

University of the Highlands and Islands

Further Education Regional Board (FERB)

25 May 2018, 16:00

EO5 Ness Walk, Inverness and by VC

Special meeting

Quorum 12 members

Present Michael Foxley (Chair); Garry Coutts; Murray Easton; John Hutchison VC; Bruce Robertson TC; Wilf Weir; John Ross Scott VC; Holly Scrimgeour VC; Andrew Campbell TC; Diane Rawlinson; Neil Stewart; Blair Sandison TC; David Sandison VC; Peter Campbell VC; Callum Stephen VC

In attendance Fiona Larg (in part); Roger Sendall; Clive Mulholland TC; Niall McArthur; Lydia Rohmer VC; Donald MacBeath VC

Apologies Grant Myles

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted the above apologies.</p> <p>Declaration of Interest: None</p> <p>Notification of any other competent business: Need for a Tertiary Committee</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Members reviewed and approved the minutes of the FERB meeting held on 15th May 2018 (FERB18-032).</p>	
3.	<p>DISTRIBUTION OF FE FUNDING: APPROVALS REFERRED FROM 15th MAY 2018</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their attendance and reported that the meeting had been called to review recommendations in relation to four FE funding papers that had been presented to members of FERB at a meeting on 15th May. That meeting had not been quorate and it was therefore necessary to review the recommendations and to formally identify and approve the distribution an allocation of various FE funding streams to individual academic partners.</p> <p>During discussion of the options presented the following key points were noted:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray College have been working very hard to improve their financial position over the past twelve months and further cuts to FE funding in 2018/19 will present particular challenges for the college. It was agreed that the University would meet with Moray separately in an effort to identify appropriate support. • Shetland, NAFC, Argyll, Orkney and West Highland Colleges all favour option 2 within paper FERB18-18 as this distribution follows the SFC guidance in relation to allocating rural funding to the most remote locations. There is a clear need to review the methodology behind future funding distributions to ensure that the region maximises capture of SFC grant funding, that colleges receive funding for activity they deliver and that rurality funding is allocated to the most remote and rural partners. <p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper FERB18-17 Management of Cut in Student Activity – FERB agreed to adopt option 1 as the agreed methodology for distribution of the cut to core credits whereby the cut in core credits will be distributed amongst partners not making target at the year end. <p>It was noted that should the cut in core credits exceed the number of credits by which partners fall below target, that the remainder of the cut would be distributed amongst all partners (including those not making target). This cut would be imposed for a single year with a review undertaken to inform distribution the following year (2019/20).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper FERB18-18 Distribution of FE Funding for 2018/19 – A majority of members agreed to distribute funding in accordance with the model represented by Option 1 (Table 1). However, it was noted that many aspects of this model were unsatisfactory and that there was a clear need for further work to develop a fairer funding methodology that would enable rurality funding to flow to the most rural and remote colleges but also rewarding larger urban colleges for delivering additional activity in order to assist the region to meet its core targets. • Paper FERB18-19 Distribution of Capital Grant Funding for 2018/19 – FERB agreed to approve option 2 as presented. • Paper FERB18-20 Distribution of Student Support Funding for 2018/19 – FERB agreed to approve the proposed allocation for 2018/19 as presented within the paper. It was noted that the allocation was based on the same pro-rata calculation that was used in 2017/18. 	
4.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Need for a Tertiary Committee: The Chair of Inverness College reported that the Integration Board had met with the Minister for Further Education Higher Education and Science on 18th May to discuss the proposal to integrate four colleges with the University. Whilst the Minister had not offered her support for the current plan she had acknowledged that there was a need for change within the governance arrangements of the partnership and it was suggested that a useful development would be to develop a tertiary committee. This may be a natural evolution of FERB in providing a forum for Chairs to discuss issues and concerns in relation to any matter and would better reflect tertiary management structures. It was agreed that this matter should be considered by the VPFE and DP over the summer period.</p>	FPFE, DP