

University of the Highlands and Islands

Committee Further Education Regional Board (FERB)
Date & Time Friday 24th March 2017 at 11:30am
Location EO1 Ness Walk, Inverness
Purpose Special meeting convened at short notice.
Quorum Half plus one.

Present

Michael Foxley (Chair) (VC)	
Andrew Campbell	Chair of Argyll College UHI (VC)
Ash Major	Chair of Moray College UHI (VC)
Grant Myles	Chair of Perth College UHI (telephone)
Peter Campbell	Chair of Shetland College (VC)
Clive Rowlands	Chair Lews Castle College UHI (VC)
David Sandison	Chair NAFC UHI (telephone)
Blair Sandison	Chair North Highland College UHI (VC)
Patrick O'Donnell	Staff Member
Lisa Massie	Independent member (VC)
Carole Buxton	Independent member HIE (VC)
Irene Peterson	Vice Principal FE

In attendance

Lydia Rohmer Principal of West Highland College UHI (VC)
 Diane Rawlinson Principal of Inverness College (VC)
 Clive Mulholland Principal and Vice Chancellor
 Garry Coutts Chair of Court (telephone)
 Roger Sendall (*minutes*)

Apologies Aideen O'Malley, Max Haddow Mendes, Crichton Lang, Neil Stewart, John Hutchison, Calum Macpherson, Seonag Campbell, Wilf Weir, Luke Humberstone, Fiona Larg

Agenda Item

1

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chairman noted that a quorum was present and thanked members for making themselves available for the meeting at short notice.

The above apologies were noted.

Declarations of interest: None

AOCB: None.

2

Proposed FE Funding Methodology for AY2017/18

FERB considered paper FERB17-015 prepared by the Acting Vice Principal Further Education (VPFE) comprising a proposed funding methodology and mechanism for determining the allocation and distribution of Further Education funding to Academic Partners (APs) for the 2017/18 academic year that was based on the indicative funding allocations published by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) on 10th February 2017.

The VPFE reported that the proposal followed a special meeting of FE Principals held on 16th March 2017 and that the recommended distributions and methodology had been agreed by six of the nine FE Principals for one year only (this being AY2017/18).

Following due consideration FERB resolved to approve the recommended model and distribution for 2017/18 only. The following points were highlighted:

Action

- i. The proposal was supported by six of nine FE Principals and represented an uplift in cash terms for all qualifying APs with the exception of LCC who had relinquished 1000 credits in this model. These credits would be reallocated to Inverness (500), West Highland (300) and Shetland/NAFC (200) colleges. It was noted that the proposal was for one year only in the context of anticipated future changes to various funding streams and was also based on the SFC indicative funding announcement as opposed to confirmed figures.
- ii. The SFC had indicated that they would provide financial assistance to Moray College UHI to implement a voluntary severance scheme ((VSS) circa £450k) as identified within the Moray College Recovery Plan if the Regional Board would also increase the allocation of FE funding provided to the college. The recommended proposal would result in an increased cash payment of circa £240k for Moray College and it was anticipated that this action would be sufficient to unlock SFC funding for a VSS when considered in company with a full curriculum review at Moray and a commitment by the University to work with the college to enhance financial controls.
- iii. It was noted that NHC had objected to the proposed model on the basis that they did not feel that a flat rate allocation was an appropriate methodology for dealing with the distribution of funds for rural delivery. It was noted that work was progressing to consider the future allocation of rurality payments.

3 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meetings are 11th May and 13th September 2017.