

**Notes from workshop on
a new Fairtrade University and College Standard
EAUC Conference 2017**

1. Introductory presentation

See attached for the presentation that Jo and Jamie gave.

2. Offer

Thanks for coming to our session, and for all the fantastic input that we have written-up below. If you would like to express an interest in being a part of the pilot cohort that co-develop the new standard, please contact [Jo](#) and [Jamie](#). We have already noted interest from: Alex at Canterbury Christ Church; Harriet and Oxford; Martin at Southampton Solent; Liz at Aston.

3. General comments

- Charging a small fee may help with outcomes
- A pick and mix approach for criteria could allow a personalisation of approach, which would be an advantage
- We should take care not to make it too challenging, or else people might drop out
- There is a preference for two or three levels of award, so those who really want challenge can go for gold
- www.balasport.co.uk is the name of the Fairtrade football company that Fraser mentioned

4. Workshop notes

GROUP 1

1) Value

- Raising awareness
- Evidence of sustainability
- Recognisable
- Brings different people in
- Good community action

Like: Relatively easy to achieve; freedom in compliance

Don't like: Ownership / responsibility confusion; Assumption of cost implications; possibly too easy / not rigorously assessed

2) New scheme criteria

- Don't put people off!
- FT outreach: local schools; community groups; poster campaign
- Annual student audit
- Dissertations around FT
- Student group with student involvement
- Develop / identify / promote new products

3) Support and accreditation

What help do we need?

- New products e.g. tablecloths, lab coats
- Well-reasoned / academic response to why FT over other similar certifications
- Careful with materials for promotion
- Local contacts and speakers

Score gradation

- Keep it simple!
- Two levels: The standard / Exemplar

Trained student auditors

- Yes, but not linked to GI

GROUP 2

1) Value / like

- Communicating food issues to students
- Simple
- Links to community
- Engage uni services
- Tangible to senior management

Don't like

- Not rigorous re audit checks / involvement of the SU
- Little opportunity once 'peak Fairtrade' has been reached
- Images should be of university-type people

2) New scheme criteria

- Demonstrate engagement beyond Fairtrade
- Credit for community engagement
 - Local community
 - Student community groups
- Credits for innovation
- Outreach / Education =re trade justice
- Synergy with university communities. E.g. procurement, wellbeing, sustainability
- Might there be an opportunity for the SU to be accredited separately?

3) Support and accreditation

- Student auditors? – Yes please!
- How to guides for student engagement – practical ideas for campaigns
- Availability of support – accessible. Online is preferable
- Scoring – BREEAM-type approach. Pick and choose criteria. Levels within. Not everyone agrees re this, simple approach?

GROUP 3

1) Value

- Simple, straight-forward message – good for involving catering, contractors, students, etc.
- Needs more than just a logo. Tell students why!
- EASILY ACESABLE, BUT NOT A PART OF THE WIDER suS AGENDA?
- Easy to make a change / difference
- Doesn't promote challenges, can stagnate in some orgs

2) New scheme criteria

- Visibility of Fairtrade
- University engagement with the local community
- Exploring / introducing / testing new Fairtrade products within schools / depts.
- Linking to procurement frameworks and scoring for procurement of new suppliers, etc.
- Integrating into the curriculum
- Staff induction
- Student inductions / welcome weeks

3) Support and accreditation

- More support material re why Fairtrade above other standards
- Meeting Fairtrade producers and how to maximise student attendance
- Different levels and/or pick and mix to make it relevant to each institution