

Date: Thursday 5th December 2019
Time: 14.00-16.00
Venue: University of Abertay



MINUTES: EAUC-Scotland Forum Winter 2019

Attendees:

Jackie Beresford	Dundee and Angus College
Jill Burnett	EAUC-Scotland
Billy Grace	Dundee and Angus College
Jennifer Jamieson	Scottish Funding Council
Adam Kesby	Sustrans Scotland
Cameron Mackay	University of Strathclyde
Sonya Peres	EAUC-Scotland
Rebecca Petford	EAUC-Scotland
David Stutchfield	University of St Andrews
Scott Thomson	EAUC-Scotland
John Thorne	Glasgow School of Art
John Wincott	Fife College (Chair)

Apologies:

Michelle Brown	University of Edinburgh
Katherine Ellsworth-Krebs	University of St Andrews
Ian Simpson	Abertay University

	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	ACTIONS
1	<p>Welcome and Summary of Current Projects <i>John Wincott, Fife College and Acting Chair</i></p> <p>Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and invited to share key projects they had been working on.</p> <p>Billy Grace (Dundee and Angus College) - trying to introduce sustainable technologies into buildings. Doing a redevelopment of Kingsway campus next summer where hopefully new technologies will be introduced.</p> <p>Jackie Beresford (Dundee and Angus College): Won 3 awards in November from Herald Scotland, College Development Network the Green Gowns. After Christmas will be doing service design about how to move forward and progress things father. Funding applications have been put in for electric vehicles.</p> <p>John Thorne (Glasgow School of Art). Currently having meetings about what to do for COP 26 in Glasgow as part of a creative collective. GSA has taken over the old Stow College building recently which is a big change, and is working on a gardening space there. Had a recent student query about divestment so will start looking into that further.</p>	

	<p>Adam Kesby (Sustrans) – Organised a Way to Work event last week. Looking to do more work around cargo bikes and increasing their usage in the FHE sector as they are quite underutilised currently. Information on Cargo Bikes can be found here and case studies can be found here.</p> <p>Sonya Peres (EAUC-Scotland) - working on air travel for RUGS (Responsible Universities Group for Scotland), created a "Travel Better Package" with various resources around flying less. Also doing a project on international students so looking to interview them and try to make their travel sustainable. Would like assistance in finding international students.</p> <p>Cameron Mackay (University of Strathclyde): University of Strathclyde are working on a policy to respond to the climate emergency, and looking at an integrated response to COP 26 which includes student engagement.</p> <p>Scott Thomson (EAUC-Scotland): Mainly been working on the Scotland Conference and now working on uploading all the conference resources which should be released next week.</p> <p>Rebecca Petford (EAUC-Scotland): Finish work in two weeks for maternity leave, doing handovers and finishing up current projects. Set to return in March 2021.</p> <p>John Wincott (Fife College): Campus Cycling Officer has just left and needs replaced. New build project is progressing well. As part of the new build Fife College are looking into integrating sustainable travel with the help of Sustrans. Also working with Zero Waste Scotland to reduce waste in the build. Electric car project is progressing, charging points going in this week and cars being delivered soon.</p> <p>Jill Burnett (EAUC-Scotland): Helping with PBCCD enquiries and working on the Circular Economy Bill Consultation response which we will share shortly.</p> <p>David Stutchfield (University of St Andrews): New travel officer has joined the team. District heating scheme for town being put in place at the moment and lots of building work occurring. Doing work on Climate Emergency policy and governance which is getting more coverage at senior level. Also lots of student engagement activities.</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p>Update from EAUC-Scotland Convenor</p> <p><i>Notes sent in advance from Michelle Brown, EAUC-Scotland Convener, who was unable to be present on the day.</i></p> <p>I attended the EAUC Board meeting on Monday and there are several points to share:</p> <p>Climate Commission: there was a good turnout at the November launch and further action planning is now taking place. EAUC will be looking to bring in some additional project officer support to help with some of the follow up actions. Jim Longhurst is leading this from the Board (Asst Vice Chancellor at UWE Bristol).</p> <p>Board: 2 spots will open up next year and the Board discussed the process for electing members and would like to open up the future board away day so that members interested in potentially being Trustees could attend.</p> <p>Chris Tuppen from the Science Based Targets Initiative was a guest speaker. There was interest in potentially linking with them in the future on sector specific guidance and frameworks for peer review. In context of the</p>	

	<p>SBTI it was interesting to note that where organisations have estimated Scope 3 to be more than 40% then targets should be set.</p> <p>Ireland Branch office looking at fundraising opportunities to support project delivery (potentially similar to the Scotland model)</p> <p>The Scotland Programme Report was discussed and convener update was given both of which highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excellent progress in Scotland - excellent team • committed membership • public bodies duties consultation response • maternity leave cover has been appointed but not yet announced • awaiting future funding decision from the Scottish Funding Council 	
<p>3</p>	<p>Update from EAUC-Scotland Programme Manager <i>Rebecca Petford, EAUC-Scotland Programme Manager</i></p> <p>Conference and GGA recently have been the main focus but will be discussed later on the agenda.</p> <p>RP focusing on funding and maternity cover. JB doing PBCCD support and topic support networks. ST helping with conference, communications and generally assisting with projects. SP joined in October and is doing a project with RUGS on academic travel. Lauren LaRocca left EAUC-Scotland in October</p> <p>Work on a Best Practice Guide for sustainability committees will be released in the next few weeks. The next programme will be more responsive in regards to committees, still happy to be involved but won't actively approach committees.</p> <p>Finalised the Adaptation Project recently. Looks at engaging people through a risk approach, resources are all online.</p> <p>Engaging seniors work includes supporting SFC to make the Outcome Agreement Guidance more explicit about sustainability. However new Guidance has been released by the SFC with the section substantially shortened (all of Guidance has been shortened). It still refers to having plans to reduce greenhouse gases and address the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Peer review session for public sector reporting with smaller institutions and paired option for larger institutions has taken place. There was positive feedback from both smaller and larger so this will continue to run next year.</p> <p>PBCCD consultation response was submitted and EAUC-Scotland made a template available for others to use for their own response.</p> <p>Year 3 Institutional Engagement calls will be happening between January and March for all Scottish institutions</p> <p>Lots of sector engagement about plans for the new programme which was appreciated.</p> <p>In the last 2 months 117 people attended EAUC-Scotland knowledge sharing events, plus 160 at the conference (which was sold out with 38 people from outside Scotland attending and 20 students). Great to have high engagement!</p> <p>A Highlands and Islands Regional group is being set up and all UHI partners (the University, Colleges and Research Institutions) will be members of EAUC.</p>	

	<p>Currently working on a response to the Circular Economy Bill, and fed into CDN Climate Emergency Experts Meeting. CDN outlined five action areas which will be brought up at the Principals' Meeting in February.</p> <p>Green Gown Awards were held in Scotland for the first time! 7 Scottish winners (35%) despite being only 10% of the sector.</p> <p>Running another two LfSS Sustainability Champions Courses, there is a call out at the moment for colleges to apply.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Travel Better Resources and Travel Pledge <i>Sonya Peres, EAUC-Scotland RUGS Intern</i></p> <p>Sonya is working on a series of projects for the Responsible Universities Group Scotland (RUGS), based within the EAUC-Scotland team.</p> <p>One of the project areas is looking at air travel in FHE sector. Working on a Travel Better Package consisting of a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge Template • Information Sheet addressing concerns individuals in the FHE sector may have about reducing air travel • Tool for assessing whether one should attend a conference/event that is only accessible through flying <p>One of the main aims of this is to re-evaluate what is seen as "normal" in terms of flying, and try to promote more sustainable alternatives to travel, research and collaboration.</p> <p>Some areas of the project have been inspired by initiatives from other universities where this is already practiced.</p> <p>The Travel Pledge itself was explained further. It consists primarily of 3 goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be better informed on harmful impacts of air travel • Make better decisions regarding air travel- essential trips only • Challenge workplace norms and push for institution change – trying to reconfigure what is seen as "normal". <p>There are some key questions that we want to find out answers to from the sector.</p> <p>Q1. Who at your institution would be responsible for looking into/addressing the institution's air travel?</p> <p>Q2. Are there ways to better ensure institutional change?</p> <p>Q3. How do we evaluate the impacts of the package/pledge?</p> <p>Q4. How do we de-link career progression and air travel in the FHE sector and instead reward a reduction in flying?</p> <p>General discussion around these points revealed that FE probably doesn't have the resource to collect data and that flying is quite limited anyway. Other things to look at would be what would the affect be on work if people couldn't fly? It was advised to promote the benefits of not flying more than highlighting the negatives.</p> <p>In terms of the pledge the group were asked for ideas to incentives not flying. Travel Officer at University of Edinburgh did a deal with Virgin who allowed staff to travel first class at no extra cost, although this didn't continue long. University of St Andrews thinking of centralising rail travel budget meaning that departments don't pay and so view train travel as free but they would have to pay for flights.</p>	

	<p>There is still a misconception about flying and academic achievement which needs to be addressed as well. The group felt the pledge could be aimed at departments as well as individuals, and could be more radical with the language used.</p> <p>The names of those making the pledge will be shared publicly to try to normalise non-flying behaviour.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Climate Commission Update <i>Fiona Goodwin, EAUC (via Zoom)</i></p> <p>Launched on 13th November. Coming together of Association of Colleges, Guild HE, Universities UK and EAUC. Each of the 4 organisations provide 1 person to act as a commissioner, Steve Frampton (AoC), Jim Longhurst (EAUC), Joy Carter, (Guild HE) and Judith Petts (Universities UK) are the current commissioners.</p> <p>Commission has a Council made up of senior staff from universities and colleges across the UK. Lacking a bit in Scotland so working with Universities Scotland and Colleges Scotland to get more Scotland input. Also working with Student Voice Partners, and carbon neutral societies such Enactus, NUS, Unlock and others.</p> <p>Aims of Commission: short term the Commission will report to COP 26 in November 2020. Aim is to develop an action plan to respond to the climate emergency and a framework that the sector can engage with. Each institution will be different in their priorities and challenges, but aim is to agree on what shall be included. Scotland doing much better than rest of the UK already.</p> <p>As well as the Council, there is other input such as Expert Witnesses which are professional bodies in the education and sustainability sector. Also have group of Observers which are sector funded agencies and government partners e.g. BEIS, DEFRA and the SFC. There is also a Steering Group made of executive staff from the partner organisations (AoC, EAUC, Guild HE and Universities UK).</p> <p>Next meeting on 9/12/19. Will agree follow-up after that and agree dates and timescales at that point.</p> <p>The Commission links to the Think Tank from Nottingham Trent University in July, which is made up of primarily sustainability practitioners, along with some teaching staff and senior leaders. The Think Tank developed the Climate Emergency Framework in July 2019. Anyone can join the Think Tank Group by contacting EAUC, and EAUC Members and sustainability professionals are encouraged to engage with both the Think Tank and commission.</p> <p>Questions: How does the Climate Commission fit with other groups like the Scottish Government High Ambition Group being set up with similar aims? The Climate Commission is working to compliment other groups and is linked to these groups. It is one of the main reasons the Commission has Observers and Expert Witnesses, so we have input from all sector bodies and from the other groups to avoid replication and to better facilitate the sharing of knowledge.</p>	

<p>6</p>	<p>Green Gown Awards <i>Rebecca Petford, EAUC-Scotland Programme Manager</i></p> <p>Congratulations to all finalists, and thank you to everyone who came along to make the evening so enjoyable!</p> <p>The Scottish Winners were:</p> <p>Benefitting Society - Winner (Small Institution) Ayrshire College - #PassingPositivity Mental Health United</p> <p>Campus Health, Food and Drink - Winner (Small Institution) Dundee and Angus College – Putting Planet before Profit</p> <p>Campus Health, Food and Drink - Winner (Large Institution) The University of Edinburgh – Good food: Promoting Healthy, Sustainable and Affordable Food</p> <p>Campus of the Future - Winner University of the West of Scotland – UWS Lanarkshire: A Sustainable Campus for Sustainable Minds</p> <p>Money for Good - Winner (Large Institution) The University of Edinburgh – Investing for good: Social investment at the University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Student Engagement - Winner University of Strathclyde – Strathclyde’s Global Student – using Vertically Integrated Projects to make a difference through useful learning</p> <p>Total Reporting - Winner The University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Jackie Beresford from Dundee and Angus College explained what their winning Campus Health, Food and Drink project was about:</p> <p>There was a feeling in the college that people were putting convenience before planet with takeaway cups and disposable bottles. Currently compost all material on site but felt they could do more so removed bottled water from sale, installed water stations and encouraged people to bring in their own bottle. Removed disposable cups (even those that were compostable). Trying to combat disposable culture and convenience and create a reuse culture.</p> <p>The University of Strathclyde won for their VIP project which EAUC recently did a webinar on, which is available here.</p> <p>GGA Event Feedback:</p> <p>Maybe EAUC could have sent a stronger message about the need for urgency and change in relation to the climate emergency?</p> <p>In future could videos and images be included in the application process as it is hard to explain visual campaigns in words.</p> <p>Can the finalist videos be shared afterwards or used on the night as they take a lot of effort to make and seem to disappear after the event.</p>	<p>RP: Pass on suggestions to GGA organising team</p>
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<p>7</p>	<p>EAUC-Scotland Conference Feedback <i>Rebecca Petford, EAUC-Scotland Programme Manager</i></p> <p>Food was excellent, event was very good.</p> <p>Workshops reflected very well where we were at with good topics.</p> <p>Could the gender balance be improved as it was 18 to 12 for male to female speakers.</p> <p>Could students be more involved in running the breakout sessions?</p> <p>Venue was lovely, breakouts were open and different to traditional classroom session. Cabaret set up was a good idea.</p>	<p>ST: Pass feedback to CdIM to include in Conference Report to advise planning next year</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Circular Economy Bill Consultation <i>Jill Burnett, EAUC-Scotland Carbon and Estates Project Officer</i></p> <p>Quite a lot of flexibility in what is included in the Bill, with detail intended to be added later.</p> <p>The Scottish Government intends to introduce a charge on single use cups and extend this to other items, along with increasing the charge on plastic bags. Full details are in the presentation.</p> <p>Group discussion followed about the Bill and what it entails.</p> <p>The Bill has a strong focus on business waste and construction. EU directives might not matter with Brexit but the Scottish Government have indicated they will likely adopt or align to these anyway.</p> <p>It was suggested that more clarity on procurement would help, something like a carbon certificate or carbon budget that gives each item a carbon price.</p> <p>EAUC-Scotland urge institutions to reply to the consultation and are happy to support anyone in replying. We will circulate our response shortly to help you to develop your own.</p> <p>EAUC have also got a UK-wide Circular Economy JISC Mail group which anyone can join by emailing info@eauc.org.uk.</p>	<p>ALL: Let Jill know if you would like to be involved in supporting development of the EAUC-Scotland response</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>COP26 Ideas <i>Rebecca Petford, EAUC-Scotland Programme Manager</i></p> <p>COP26 will take place between the 9-19th November 2020. Question was asked about what the sector should do for this and how to go about taking action.</p> <p>The group felt it would be good to highlight the work of the Scottish FHE sector specifically.</p> <p>It was suggested that a targeted, professional video campaign might be one good approach as there are so many events and side events happening already.</p> <p>Any event that EAUC-Scotland does decide to hold should have a very clear niche and objective to make it stand out. We could have our own COP Conference either beforehand or in another city during COP.</p>	<p>EAUC-Scotland: Form a Working Group for COP26 Ideas</p>

	<p>In terms of the video campaign and ideas for events it was suggested that EAUC-Scotland forms a Working Group that comes together to develop ideas and then bring them to the next Forum Meeting for feedback.</p> <p>The group stressed this should be Scottish focused and led. They want to highlight the Scottish sector in particular, as the COP is in Scotland (although it was pointed out that the UK is the official COP host).</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>Board Vacancies and Gender</p> <p>The board has two vacancies next year, should more work be done on ensuring gender balance? General discussion followed but nothing was concluded. It was pointed out that each position is skill based and voted on by members so EAUC as an organisation have little control over who takes the position if no recommendations are made at the application stage.</p> <p>EAUC does have a gender and diversity policy available here and this is an issue that the board are aware of and are trying to address.</p> <p>EAUC-Scotland AGM</p> <p>Next Forum Meeting will be our AGM in March/April, where at least one new member of the Office Bearers Group will be appointed. Information about the position and the skills / experiences we are looking for will be circulated in the new year.</p>	
11	Thanks and Close	

Minutes prepared by Scott Thomson, EAUC-Scotland Programme Administrator, 06/12/19