

FERB13-019

University of the Highlands and Islands

Draft Minute

Committee Further Education Regional Board (FERB)/FE Planning Board
Date & Time Friday 26 April 2013 at 1.30pm
Location EO1 Ness Walk, Inverness
Purpose Scheduled meeting
Quorum Further Educational Regional Board (FERB)/FE Planning Board Friday 26 April 2013 at 1.30pm
EO1 Ness Walk, Inverness
Half plus one

Present

Michael Foxley (Chair) & Lydia Rohmer	WHC
Bill Ross (p) & Janice Annal (c)	Orkney College (VC)
Drew Ratter (c) & Irene Peterson (p)	Shetland College
Mike Devenney (p) & Jana Hutt (c)	Moray College
Gordon Jenkins (p) & Niall Smith (c)	North Highland College
Iain MacMillan (p)	Lews Castle College (VC)
Hector Morrison (p)	HTC (VC)
David Gray (c)	NAFC (VC)
Thomas Moore (p) & Ian Mathers (c)	Perth College (VC)
Dianne Rawlinson (p) & Garry Sutherland (c)	Inverness College
Fraser Durie (p) & John Coulston (c)	Argyll College
Katrina Paton (Pres) & Rachel Parker (Pres- elect)	UHISA
Fraser Grieve (Manager)	SCDI
Carroll Buxton (Director)	HIE (VC)

In attendance Judith Henderson Scottish Funding Council (SFC)
Martin Wright (UHI EO)
Linda Stewart (UHI EO)
Roger Sendall (*minutes*)

Apologies Penny Brodie, Roddy John MacLeod, Aideen O'Malley, Murray McCheyne, Boyd Robertson, Michael Gibson, Crichton Lang, Fiona Larg, Gordon McGuinness (VC failure), SDS representative

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Agenda Item	Action
1 WELCOME	
The Chairman opened the meeting and noted that a quorum was present.	
Declarations of interest: None	
AOCB:	
i) Summer forum – The Chair proposed that the FERB should hold a half day strategic forum event in August or September 2013 with all members present in person in an effort to develop and enhance relationships and to assist the group to function effectively and to discuss individual and collective ambitions for the next 5 years.	
2 MINUTES	
2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 th February 2013 (FERB13-010) were reviewed and approved subject to minor amendment.	UHISA President
It was noted that the President of UHISA would provide a brief paragraph for inclusion in the minute after paragraph 2.2 bullet (3).	
2.2 Matters Arising:	
Members noted the matters arising paper FERB13-011.	
3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	
The Chair congratulated Mike Devenney with regard to his successful application and forthcoming appointment as Associate Principal: Further Education. It was noted that an offer had also been made to appoint an Associate Principal: Research and Specialist, however, to date this appointment was unconfirmed and no further information was available.	
Members then noted the written report provided by the Chair (FERB13-012) providing an update on progress with regard to the passage of the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill and proposed amendments to the Universities Articles of Association to enable the University to formally establish FERB as a sub-committee of Court with appropriate delegated authority to enable FERB to act as the regional board for the Highlands and Islands.	
It was noted that FERB held a strong view that the Universities new Articles of Association should explicitly refer to FERB and it's authority to lead on governance of further education within the region. Some members were disappointed that the University had not initiated a formal consultation process with AP Boards of Management over the proposed new articles, however, it was noted that the University had provided all AP Principals with an opportunity to comment on the draft new articles and that AP Chairs had also been engaged in the process via their attendance at or membership of the Court. The proposed amendments to the Articles and Post 16 Bill were unanimously agreed.	Chair
It was noted that the Chair would circulate a regular newsletter to members to keep them apprised of key issues under consideration by the FE Regional Leads.	
It as noted that Mike Devenney would lead on the process of electing an FE student to serve as a member of FERB as a priority.	

4 EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMME 2014/2020

FERB received a presentation from Mrs Linda Stewart outlining opportunities for funding in accordance with the new EU Structural Funds Programme for Scotland for the period 2014/2020.

A copy of the presentation slides are appended to and form a part of this minute. After discussion the FERB wanted to input to the Regional Skills Investment Plan, the H&I Operational Plan and the UHI 2020 Plan. MD to collate ideas from the APs.

5 SDS ITEMS – deferred.

It was noted that Graham McGuinness was unable to join the meeting due to a failed VC connection at the SDS site. Mr McGuinness did however provide FERB with a series of slides for information purposes and these are appended to and form a part of this minute.

6 REGIONAL OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

6.1 Implementation of 2012/2013 Outcome Agreement

FERB noted paper FERB13-013 outlining progress made in implementing the 2012/2013 Outcome Agreement.

It was noted that the Chair would like members to consider issues related to Outcome 12 "Undertake a thorough and rigorous mapping exercise to determine the further education map across the region with a view to identifying gaps in provision" and Outcome 21 "Review the extent and effectiveness of existing school/college activity across the region and ensure that there are sufficiently well developed plans in place for each of the colleges to play their full part in the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence." as topics for discussion at the next meeting.

It was also noted that FERB would require an early report from members with regard to coordinating regional employer engagement strategies (outcome 37).

It was noted that SCDI were hosting a regional event on 17th May and that FERB representation at that event would be desirable.

6.2 Development of 2013/2014 Outcome Agreement

FERB agreed to support the key priorities for further education in the Highlands and Islands region for the years 2013/2014 as presented within paper FG13-014 with the exception of the statements on page 4 relating to a "commitment to Gaelic language, culture and research". It was noted that this was a requirement on the University and not for APs and it was agreed to remove this section from the FE section of the OA.

The Principal of LCC agreed to circulate the LCC Gaelic language plan to members of FERB for discussion at a future meeting.

The FTE recruitment for 13/14 was 4974 – in increase of 305 or 6.5%.

It was noted that FERB felt strongly that opportunity must exist within the scope of the OA for colleges to be able to adapt targets to meet economic & environmental factors without financial penalty and it was noted that the SFC accepted this principle.

Despite the recent SG budget increase there was still a 4.5% efficiency saving needed. The Chair agreed to express the concerns of the FERB to the SFC and SG.

The Chair also hoped the 14/15 ROA would include all FE Colleges in the H&I delivering FE.

Principal
LCC

6.3 Funding and Student Activity Levels 2013/2014

FERB agreed to approve the individual college allocations of funding and activity for 2013/2014 as set out within scenario 1 of paper FG13-0015.

7 TRANSITIONAL FUNDING BID TO SFC

It was noted that the University secretary had submitted a formal bid for transitional funding to SFC following consultation with the Chair and Principal of Moray College. It was noted that the bid was being considered but that SFC had requested further information from the University with regard to anticipated savings from Shared Services.

8 STUDENT REPRESENTATION PROJECT UPDATE

FERB noted the paper FERB13-016 prepared by Simon Varwell highlighting progress made with the project to date.

9 SHARED SERVICES UPDATE

FERB noted paper FERB13-017 prepared by the Chair of Shared Services Project Board including a copy of the Fort Augustus 2 Agreement reaffirming commitment of individual APs to develop a range of shared services through establishment of a cost sharing group. It was noted that good progress had been achieved and that the next stage was now to develop a comprehensive business plan for the project.

It was noted that the Chair of Shared Services Project Board would liaise with SAMS and SMO with regard to obtaining clarification about their involvement.

10 INEQUALITIES WORKING GROUP

The Chair reported that one meeting of the Inequalities Working Group had taken place. It was noted that the Chair would circulate relevant papers to members in due course.

11 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

FERB approved the draft communications plan (FERB13-018) prepared by the Director of Marketing Communications and Planning subject to minor amendment.

12 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Next meeting to take place on 17th June 2013.

Chair

Enter G
Sutherland

The meeting closed at 16:25 hrs.