



03/11/06

SUS(EX)m7~3

UCS/ DfES – Future Opportunities for the HE Sector

Please see the enclosed message and paper which were recently prepared and circulated by UCS Chair Vince Mayne. This seems to have been circulated only to the UCS membership at this stage.

UCS is currently in a position to put forward project proposals as part of the DfES' (Department for Education and Skills) drive to create a meaningful legacy from London 2012.

There is a tight turnaround for shaping and submission of project proposals and SUS members must respond quickly, both corporately and individually, if Scotland is to see any benefit from this opportunity.

SUS Executive is asked to consider the following:

Item
Papers attached – for comment and discussion



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E-mail from Vince Mayne
Sent 26/10/06

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached a document relating to a project which seeks to position Higher Education more centrally within mainstream national sport. It is supported by a variety of agencies including the Department for Education and Skills, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UK Sport, Sport England, Youth Sport Trust, Sports Coach UK and HEFCE.

It is part of a recent DfES Olympic Legacy Plan and identifies a range of new opportunities for Higher Education within the national sporting landscape. The deadline for delivery of the project proposal from HE to DfES is December 2006.

UCS was nominated to deliver this on behalf of HE Sport and, as UCS Chair and with the endorsement of UCS Executive I have been seconded part-time each week until December to deliver a set of operational and funding plans for the project, for which I will be consulting across HE on all the areas, where appropriate via small working groups. We are holding an HE Symposium on Tuesday 5th December at Coventry University at which the final draft will be presented for discussion amongst HE colleagues. The intention for the symposium is to gain consensus on the proposals and if necessary make minor amendments at this stage prior to submission. Further details will be circulated shortly.

I would be grateful if you could discuss the attached with your colleagues internally and if possible within your UCS regional networks and provide me with any feedback you may have at this stage, including expressions of interest in being involved in any working groups that may be established. Whilst I may not be able to include everyone wishing to be involved we need to ensure a diverse range of contributors. I will provide regular updates following meetings with the various agencies and please feel free to contact me should you have any queries relating to the project.

This is a huge and exciting opportunity for HE Sport to take a significant step forward and it is very much in our hands to shape our future and how these projects can be developed, delivered and managed. Please take the opportunity to contribute.

Yours,

Vince Mayne
UCS Chair



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DfES Olympic/Paralympic Strategy - Higher Education Sport

1. Support for elite athletes (Olympic and Paralympic) at National Level

Over the past ten years significant investment has been made by a small number of Universities to provide the facilities and resources that are required to deliver high quality support to elite athletes. This University investment has been added to substantial Lottery funding and has strengthened the partnership between selected Universities, Governing Bodies of Sport and the English Institute of Sport (EIS). As a result these 'satellite' University Centres of Excellence have created environments where elite athletes (and student-athletes in particular) have been able to access:

- World Class facilities
- High quality coaching through World Class programmes located on site
- Sports science and sports medicine support on site or in close proximity
- Strengthening links with research
- Lifestyle management
- A wide range of academic courses with high level flexibility in teaching & learning methods.

There are other Universities with agreements for the delivery of services with the EIS and who support a smaller number of athletes from a narrower range of sports. These Universities have the potential to grow and develop their support of elite athletes in specialist sports.

There are several key areas where this work can be developed:

- Linking these Universities directly to the work of UK Sport to ensure that decisions made are strategic and maximise existing and potential resources;
- Increasing the intake of student-athletes in these specialist University Centres of Excellence;
- Further capacity building within these Institutes to enable them to provide services (coaching, sports science & medicine, lifestyle management) for elite student-athletes, recognising that elite student-athletes require a specialised level of support to enable them to maximise both their sporting and academic potential;
- Improved student scholarships and bursaries, co-ordinating and integrating existing/proposed University Scholarships with the TASS programme (and other commercial support) to support elite student-athletes from a range of socio-economic backgrounds.

Actions: Need to develop a set of criteria on how to become a "Centre of Excellence" and how this is assessed and monitored over time. Need to consider the range of offer that exists and how any potential regional delivery plan can be developed. (NB Work is ongoing alongside this as to how this dovetails into work with EIS and other support pathways)



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2. Student Volunteering

The 2012 Olympics and Paralympics also provides significant opportunities to enhance the profile, and extent, of sport-based volunteering at HEIs. Over a quarter of all volunteers do so through sport and yet the connection between mainstream volunteer structures and sport volunteers has been historically weak and ineffective. Sport England is working closely with Volunteering England and other mainstream agencies to address this. There is clear potential to utilise the London 2012 opportunity to stimulate higher levels of volunteering in sport. In Athens many of the volunteers were drawn from the Cities Universities and trained during their University years in preparation for the role at the 2004 Olympics.

In the UK the opportunity exists to build an even more substantial platform linking both student and local community volunteering opportunities (and support structures) with those inspired to lend a hand and with the incentive for some to progress to volunteering at London 2012.

It can also be used as a platform to develop the leadership skills of all students using sport as a vehicle to interact with school and community groups. Whilst all HEIs are likely to be engaged in supporting a range of volunteering opportunities for students, London 2012 offers an opportunity to develop a network of 2012 Volunteering Academies. This network of 10-20 Institutions could be drawn from those already committed to Step into Sport and areas of work that they could undertake may include:

- Building on their work initiated through Step into Sport provide, on an annual basis, a programme of placements for students to undertake volunteering in community sport with the 14-19 year olds that attended the training events
- Developing with Volunteering England and other mainstream providers the opportunity for student sports volunteers to work with mainstream volunteer support structures of sports.
- Actively supporting recruitment into Higher Education (to their own Institutions and others) by engaging students in outreach volunteering work with target groups identified under the "Widening Participation" programme – developing students as ambassadors for higher education as well as sport.
- Providing opportunities for students to undertake sport based volunteering placements overseas through the UK Sport IDEALS programme
- Encouraging students to undertake training and skills development opportunities linked to volunteering roles whilst at University
- Supporting students to undertake community sports volunteering roles whilst at University.
- Offering scholarships to students who have demonstrated sustained commitment to volunteering – in their own Institution, in the local community or in local schools – to access additional training and qualifications in coaching, officiating etc
- Supporting the recruitment and training of volunteers (from within Institutions and the wider community) that will be required for London 2012 and to support the network of training camps that will be required by competing nations prior to the staging of the Olympics/Paralympics in 2012.

Action: Develop criteria on how to become a "Volunteering Centre" and how this is assessed and monitored over time. Identify potential for accreditation of volunteers plus a quality assured common training package. Identify the potential for regional delivery.



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3. A University Sportsmark Accreditation scheme

The hosting of the 2012 Olympic Games in London presents an ideal opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits of participating in sport and active recreation across all sections of our population. Universities should be encouraged to develop and implement a strategy which will increase the proportion of students in HE who take part in sport and recreation, concentrating on improving the health and social benefits of an active lifestyle. Such a strategy would involve Universities working with schools and local communities to identify the widest possible range of activities for students, providing access through information and programming and establishing a system of monitoring participation and impact of the programme. Many Institutions already provide activity and sports programmes for the local community. This work should be encouraged and where possible further developed to increase active participation and improve the health for the community. A University Sportsmark accreditation scheme would mirror similar schemes developed for schools and local authority sports facilities. The University Sportsmark would provide public recognition of an Institutions commitment to sport and physical activity

Possible criteria might include;

- range of sporting opportunities available (both competitive and recreational);
- quality of facilities available to student and the local community
- commitment to supporting talented students
- supporting volunteering;
- supporting local community sport;
- active campus etc

Action: Develop a range of awards (ie Gold, Silver and Bronze) and the criteria for achieving these plus how this is assessed and monitored over time.

4. Coaching Centres

This is an additional project area and is being developed in conjunction with Sports Coach UK. The plan is for the development of 9 regional coaching centres based in HE which will not only deliver the coach education but also contribute to the professional practice of the coaches it serves. Discussion still needs to consider how any regional structure might look based around the principle of the 9 regional centres.

Action: Need to develop a set of criteria on how to become a “Coaching Centre” and how this is assessed and monitored over time. Need to consider how any potential regional delivery plan can be developed. Need to see how these link this to other regional academies ie Skills Active.