

For Information

Purpose

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

EAUC-Scotland Branch Meeting: 16 February 2012

A video-conferencing branch meeting was held at locations across Scotland on Thursday, 16 February 2012.

Much ground was covered but the following specific issues will be of interest to the Board:

- **UCCCfS Next Steps:** the Branch noted that there was now a need for it to be proactive in helping the UCCCfS develop and embed itself, notably as regards reporting, having secured 100% sign-up.
- **UCCCfS Governance:** the Branch noted the need for sector partners to be involved in this process and in monitoring the UCCCfS and recognised the need to resurrect the governance / advisory board structure that had so successfully led to the establishment of the UCCCfS.
- **College Developments:** the Branch discussed and would flag to the EAUC (at Scottish and UK level) the importance of giving consideration to how the EAUC can help colleagues in FE keep sustainability on their agendas as the restructuring and funding changes in the FE sector take hold. Given the possible impact on the EAUC of these changes, identifying targeted support and appropriate relationship management with FE institutions would appear appropriate.
- **Long Term Funding:** the Branch noted that all of this was part of a longer-term aim of securing the Scotland Office and the support it provides beyond the current funding arrangements.
- **Resource Sharing:** the Branch made a further plea to facilitate the open-sharing of EAUC materials. Colleagues did note, however, the strategic importance of the Sustainability Exchange and the emerging international resource-sharing initiatives to the EAUC, and the need to be strategic in the way in which the EAUC markets this opening up of access to information.
- **Board Developments:** For my part I took the opportunity as Convener to brief the Branch on Board developments, notably the Trustee nominations process, the Rio+20 process, and provided them with advance warning of the impending communication regarding fee structures (thanks to Fiona for suggesting that it would be appropriate to do so).

EAUC-Scotland Office: Staffing

An email was circulated in advance to the Branch outlining the CEO's latest thoughts on the future staffing of the EAUC Scotland Office. The Branch noted that a decision had been made and was just awaiting HR approval. That decision would see Sarah Lee appointed Scotland Manager with full-time responsibility for the UCCCfS and associated programmes. Alexandra Henderson was to be made permanent in post.

The Branch welcomed this resolution following a brief period of uncertainty after the departure of Andrew Chamberlain. It also welcomed the decision to focus the resource available for the Scotland Office on Scottish activity. The decision to manage the LiFE Index and the EAUC's international links from the UK Office was noted and seen as a prudent one.

The Branch also noted that Sarah Hayward was to leave the EAUC at the end of her contract in March. The Branch was keen that its thanks be recorded for Sarah's work on both Scottish and UK projects.

EAUC-Scotland: NI Links

The Branch continues to welcome NI colleagues to participate in Branch meetings (most recently Mark Trouton of Southern Regional College). There remains a need to identify how best to assist colleagues at Northern Irish institutions (including identifying what assistance they feel they need from the EAUC). The establishment of a jiscmail network for NI colleagues was imminent and represents a modest start. There remains the possibility of a more substantial involvement, perhaps seeing NI institutions adopt the UCCCfS model. How such an arrangement can be formalised and funded remains unclear.

Fraser Lovie

EAUC-Scotland Branch Convener
17 February 2012