

University of the Highlands and Islands

Committee Further Education Regional Board (FERB)
Date & Time Monday 13th June 2016 at 2pm
Location EO5 Ness Walk, Inverness
Purpose Scheduled meeting
Quorum Half plus one.

Present

Michael Foxley (Chair)	
Andrew Campbell	Chair of Argyll College UHI (VC)
Jana Hutt	Chair of Moray College UHI (VC)
Peter Campbell	Chair of Shetland College (VC)
David Sandison	Chair NAFC UHI (VC)
Niall Smith	Chair of North Highland College (VC)
Mike Devenney	Associate Principal FE(VC)

In attendance

Lydia Rohmer Principal of West Highland College UHI
 Diane Rawlinson Principal of Inverness College
 Bill Ross Principal of Orkney College UHI (VC)
 Fraser Durie Principal of Argyll College UHI
 Margaret Munckton Principal of Perth College UHI
 Iain MacMillan Principal of Lews Castle College UHI
 Willie Shannon Director of NAFC (VC)
 Fiona Larg UHI Chief Operating Officer and Secretary
 Clive Mulholland Principal and Vice Chancellor
 Crichton Lang Deputy Principal
 Graeme Kirkpatrick, Director of HISA
 Roger Sendall (*minutes*)

Apologies

Agenda Item

Action

1 WELCOME

The Chairman noted that a quorum was not present.

It was agreed to consider the business presented and then for the Chair to circulate a note and recommendations to all members following the discussion with a view to seeking approval or otherwise via correspondence.

Declarations of interest: None

AOCB: None.

APFE/
CHAIR

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 The minutes of special meeting of the FE Executive Board (FEEB) held on 3rd June 2016 (FERB16-030) were noted.

3 ALLOCATIONS OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY & FUNDING 2016-17

The meeting considered paper FERB16-031 prepared jointly by the Associate Principal FE and the Principal of Lews Castle College UHI setting out recommendations from the FEEB in relation to the distribution of the regional core student activity for 2016-17 and associated funding allocations.

Following due consideration the following recommendations were agreed:

1. To approve the allocations of student activity for 2016-17 as recommended by the Further Educational Executive Board (including a reduced target for NHC (-536 credits/4.3%) with credits redistributed amongst Inverness, Moray, Orkney, Perth and Shetland).
2. To approve the allocations of teaching and waiver funding for 2016-17 as recommended by the Further Educational Executive Board consistent with the allocation methodology used for 2015-16. In making this recommendation it was noted that the methodology would be reviewed by FEEB and FERB in the autumn of 2016 with a view to minimising financial turbulence.
3. To approve the recommendation from FEEB to allocate transition funding amounting to £168,433 received from the Scottish Funding Council for 2016-17 on a pro-rata basis to support existing activities.
4. To approve the recommendation from FEEB to approve option 2 presented within paper FERB16-031 setting out allocations of Capital and Maintenance funding distributions for 2016-17.
5. To approve the recommendation from FEEB to approve the regional budget overhead for 2016/17 presented within paper FERB16-031 (total of £320k).

The following points were also noted:

- i. Clarification is needed in relation to the total cost of implementing National Bargaining and a 2016-17 pay award for teaching and support staff so as to ensure that the measure is fully funded by SFC. It is currently anticipated that the region has been underfunded for this measure and that additional funding from SFC of approximately £300k will be required. The Principal of LCC will continue to liaise with the SFC on this issue.
- ii. The required level of Student Support Funding for 2016-17 across the region is currently unknown. There was an underspend of £207k in 2015-16 however the funding allocated for 2016-17 is £382k less than the estimated required need for 2016-17. Consequently, strenuous efforts will be made to retain unspent funds to mitigate the predicted shortfall next year.
- iii. The Chair of Moray College was unhappy about the apparently inequitable distribution of FE funding to Moray College and it was agreed that the methodology a used should be reviewed for 2017-8.

Principal
LCC

Exit non
members

4 STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

It was noted that the Chair wished to submit a FERB view into the University's SWG process and discussions and he encouraged members to submit any comments they may have to him for this purpose.

5 EU REFERENDUM

The Chair enquired if members felt it would be appropriate for FERB to contribute to the EU referendum debate and to publicise a common view. It was noted that this matter would be discussed at Court on 15th June.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting – The next scheduled meeting is 7th September 2016.

