

EAUC BOARD PAPER
Title: Scotland Branch Report
Paper No: 17.09.10



For Information

Purpose

A brief summary of current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Scotland Branch.

Report

Branch Meeting: A meeting of the EAUC-Scotland Branch took place at Glasgow College of Nautical Studies (GCNS) on 5 August 2010. The venue was provided by one of the new members of the Branch (James Burns, Head of Quality and Marketing at GCNS). Full minutes will be available in due course.

At that meeting I took the opportunity to brief the Branch on the last meeting of the Board (22 July) and the progress made since the earlier away-day. That briefing outlined the intention to introduce a risk-assessment framework and Board sub-committees; the review of the Mission, Vision and Values; our decision to make only minor amendments to the EAUC's 5 year plan; and a more general discussion of the development of the Board following its recent changes. These points were well received.

Projects: Full detail of all Scottish (and national) projects is included in the report by the Head of UK Programmes & Scotland Manager. However, the following matters are worth highlighting:

- The Branch noted both the ongoing development of a 'sponsorship' element in support of the '*Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland*' (UCCCfS). It also noted the inclusion of the UCCCfS (and the role of the EAUC as a partner organisation) in the Scottish Government's "Learning for Change" strategy. The latter forms part of the Scottish contribution to the second half of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.
- The Branch discussed the detail and potential of the pilot '*Behaviour Change Management Programme*'. This significant new EAUC project, being undertaken in the first instance with Reid Kerr College and the University of the West of Scotland, is based on the NUS Green Impacts programme. It was warmly received by the Branch, which hoped this will evolve as a major strand of the support the EAUC offers to the UCCCfS. Both participant institutions are represented on the Scotland Branch and we look forward to feedback on the project. It was also noted that the University of Edinburgh will undertake the Green Impacts programme independently.
- The Branch had a prolonged discussion about '*Universities that Count*'. I reassured the Branch that the Board, at its previous meeting, had discussed this matter at length and that the EAUC Staff were engaged in ongoing discussion to address concerns regarding the format of this exercise.

Scotland / NI Proposal: The Scotland Branch recently discussed the possibility of inviting colleagues from Northern Ireland (NI) to participate in its work. In the first instance the Branch envisaged that colleagues from NI institutions would participate as 'observers' at the next Branch meeting but that the intention was to offer formal inclusion into an enhanced Scotland/NI Branch in due course. The Branch welcomed this initiative and noted that while there would be certain administrative and logistical issues, e.g. around funding, these were unlikely to be insurmountable.

SFC Funding: The Branch noted the impending submission of a proposal for a further three year funding package from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). If secured, this funding (£410,000 over three years) will be linked to the UCCCfS programme. The Branch noted the critical nature of dedicated SFC funding in the success of the EAUC's Scottish programme and thanked Andrew Chamberlain for his efforts on this matter.

Given the holiday season and the short time since the last Board meeting, this has been a quiet time for the Scotland Branch. There are, however, a number of ongoing and exciting initiatives that continue to be the focus of our efforts. As always, I wish to thank the Edinburgh office of the EAUC for their work in promoting and supporting environmental and sustainability professionals in Scotland.

Fraser Lovie
EAUC-Scotland Branch Convener
24 August 2010