

<b>Scottish University of Sport</b>
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Following the article in the Herald newspaper on the 4<sup>th</sup> November entitled: "Sports University for Scotland Labour plan for dedicated centre will be election commitment", the concept of a Scottish University of Sport has been discussed by various parties.

The director's met on the 19<sup>th</sup> January in Dundee to air their views.

- Agreed by all Universities, with the exception of Stirling, that since the issue of 'A University of Sport in Scotland' (USS) had been brought into the public sector it was incumbent on the sector to have a view. The Directors of Sport, as the leaders of the relevant sector were the obvious focus group and SUS was the natural vehicle through which to deliver the views of the sector. Such views should also reflect the input of the Sports Union Presidents as equal partners in SUS.
- Many of the issues had been raised in the Elite Sports Review of Higher Education, still awaiting publication, which addressed the need to provide the infrastructure and services required by student athletes, while retaining the right of students to apply for academic courses at a range of HE institutions.
- In summary the meeting welcomed the interest of the Scottish Labour Party in Performance Sport in Scotland but agreed that building on current structures and strengths (many of which highlighted the very different situation north of the border) rather than introduce a new structure which may well prove confusing, as well as more divisive than constructive from the perspective of Scottish athletes.

A subsequent meeting was held, at the behest of the University of Glasgow, to coordinate thinking of the service sector and sport-related academics on the issue of a Sports University for Scotland. This meeting took place on 25 January 2007, where 12 Universities were represented and heralds an historic gathering of the service and academic groups.

A strong and free-flowing discussion took place on the concept of a University of Sport including an overview of SUS as well as individual updates from partner Universities. Whilst Stirling again registered a laissez faire approach and an objection to a group discussion at this stage, the overwhelming mood of the meeting was in favour of a network approach to the Scotland University of Sport concept and to build on the organisational strengths of SUS and undoubted talents within our service and academic communities.

The meeting concluded with Jim Aitken (SUS Chair) and Professor Billy Martin (Head of Division of Neuroscience & Biomedical Systems, Glasgow University) agreeing to produce a statement that will be presented to the Scottish Executive. The Academics will follow-up with a meeting to discuss the need to meet more regularly as a group to network and share good practice and they will also consider the possibility of becoming part of SUS.

**SUS Executive is asked to consider the following:**

Item
Consider the way forward on this matter
Exec views to be gathered concerning Academics becoming integrated within the SUS community.