

For Information

Purpose

This is a summary paper regarding current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Scotland Branch.

Main Report

EAUC-Scotland Branch Meeting: 2 May 2012

A branch meeting was held at Perth College on Wednesday, 2 May 2012. Much ground was covered and full Minutes will be available but the following specific issues may be of interest to the Board:

UCCCfS Reporting: members raised concerns regarding the range of reporting arrangements they now have to contribute to, with recent development regarding the Scottish Government's public sector duties serving to further complicate the picture. The Branch noted that Sarah Lee had been in discussion with a number of agencies, notably the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council regarding this issue. For its part the Branch expressed its strong desire that the EAUC act to facilitate dialogue on the co-ordination and minimization of reporting arrangements for HE and FE, and that if necessary, the UCCCfS be adapted to avoid being seen to add to the reporting burden.

UCCCfS Governance: the Branch noted that it had not been possible to bring forward a proposed model for sector partners' involvement in the governance and monitoring of the UCCCfS. The Branch asked that a more detailed discussion of this issue take place at the next meeting.

College Developments: the Branch set aside time to discuss College specific issues, notably how the EAUC's Scotland Branch and Office could support the retention of sustainable development as a key issue during the process of transition towards a reduced number of Colleges. It was noted that the 100% participation in UCCCfS would assist this, as would the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council links maintained by the EAUC-Scotland Office. It was also noted that timely and early communication, offering assistance to current and prospective College Principals, would be appropriate.

Board Developments: during a briefing on Board issues and the AGM the following key points emerged:

- **Trustee Appointments:** the Branch noted the appointment of two new Trustees. For its part the Branch welcomed the fact that members had been given a free vote on this matter.
- **Rio + 20 Progress:** the Branch noted the EAUC's success, in collaboration with international partners, in securing a side event at Rio +20. Colleagues also noted the opportunity to support this process through signing of an HEI Declaration.
- **AGM Discussion of Membership Fees:** the Branch noted that this matter had been discussed at AGM. For its part the Branch noted that it had found the communication of this matter to be poor, with key information lost in an over complex document. The Branch accepted that for too long fees had been too low, but expressed concern at the scale and timeline for the increase in fees. It was also noted that the several institutions, while supportive of the EAUC, were going to struggle to justify the increase from within what were, in general, estates (or similar operational) budgets.

Fraser Lovie
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3 May 2012