

EAUC BOARD PAPER
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For Information

Purpose

A brief summary of current issues and activities affecting the EAUC in Scotland

Report

EAUC-S AGM: An EAUC-Scotland AGM took place in Edinburgh on 4 May 2010. This meeting was well attended and welcomed three new Branch members (James Burns, Head of Quality and Marketing, Glasgow College of Nautical Studies), Paul Sherrington (Principal, Banff & Buchan College) and Sharon Doncaster (Facilities Manager, Reid Kerr College).

The AGM agreed to re-appoint the Convener (Fraser Lovie) and Deputy Convener (David Somervell) and further agreed that, given the existence of a Scotland Branch office, the post of Branch Secretary was now superfluous. The Branch thanked the outgoing Branch Secretary (Gill Kelly) for her work for the Branch and wished her well having now left her former post at QMU.

The meeting also congratulated the EAUC Scotland Office for its sterling efforts in building and promoting the EAUC in Scotland and in particular the extensive CPD programme, the ongoing development of the Topic Support Network but most notably for the emergence of the UCCCFs as a successor to CaSPR (Campus Sustainability Programme) and as the main framework and support mechanism for sustainability in the Scottish sector (more details below). Minutes will be made available online or on request and full details of all EAUC-Scotland projects is available in the Scotland Manager's report.

UCCCFs: Development of the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland continues, with the EAUC Scotland Office now focussing on the development of institutional support mechanisms. Notably the scheme is now acknowledged by both the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government as the principal delivery mechanism for the FHE sector in adapting and mitigating the impacts of climate change, with both actively encouraging all sector partners to sign up to the initiative.

UCCCFs/ACUPCC Delegations to ACTS: The success of the UCCCFs in a Scottish context has attracted the attention of our sister organisation in Australasia and as such a delegation representing the EAUC, including the Scotland Manager and Scotland Branch Convener, is to attend the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Conference in Melbourne in late September. The delegation will participate in extensive workshop activity and tri-partite pre-conference discussions, in particular to offer insight into the background, structure, promotion, onward development and sharing of the 'climate commitment' model. Colleagues representing the North American 'climate commitment' (including Dr Tony Cortese of the ACUPCC) will discuss the global role of FHE in addressing the challenges of climate change and look to identify and share best practice wherever possible.

Green League 2010: A broadly positive outcome for Scottish Universities, with 8 of 14 institutions making advances and 7 awarded "First or Upper Seconds". The most notable performance came from Glasgow Caledonian which moved up from 104th to 25th. However, while those who did well will celebrate their success in this exercise, there remains deep-seated scepticism about the validity of the scheme's ability to serve as a 'meaningful' benchmark of sustainability performance.

Green Gown Awards: The Scottish Branch was pleased to note the success of three Scottish institutions in the recent Green Gown awards. The Scottish Agricultural College (Research and Development) and the University of Strathclyde (Social Responsibility) both won in their categories, while the Aberdeen University Student's Association was Highly Commended in the Student Initiatives and Campaigns category.

Scottish Green List 2010: David Somervell, the EAUC Scotland Deputy Convener, was recently appointed to the Scottish Green List 2010, a national list of the 20 most influential individuals or groups working on sustainability issues. David was commended for his work at the University of Edinburgh, as well as for his key role in developing and driving the 'climate commitment' concept that has become the UCCCFs.

Fraser Lovie

EAUC-Scotland Branch Convener
28 June 2010