNAP.

The reporting officer for SNAP expressed the hope that SNAP would survive and survive as a network of Access Practitioners.

It was noted that the future of SNAP may have implications for the WPHE sub-committee.

10 Research Activity Reports and Institutional Reports.

Members provided reports.

It was noted that many changes in structure and personnel had taken place within institutions. It was suggested that each institutions should be asked to provide a map of the structure of their institution.

Members agreed that this proposal be remitted to the UACE(S) Council.

11 AOCB

None

12 Date of next meeting:

2pm on Wednesday 28 January 2004 at the University of Abertay