



Précis and action points from the Executive Council meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at Garscube.

Present

Brian Ewing (BE) (Chair)  
Brian Lister (BL)  
Nicola Scott (NS)  
Julie Ommer (JO)  
Pete Burgon (PB)  
Julie Falls (JF)  
Sophie Warburton (SW)  
Gail Harris (GH)  
Ian Gaunt (IG)  
Leo Howes (LH)  
Catrin Dickson (CD)

Apologies

Ross Sanders (RS)  
Ross Simpson (RS)  
Sarah Birrell (SB)  
Chris Sellar (CS)

In Attendance

Tay Attwell (TA)  
Stew Fowlie (SF)  
Jenni Lloyd (JL)  
Neil Fraser (NF)

WELCOME INTRO AND SCENE SETTING

1. BE welcomed all to the meeting and offered a note of thanks to colleagues at Glasgow University for their hospitality.

HOMOLOGATION

2. *Conflicts of interest*: none noted
3. *Notes from Exec meeting 07-09-2011*: reviewed and approved as an accurate record
4. *Matters arising*: no matters not otherwise covered on the agenda. All actions complete with exception of making contact with Greg Warnecke at Glasgow 2014. This is to be pursued in New Year
5. *Correspondence / Representation: SSS (EX) m2~1*: Noted without any further questions.

UNDERSTANDING THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

**Latest Policy Developments within post-16 education**

6. BE set the scene for this part of the meeting by referring to the 2011 spending review, the Government White Paper 'Putting Learners at the Centre' and the current consultation on the regionalisation of the College sector. These external factors were acknowledged along with the changing landscape of fees in UK Higher Education. Taken together these factors may have significant implications for SSS.
7. BL provided a more detailed strategic overview of current policy discussions within the college sector. The impending changes in funding and structure will begin to take shape in 2012/13 and are likely to lead towards a new structure of thirteen regions for delivery of college education from 2013-14 onwards. Greater synthesis and articulation with Universities, a more focussed approach to employability and a new approach to funding arrangements and course availability are all likely to

ACTION

SF

feature in the new system.

8. Any emerging structure will include short term challenges for SSS but also longer term opportunities. SSS may have to respond to changes in terms of how its competitions offer is structured as well as how its membership is understood.
9. It was agreed that SSS needs to make every effort to engage at the consultative stage in order to protect and enhance sports provision within the college network. A formal response from SSS to the public consultation is the first step (by Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>) and this should be followed by a concerted advocacy campaign at political and institutional level. The value of sport must be clearly defined and articulated during the next six months, with SSS actively engaging key partners in discussion.
10. The SSS Christmas seminar has been designed around this theme in order to build a better understanding of our own value. Project work (Project 2012) will then follow culminating in the creation of resources (value statement underpinned by research base) and ideally some high profile political debate. BL is to explore the latter in conjunction with contacts in the Scottish Parliament.

ALL

BL

#### Internal Updates - SSS(EX)m2~2

##### Physical Activity: Verbal Update

11. JF updated on Dance Festival - Event was well received by attendees and good feedback was gathered by various means. Not all who signed up turned up and this contributed to a small loss. Need to look at making people pay in advance in future. Future events to be re-structured to depend less on external tutors and more on internal experts and groups. Inclusion of exercise based activity also recommended.
12. Eating Disorders - Workshops were a success with good feedback from all attendees.
13. Disability Festival - To be held next March at Glasgow Caledonian, open to all members. Need to get presidents involved in promotion.
14. Future Workshops - Research and Physical Activity both at Strathclyde.
15. 1000 Mile Challenge - extended through Christmas, must be pushed at Seminar, money raised goes to Scottish Disability Sport.
16. PAC Newsletter is out now; please ensure CS has up-to-date email list.

ALL

##### Competitions: Verbal Update

17. CD updated committee on comps meetings. Issues have been identified with both BUCScore and Sportalise; these should be considered in design of new website functions. Positive response from across membership to Integrated football Leagues.
18. Reffin' Brilliant was a huge success with increase in participants; main task now is to get those 65 who received education to be deployed as active officials The future provision of Reffin' Brilliant may involve moving it across all regions. CD suggest making different levels available each year- All agreed
19. There are major issues surrounding accommodation for Home Nations, committee looking into alternatives. SSS must deliver to avoid a £12,000 hit if we don't deliver. BL identifies Jewel and Esk and Telford Accommodation as possible solution. All to contribute to solution.

ALL

20. BUCS are doing some work with BUCS Points, with possibly rewarding points for participation as well as comps. SSS to contribute in advance of meeting in Jan 2012.

#### Professional Development: Verbal Update

21. PB updates- Energy going into Seminar, big area of success is volunteering and meeting in Stirling just happened to start the sharing practice. National Award Scheme in the pipeline in association with sportscotland.
22. JL confirms number of seminar at 70+ with a relatively good spread across sector, though colleges are less well represented than universities. There is no Directors forum to be held at seminar.
23. Bid documentation to go out before Christmas for conference 2012 and 2013. Deadline for bidding to be 20<sup>th</sup> January.
24. Plans for a large scale sector-wide audit to be completed in February 2012

JL

#### Marketing: Verbal Update

25. JL updates committee: re-branding has been a lengthy process, website tender is out, Social Media going well, App has been culled. Expected total changeover to SSS by June. New logo is available and will be released to the institutions now.
26. Brand Ambassadors; in the mix from seminar onwards, pick nominations, kit has been ordered.
27. JL working on promotional video with Alistair Adamson at UWS. BE suggests we may need that video in time for the Parliament event.

CS

#### Presidents Forum: Verbal Update

28. NS updates- Set up terms of reference. Discussions on relative merits of Student Associations and Sports Union's. Generally, everything going well so far. Presidents keen to fully engage in Project 2012

#### Directors Forum: Verbal Update

29. BE updates- all have agreed more value in extending meetings
30. 2 issues were raised; strategic planning in these testing times and also structures in organisations (mirroring Presidents' discussions)
31. Strong support for the development of an evidence base and value statement for student sport under the Project 2012 banner

#### Executive Matters

#### Action Plan 2011-2012

#### Risk - SSS (EX)m2~3

32. SF presented an update to the SSS Risk Register, highlighting any areas with a yellow or red rating. These are principally connected with finance and our dependence on partner contributions. Further updates to be provided twice yearly and monitored in between by the COO and Chair

### Advocacy

33. The group discussed the purpose and priority of engaging with key external partner agencies. Hoped that Project 2012 would provide both the right information and the right opportunity to advance a case with (amongst others) Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council, Universities Scotland, Scotland's Colleges, Sportscotland and 'internal' senior management.

SF

### Consultations

34. BE updated the group on SSS' ongoing role in responding to consultations from partner agencies. Significant current examples to include the BUCS strategy development and the Public Consultation on the regionalisation of College education in Scotland. SF to continue to lead on such matters from an SSS perspective, with appropriate input from the membership

### Sponsorship

35. JL continues to pursue sponsorship opportunities, armed with revitalised literature and an emerging plan for conference 2012. The group noted that a one-year extension of our partnership with Kukri was in place, taking us to end of 2011-12 operating year.
36. SF in negotiations with Precor regarding potential significant package
37. SF is hopeful SSS will hit its ambitious targets, without underestimating difficulty.

### Finance

#### Year End Report 2010-2011 - SSS(EX)m2~4

38. JL to be congratulated on handling of the finances. JL and SF to devise and implement appropriate revised systems for accounting, budgeting, finance procedures and handling of reserves
39. SF ran through the figures briefly, £9k loss in 2010-11 but this was lower than had been allowed for in budget. Bulk of SUS assets have been written off, relieving pressure on first yr SSS budget.
40. Following a couple of minor queries which were dealt with to the satisfaction of the group the Finances will go to the EGM with the Executive Committee's commendation and approval.

#### 2011-2012 revised Budget - SSS(EX)m2~5

41. SF explains revised sport/rep sports figures and suggests if we don't run the home nations then more changes will have to be made. SF suggests we are working towards having phased forecasts for sports which will assist future reporting
42. CD questions sponsorship drop. SF explains this is due to realistic targeting, as we only received £5,000 last year from a desired £15,000.
43. JL identified the events have been budgeted for a profit for the first year; aim to make small profit on seminar, £3,000 on conference and small profit on Physical Activity.
44. BE explained SSS working to achieve a zero budget.

RS & FM

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials - SSS(EX)m2~6

- 45. Financial activity to date broadly in line with expectations. JL working hard to reduce use of miscellaneous lines in accounting and to drive down debt to SSS. Aim should be to limit these wherever possible.
- 46. BE suggests President's forum to be utilised to reinforce message to institutions vis-a-vis payments for event entries and representative costs
- 47. TA to chase up BUCS about golf payment.

TA

### Partner Updates

#### BUCS

- 48. Changed communications - Sport Essentials and Business Essentials has online sign-ups, while Views from the Bench has separate sign up- Anyone who is not receiving these to let BUCS know.
- 49. Uni's week 30<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012 - focus this year is sport. BUCS and its members to use this as a platform to celebrate the sector's contribution. This will also tie in with Athletics test event for 2012
- 50. EUSA Games - new multi-sport Games model in place for European level Uni sport (institutional, rather than representative sides)
- 51. Sports Advisory Group Chairs have recently been appointed including SF in the Chair for Football.
- 52. Events team at BUCS is diminishing, with Sarah Gandon, Chris Roberts + Fen Pengelly are leaving BUCS. Hannah Marshall is also leaving BUCS.
- 53. Professional Development Days - 17<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> of February. Further information available on BUCS website
- 54. 10 bids for Conference, decided upon Exeter Uni 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 Sessions will look to address current issues/needs, suggestion forms will be sent out in due course.
- 55. SF suggests sending the View from the Bench articles to Presidents- all agreed

TA

#### Sportscotland

- 56. Sarah Birrell is to become the new Partnership Manager for SSS following Graeme Randall's move to the National Sports Centre, Inverclyde.

#### SUCSES

- 57. No report submitted.

#### A.O.C.B

- 58. None

#### D.O.N.M

- 59. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February in Edinburgh
- 60. Possible future meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May in Aberdeen.
- 61. BE thanks to all for attending and thanks to JO for arranging everything.



**Actions List**

SF to make contact with Greg Warnecke at Glasgow 2014	<b>SF</b>
SSS actively engaging key partners in discussion on value of sport.	<b>ALL</b>
BL to explore session on value of student sport with contacts in Parliament	<b>BL</b>
All to ensure CS has up-to-date email list for PAC newsletter.	<b>ALL</b>
Send in any ideas to help get Home Nations issues sorted.	<b>ALL</b>
Dates of conference to go out at seminar	<b>JL</b>
New logo to be distributed around institutions now	<b>CS</b>
Advocacy plan to be devised linked to Project 2012	<b>SF</b>
Phased sports budgets to be developed	<b>RS &amp; FM</b>
TA to chase up BUCS golf payment.	<b>TA</b>
View from the Bench to go to all Presidents	<b>TA</b>