

The UK Dimension

This paper updates on recent developments surrounding HE sport at UK level.

UK Universities Sport

The impending creation UK Universities Sport (working title) is a hugely significant development for HE sport in the UK, and on many levels. The note of the most recent 'Implementation Group' meeting held on 21 January (attached) offers a valuable insight into the progress being made around structure, function and finance. This is presented for information only at this stage, but the SUS Executive will be acutely aware of the need to clarify, and urgently, the relationship between SUS and UKUS on the critical areas of governance and membership affiliations.

It is absolutely apparent that much has yet to be clarified/discussed about UKUS' vision, and its operating mandates. This is something of a concern as a 'go live' date in June is still the aspiration. It is pleasing that SUS' existence is acknowledged by the Implementation Group along with a preparedness to look at structural cohesion and core funding support (including the impact of devolved funding through the home country sports councils). The new UKUS Chair, Ed Smith, is keen to engage with SUS and a meeting date is being sought at the earliest opportunity, likely as part of the next Executive meeting (20 March @ RGU) or ideally before that. This will be critical in determining future relations between UKUS and SUS (as well as in the other home nations too), and the Executive is encouraged to stand ready to contribute to the debate.

National Activity Student Survey

NASS took place from 26 Nov-2 Dec'07. HEIs were asked to complete and return three discreet elements: facility footfall; sporting representation and general activity survey. Thanks were offered to all those who took the time to respond.

There was a great response this year with 11 Scottish Universities taking part. There has been a 25% increase in returns from both students and institutions and so approx. 100 institutions and 30,800 students took part overall this year.

The results and report will be available soon to download from www.ucsport.net. A hard copy of the Executive Summary will be circulated to member institutions in the coming months. Prize winners are also currently being selected from the student responses.

Actions

Executive is invited to:

- Note the UKUS Implementation Group update, and NASS'07 status report.
- Be ready to meet with Ed Smith (Chair, UKUS) at the earliest convenience.

Implementation Group Meeting January 21, 2008

A positive and thorough meeting was held with the following present:

Ed Smith, Jenny Brown, Stewart Ross, Neil Park and Phil Attwell.

Action points were agreed as follows:

1. Group Membership

Ed will email student directors suggesting that Tom Noble should join the group.

2. Implementation Plan (More below)

Reviewed and dates adjusted.

- **Ed** to update plan on Microsoft project and circulate.
- **PA** to ask for views on nominated Charity for the new organization. Sports Aid should be one of the charities to be considered.
- **SR** to complete paper on National Partner agreement with Sport England.
- **NP** to continue to support the implementation. As in previous phases of work, and project brief would be drawn up with clear targets against agreed costings.

3. Finance Issues

There was no immediate decision re use of reserves, but a general acceptance that there would be one-off set-up costs.

- Affiliation fees. BUSA members increase suggested to be 5% to reflect normal inflation increase, and that required to cover the shortfall in the current years budget. **PA** to discuss at BUSA board.
- UCS subs to increase by 50% - **SR** will speak to his membership.
- One invoice to each University with both the BUSA and UCS fees in the first year.
- **DR** to model affiliation fee income and map membership status of institutions relating to both organizations.

4. Communication Strategy

- Communication work: **SR** to talk to Tay re taking on responsibility for ensuring comprehensive and planned communication throughout the transition phase. Once agreed **JB** to send her the branding and marketing paper for information as well as the communication strategy paper (drafted by Chris Lightfoot).
- Parliamentary Launch. To take place in October, subject to the Minister for Sport and/or the Universities minister being able to be present. The launch will be managed in house with the possibility of the major part of the organisation being done by Tay. **JB** to contact Public Affairs Company

5. Media Update and Strategy

Noted that David Brook (BUSA Co opt director for Media rights) is producing a media strategy – important for the new company and will form part of the communications strategy. **JB** to send to Tay once her role with communications strategy agreed.

6. New Company Salary Structure

- CEO salary to incorporate an annual cost of living rise and a performance element (ie there would not be any automatic incremental progression).
- All staff posts to be evaluated, in early stages of new organization.
- **PA** to speak to his HR department re TUPE

7. AGM's

UCL has a theatre which is available on the day to hold the meetings.

Suggest that UCS meeting is first, followed by BUSA meeting, so that UCS members can attend both, with new organisation AGM in the pm. Sandwich lunch to be provided. Once costs established **JB** to book rooms and arrange catering.

- **NP** to prepare a paper re format of AGM and election issues.
- **PA** to discuss at Chairs Forum on Feb 1st.

8. Key Stakeholders

UUK, SUS, NI and Welsh Sports councils added to the list. **ES** is working through the list of stakeholders over time.

The Implementation Plan

The delivery of the new organisation will be managed through the implementation plan, with responsibility for each area being assigned to various lead people. In broad terms, the headings are as follows:

Vision and Objectives – final stages of drafting, circulate by end of January

Final Joint Meeting of Boards – Scheduled for Friday 14 March (in Sheffield)

Podium Submission – update meeting scheduled for 25 January

International Influence Strategy – Comprehensive draft by end January

New Organisation Name and Branding – Group meeting by end January

Develop Brand and Communication Strategy – driven by Branding group, incorporating website

Appoint CEO – Interview scheduled for 31 January; commence in April