

For Information

Purpose

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

EAUC-Wales Branch Developments

Since the last EAUC Board meeting there has been one Regional meeting held. This report details key items from this meeting (23rd April 2013).

Main Report

Two Presentations were given to the meeting, the first was from Cynnal Cymru describing the work of the organization and that it is contracted to the Welsh Government with regards the Sustainable Development Charter and the Sustainable Development Bill:-

- (1) A networking organisation that enables people to learn from each other and share good practice in Wales.
- (2) Promote sustainable development
- (3) A catalyst for change towards sustainable development in all sectors of Welsh society
- (4) Working with people and organisations across a broad range of sustainability issues.
- (5) Acting as a forum within Wales for the development, canvassing, exchange and dissemination of views, information and policies on sustainable development
- (6) A bridge between the Welsh Government and civil society

FE/HE was described by Rhodri as being the 'engines of SD', having tremendous reach. It was suggested that a conference would be a good idea and that it should include all other sectors and that it was critical that Chancellors, VCs, Principals should be on board.

The second presentation was from Jane Davidson: 'Fit for the Future'

Trinity had won the prestigious award for Best Sustainability Project at the Guardian University Awards⁴. The awards, running for the first time this year, celebrate the best of Britain's universities and act as a benchmark for excellence across the higher education sector. The responsibility for sustainable development within the Welsh Government has changed and now lies with the Social Justice Minister; social justice is to factor into all decisions.

Sustainable development was described as the 'golden thread' which needs to run through high-level decision-making and that this requires huge organisational change. This systemic approach is being embedded at TSD. The concept of 'needs' (ref: Brundtland) and the government role was stated and that 'we' should be advising government; further, it was stated that social justice should be at the heart of government.

Jane described the holistic approach at TSD and described student buy-in as a key to change and that students WANTED change for sustainable development. A programme for students regarding behaviour change is underway at TSD.

Regional Objectives and Targets

The group continues to work towards achieving the Objectives and targets set. Particular focus will be on the creation of a 'directory of expertise' in which members could share/guide and support others. Members of the group were asked to identify their personal areas of expertise.

Location of meetings is also to be reviewed to gain greater attendance from Universities and Colleges in Mid and North Wales. We will continue to encourage Video conferencing.

Update on ESDGC

It was highlighted that ESDGC is not just for curriculum but for everyone.

The sustainability survey carried out by TSD was described as critical; further Coleg Sir Gar and Ceredigion are looking at a survey for FE. Bridgend College are also developing a survey which is well developed. CL is to forward the survey to JD to allow collaborative development for FE.

The next meeting will be: 23rd July 2013 – Theme 'Water'

Katrina Henderson

EAUC-Wales Branch Convener

12/06/13