

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Colleges and Universities
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition)
5 October 2011
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
6 March 2013
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures. Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.
15 December 2011: MSP attendees (2), non- MSP attendees (36) – The topic for discussion was widening access, student support and retention. The outcome agreement that University of the West of Scotland has with the Scottish Funding Council which covers access and employability. The risks the college sector is currently facing in regards to the funding environment and commented on the need to ensure that no group of students disadvantaged. The sector should be united in tackling the issue of widening access (WA) and that the issues of WA, retention and student support are all interlinked.
8 March 2012: MSP attendees (4), non- MSP attendees (30) – The Convener commented on the increasing success of internationalisation in both the higher and further education sectors. An overview of Stevenson College’s international projects with over 1,500 international students. NUS Scotland explains the “year of student mobility” to increase awareness of the benefits and opportunities for Scottish students to study overseas. All universities are engaged in: development work; work with funded NGOs; International collaboration in learning and teaching and trans-national education. Having a strategic direction was key in international work.
13 September 2012: MSP attendees (4), non- MSP attendees (30) - Knowledge exchange was a topical issue and that this it is an exciting time for links across industry, universities and colleges. Knowledge exchange in the university sector. Three principals of a good system: relationships as key; work with the complexity of

business and academic systems; and appropriately harmonised systems. Colleges and universities are “different beasts” when it comes to knowledge exchange and different terminology needs to be applied to each sector’s work. University of Edinburgh is a major research university and very active in the commercialisation of that research. Scottish Enterprise is addressing the challenge of growing indigenous companies out of the expertise that exists in Scotland’s research base. Association for University and Industry Links (AURIL) was the biggest such association in Europe and had members from all over the UK and Eire.

8 November 2012: MSP attendees (3), non- MSP attendees (24) – Careers advice in schools on post-16 options. While Skills Development Scotland has a statutory responsibility to deliver careers guidance in schools there was also an important contribution to be made by school staff and the community in which the school resides. New employees don’t understand the contract of employment; rules of employer relations; and individuals having ability to take instruction. College places are currently over-subscribed and scarce, so students need the best advice to get on the right course to give young people the best chance of success. Nineteen per cent of applications to the University of Dundee were from the 40% most deprived, 16% entered the university. Fewer candidates apply to university from deprived communities than affluent ones.

20 December 2012: MSP attendees (3), non- MSP attendees (21) – Topic of the meeting was articulation from college to university. Ms Chantelle Robson gave an account of her personal experience as a former student who articulated from college into university. Ms Robson said she would not be where she is today without articulation to university. Ms Robson explained that the induction process at the university was good and she felt she was not at a disadvantage to those studying the full four-year course at university. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has been supporting articulation (HN to university) since 2003 and from 2008 there been a move towards a model of articulation hubs. Colleges transform lives and articulation is key to that. 50,000 students study at HN level. Open University has 900 new entrants every year that start with some previous college experience (either HNC/D).

6 March 2013: MSP attendees (10), non- MSP attendees (21) - Two parts to the meeting: first, the AGM; and second the topical meeting to discuss Scotland’s educational links with China. Two documents provided to the group: summary of what the group has done since October 2011 and official paperwork to be submitted to Parliament, the Annual Return Form (AR1). Implementation of the Scottish Government’s China Plan 2012-2017, Working with China, particularly on increasing opportunities for young people to learn Chinese. The need for everyone to work together on this important aspect of Scottish life as, with 1.3 billion people, China will become the world’s next super power. Dr. Judith McClure, Convenor of the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN) founded in in January 2006 as a voluntary association with Scotland’s first China Plan published that year (and later refreshed in 2008 with a new plan in 2012). City of Glasgow College’s business development

and links with China. The college's mission is to become a world class international college and explained that China is the most important student market from a business development point of view.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names of all MSP members of the Group. Note that only names need to be provided, no party designation or other information is required.

Liz Smith
Neil Findlay
Drew Smith
Hanzala Malik
Liam McArthur
Marco Biagi
Stewart Maxwell

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Mr Coby Jones
Ms Rebecca Lauer
Mr Brian McLeish
Ms Olivia Salama
Mr Matthew Stewart
Mr Colin Taylor
Ms Jennifer Ross
Mr Umbreen Khalid

Organisations

Colleges Scotland
Edinburgh Napier University
The Confucius Institute for Scotland
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh College
University of Aberdeen

	<p>University of the Highlands and Islands</p> <p>Scotland China Education Network (SCEN)</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>Universities Scotland</p> <p>NUS Scotland</p> <p>City of Glasgow College</p> <p>Remploy</p> <p>UCU Scotland</p> <p>Open University in Scotland</p> <p>Lead Scotland</p> <p>Scottish Funding Council</p> <p>Scotland's Colleges</p> <p>University of Abertay Dundee</p> <p>Albyn School</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>University of Dundee</p> <p>Burn Stewart Distillers Ltd</p> <p>Ayr College</p> <p>Queen Margaret University</p> <p>sparqs</p> <p>Royal Society of Chemistry</p> <p>Society of Biology</p> <p>Royal Society of Edinburgh</p> <p>Holyrood Magazine</p> <p>University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Commercialisation Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>Heriot-Watt University</p> <p>Pagoda PR (Scotland's Colleges)</p> <p>Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA)</p> <p>University of Stirling</p> <p>University of the West of Scotland</p>
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	James Watt College ATL Scotland South Lanarkshire College Scottish Wider Access Programme East (SWAP East) Glasgow Caledonian University Jewel & Esk College Royal Conservatoire Scotland Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS) University of St Andrews OU in Scotland University of Strathclyde Students' Association (USSA)
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Liz Smith MSP
Deputy Convener	Neil Findlay MSP
Secretary	James Wilson
Treasurer	N/A

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

Lunches for meetings are provided by different Groups at each meeting the costs do not exceed £500 from a single source.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

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Liz Smith

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