**SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME**

**(WEST) SCIO**

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**Minutes of the SWAP West Annual General Meeting held on Friday 11th December 2020, online.**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS**

**Neil Croll (Chair) University of Glasgow**

Julie Maxwell Ayrshire College

Myra Sisi South Lanarkshire College

John Rafferty Glasgow Clyde College

Cathy McNab West College Scotland

Stephanie McKendry University of Strathclyde

Andrew Shea Glasgow Caledonian University

Shona Barrie University of Stirling

Eleanor Wilson Glasgow Caledonian University

Robin Ashton Glasgow Kelvin College

**IN ATTENDANCE**

John Templeton SWAPWest

Amy Angus SWAPWest

Andrew Quinn SWAPWest

Helen Cormack SWAPWest

Fiona Andrews SWAPWest

Paula Christie SWAPWest

Kenny Anderson SWAPWest

**APOLOGIES**:

Marcus Ross UWS

Carolyn Laird New College Lanarkshire

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Neil Croll (NC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted.

1. **Minutes of the meeting of the 9th December 2019 were approved.**
2. **Annual report and financial statement**

The annual report for 2019 - 2020 was tabled online. Kenny Anderson (KA) noted that one of the advantages of an online report was the ability to share media online.

The video clip of Becky, a former access to nursing student at West College Scotland was shared. She had been filmed for the BBC to highlight the work of student nurses during the COVID 19 pandemic. The video was shown on the BBC on world nursing day and was a real boost to the partnership during the first lockdown. Becky had completed her HNC before progressing to UWS. She has now graduated.

KA also highlighted the video from 2 of our former access to primary education students, they both graduated with a first-class honours from Strathclyde University.

KA thanked everyone for the work that they had done in reaction to the crisis. Highlighting the work carried out by the SWAPWest team. Amy, Paula, Helen, Erica, and Andrew. Also thanked John for his hard work and our two students James and Charlie.

He asked partners to thank their hard-working SWAP teams as it had been a considerable effort by everyone to complete and progress students. As well as work on the programmes for this year.

In terms of the substance of the annual report:

**Objective 1 – Partnership**

The outcomes for the year were good. Consistent with previous years. Progression had been well planned and managed. Increase in university places had been planned from the previous year. Reflected on the numbers progressing to HNC and sense we can still do more with the progression to HNC.

For the college region updates, noted our thanks this year to all SWAP tutors.

Highlighted the visit by Prof Sir Tom Devine to Glasgow Kelvin College. His first college invite, which came from one of the SWAP students.

Noted the range of progression to Universities from the regions.

**Objective 2 - Accessibility**

Highlighted the work of the curriculum groups. Reflected on positive progression to university from science programmes. Again, noted the position with HNC where numbers were down in humanities and science. Numbers had increased in nursing.

Access to Childhood Practice programme is working well. The tutors are developing interesting work. Progression to HNC provides an interesting dynamic to the programme. The study by SLC on the progression of their students and success on HNC was noted.

Changes to prep for HE were brought forward to 2020 – 2021 academic year. The development work focussed on the social, personal and learn to learn competencies. The recently agreed “European Framework for key competency” had provided a useful framework for the development of PHE.

Noted the positive feedback received from students, articulated in the quotes from the range of students.

**Objective 3 – Student success**

The work of Becky and the primary education students was highlighted at the beginning of the meeting. It was a year when all students had shown considerable resilience. It had been pleasing to see how students had worked through the problems caused by COVID.

The report highlighted Florence, Argyll College students of the year. The programme which was delivered on a distance learning basis had been a great success.

The report noted the work of our student role models. The students who had started the student network were now graduating. It was good to see many more taking their place.

**Objective 4 - Social justice**

KA noted the aim under-pined the work we do. Particularly conscious of the aim when setting out the response to COVID and how we had worked with partners and students.

Reflecting on the evidence base. Completion rates were consistent across the basket of measures we use. Had noted some elements of complexity. For example, noting the success of some of the students we work with such as single parents, and the considerable challenge of mental health as an impact both pre and post COVID-19.

KA thanked Alison from Glasgow University for the work she has done, supporting a refreshed evaluation strategy. A refreshed approach to the evidence was now available on the SWAPWest website.

KA reflected on the success of the Partnership for education work. The input from SFC project funding had been really helpful with the work with FocusWest, Ayrshire College and the new access to CHP delivered in Girvan and the initiative with Strathclyde University engineering academy.

The two European projects MASTER and FETI were highlighted. Additional papers updating progress were submitted to the meeting. KA reported that we were pleased with the progress, despite the challenges of COVID on european partnership working.

**NC invited questions.**

Robin Ashton asked about the lockdown in March, was there any deferrals? KA replied that we contacted SWAP tutors early for their thoughts about individuals and made early contact with the students. The student profile was changed and assisted the students to progress, some students could return to complete their courses, about half a dozen returning across the board. Numbers were small in comparison with other college courses. However there had been a strong sense from students that they had wanted to continue with their studies.

John Rafferty complimented the new layout and said that it was clear and professional. KA thanked Amy Angus who had developed the online report.

NC asked about the progression from science. Were there any issues due to lack of access to labs. KA replied that it was not just lab time, but a combination of factors. Science programmes did have some distinctive challenges.

KA tabled the financial statement and presented the accounts up to 30th April. The accounts were presented in the format required for submission to OSCR. More straightforward than last year as we had a full 12 month accounts. Still a little challenging as our SFC funding is up until 31st July 2020.

The meeting approved the financial statement. NC and JM to sign the accounts.

**NC thanked Glasgow Kelvin College for hosting the SWAPWest office. He thanked City of Glasgow College for their continuing HR support.**

1. **SWAPWest SCIO governance**

**Election of Office bearers**

For election of office bearers, KA took the chair. The following office bearers were nominated and re-appointed by members:

Neil Croll: Chair

Julie Maxwell: Vice Chair

Myra Sisi: Secretary

**Annual subscription**

The following annual membership subscriptions were tabled and accepted:

Fee for University is £3888. (half for Stirling).

Fee for College – College with one campus but multiple programmes are £1094 per campus.

Small college provision £675 (1 programme)

1. **SWAPWest progress for 2019 - 2020**

KA tabled the report on 2020-2021 enrolments data. The paper highlighted a number of areas SWAPWest was working on. Main focus was in working through the challenges caused by COVID. SWAP had asked Fiona Andrews (FA) to assist in discussing with partners how SWAP can react and be useful to partners in working through the consequences. Broadly defined as a project for fair access. KA and FA met with Ayrshire and SLC and will meet with the remainder of college partners in the new year to discuss levels of need and support.

All of the partners kindly considered the points raised and shared their thoughts:

College partners

SLC - Myra Sisi (MS) highlighted the range of programmes and the increase over the last 3 years. South Lanarkshire College is committed to developing their new Access to Science starting in January. Feedback from students on the support they receive is positive. Childhood practice programme are looking at further opportunities. Students are feeding back that they want to be in college more. Recruitment for the science January start is going well.

Glasgow Clyde College – John Rafferty (JR) programmes are now predominately online. Retention is good, nursing at Cardonald started with 26 still have 23, Langside started with 44 still retaining 42. All colleges have moved to 100% online enrolment model, so students enrol early, induction is online as well. Some students dropped out as they didn’t expect it to be so heavily online. The college is working to help with digital poverty, buying and supplying laptops.

Science number at GCC started with 34, down to 25, but most of that is students who didn’t attend. Medical Studies started with 13, now down to 9. Biological science started with 46 down to 38. Humanities 25-16. Due to lack of placement availability, only 4 out of 22 want to do primary teaching. Law 25-21 at Langside. Online study is a challenge for a number of students.

Glasgow Kelvin College – Robin Ashton. Retention looking ok, in some cases better than historical levels. RA reflected on the already high levels of demand for SWAP programmes in the college. Access to Nursing had 20 applications for every place. Humanities, 9 for each space. Demand for SWAP courses is there. Advised the College were looking to run pathways to SWAP courses to support students. These would be short courses starting in January.

Ayrshire College – Julie Maxwell (JM). Applications similar to previous college comments. The teams across the colleges appreciated the meeting with KA and FA. Reflected on importance of face-to-face teaching. That said, staff and students are coping well, good practice going on and students have adapted well to online learning. The digital poverty fund has helped in supporting students. JM highlighted the Girvan initiative. It has been a success.

NCLAN – Carolyn Laird. KA advised that CL had provided a detailed report. Picking up on many of the aspects raised by college colleagues. She had also raised issues in terms of classroom etiquette. How that was developing and had been challenging early on for students. The classes appreciated the work of tutors and the visits from university partners.

University of Glasgow – NC. There are only a few degrees studying at university at the moment, such as the vets. Campus remains open and retention is high. Induction materials are online. Highlighted digital poverty and steps being taken by the university. Discussed the digital access partnership with Vodaphone.

Strathclyde University - Stephanie McKendry. Learning online, retention good. Noted that the physical space provided by the mature student’s association area missed. The digital inclusion fund has been important, with SWAP students contacted individually to help them. So far feedback from students is positive.

Stirling University – Shona Barrie. Almost all delivery is online. Feedback from groups, such as student carers, have appreciated having the ability to work from home rather than having to go onto campus. There has been an increase in applications. Amy from the Stirling team had worked hard with visits to SWAP classes. SB raised the issue of places and the challenges that there are likely to be.

KA reflected on the “management of places” that SWAP also provides.

Glasgow Caledonian University – Andy Shea (AS). Teaching basically fully online, apart from nursing students. Relatively happy with retention. Will be interesting to see how nursing numbers react once the 1st years go out in their practice learning environments in the New Year. Support for SWAP moved online early last year. Good feedback from students. A number of lessons learned that will support transition work for the future.

**6. AOCB**

No other business arising.

Neil Croll thanked and wished a Merry Christmas to attendees.