**SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME**

**(WEST) SCIO**

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**Minutes of the SWAP West Annual General Meeting held on Friday 14th January 2022 online.**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS**

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

**Julie Maxwell (Vice Chair) Ayrshire College**

**Myra Sisi (secretary) South Lanarkshire College**

Marcus Ross University of the West of Scotland

Nicola Mullholland New College Lanarkshire

John Rafferty Glasgow Clyde College

Cathy McNab West College Scotland

Stephanie McKendry University of Strathclyde

Amy McDermott University of Stirling

Andrew Shea Glasgow Caledonian University

Robin Ashton Glasgow Kelvin College

Daniel Keenan University of Glasgow

Jennifer Weightman University of Glasgow

**IN ATTENDANCE**

John Templeton SWAPWest

Amy Angus SWAPWest

Andrew Quinn SWAPWest

Helen Cormack SWAPWest

James Burns SWAPWest

Paula Christie SWAPWest

Kenny Anderson SWAPWest

**APOLOGIES**:

Shona Barrie University of Stirling

Alison Hillis University of the West of Scotland

Deborah Duncan University of Strathclyde

Eleanor Wilson Glasgow Caledonian University

Julia MacDonald Dumfries & Galloway College

Erica O’Neil SWAPWest

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Neil Croll (NC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by all in attendance.

Apologies were noted.

1. Minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2020 **were approved.**
2. **Annual report and financial statement**

The annual report for 2020 - 2021 was tabled online. Kenny Anderson (KA) noted that one of the advantages of an online report was the ability to share media online. KA also echoed NCs greetings and warm welcome to all in attendance and to Nicola and Jennifer on their first SWAP West AGM.

In reflecting on the academic year 2020 – 2021 and the start of 2021, two themes have been emerging. First is the dedication and hard work of students and tutors. At times it has been humbling. The second is the innovations during the period that will allow SWAP and partners to continue to deliver education during COVID recovery. Innovation is a real strength of the partnership work we do.

The annual report highlights the strategic aims and objectives:

**Objective 1 – Partnership**

Programmes had developed as planned. Thanks to the work of Fiona Andrews and partners. Progression had remined in line with previous years. Pleasing to see an increase in progression to HNC.

The report highlights the work that our college partners do. This will not encapsulate all the good work done by our partners, but more a snapshot of highlights.

Ayrshire College

Th CHP programme with the partnership for education in Girvan has been sustained and grown with an HNC. KA also highlighted the Colleges SWAP week, hearing from students and their stories as well as our Amy. The week worked well to highlight adult students.

Glasgow Kelvin College

The pilot access for men into care was concluded with lessons learned. Was a bold intervention, with good work from the college team. We have been working with Student Support and the Community team in the college due to the many students with multiple challenges. Thanks to Maggie and the Community team. Erica O’Neil worked with Maggie on the building better futures project. A Scottish Funding Council funded work with young parents, providing them with a launchpad for their future work on Access programmes.

City of Glasgow College

Our access to engineering programme had one of the most successful years. Thinking carefully about how we develop the online learning that worked so well.

Glasgow Clyde College

Strong programme provision. Worked with John Rafferty to expand the SWAP programme presence at the Anniesland campus with Science and Nursing programmes being delivered there for the first time. The nursing team are developing a new skills pack. A special thanks to Jonathan Swann who has been a SWAP tutor for over 15 years, he was thanked by KA for his service in this role as it came to an end. He will still be teaching on the programme, we look forward to working with Conor on the colleges science provision.

Dumfries & Galloway College

Delighted to get an Access to Humanities started in 2020 with good progression to UWS on the Social Work provision and some to Glasgow, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews. Thanks to Julia for helping in assisting in this expansion in provision at Dumfries campus. Nursing remains a good strong focus. Really pleased that the Stranraer campus programme is continuing.

NCLAN

We have been working with the College to think about programmes that will meet the communities they serve. In 2021 there was the introduction of the Integrated Health and Professional Care at Cumbernauld. The programme is being run at Motherwell campus this year. Thanks to Yvonne and Tracy for developing. A really good opportunity for students, particularly with the emphasis on Health and Social Care as part of the recovery from COVID. A new Paramedic Science programme was developed jointly by the science and health teams. Noted the success of the Cumbernauld Nurses who raised £1,500 for Cancer Research for socially distanced walking.

SLC

Highlighted the work we have been doing to develop January starts and progression on to HNC. The science programme was a welcome addition to CHP. Well done to Jennifer and Rhona. Also, to thank Karen and her Law, Business & Finance team in really customising and homing in on those students who wish to progress on to Law and Accountancy with a customised model.

WCS

Really good work with areas of SIMD20 and working with local health board and the Golden Jubilee for Allied Health professions. The January start Nurses for 2020 had a really challenging time, as they were on campus for around two weeks before the lockdown. They were, quite rightly a vocal group, reminding us of their challenges. We spoiled them a little in December 2021 when they finished and progressed on to university in grand style. The video of their celebrations was played.

UHI Argyll College

This has been brought under the SWAP West partnership, as part of SFC national project funding. The Access to Nursing programme is now into its 3rd year with really good progressions.

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 and HNC. The stats show the stability of the programme over all. There has been good progression to UWS for humanities programmes, such as Criminal Justice. Science has been a more challenging area during COVID, but the dedication of tutors and students is shown with good progression on to university, and an increase in HNC in Sciences. Nursing continues to be strong, with Stirling having higher numbers. This is maybe reflective of the work we have done at NCL Cumbernauld campus. Pleasing to see the development at GCU in Learning Disability Nursing. Evidencing that the interventions are working well.

CHP is in its third year with 88% progression. Recruitment has been more of a challenge.

**Preparation for Higher Education**

Changes to prep for HE was 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.

Prep for HE is working well, with it being developed by Amy Angus (AA) and Paula Christie (PC).

AA: So far so good and developing from partners and own experience and link up students to raise awareness for Prep being of use in HE and this being on Academic Skills and Wellbeing with help from John Templeton. There has been a lot of great feedback from students and tutors, especially in seeing student feelings in their reflective diaries and this can allow for intervention to keep retention levels high.

PC: Echo what AA said and delighted with how well it has been received and the interactive element of this, which is fed back in the video along with seeing how previous students reflected. Also, thanking tutors for their feedback and continuing to develop this to meet needs of tutors and students.

KA: Also thanked tutors for using the feedback comments to engage in future development of the materials and a plan for the year and some work to be done. Thank you, AA, and PC, for their continued hard work on this.

**Objective 3 – Student success**

It is difficult to highlight any individual successes over the past year. The report highlights the work of our curriculum teams in developing student solutions. Our students continue to develop as strong role models for adult learning. Well done to the Ayrshire Humanities students who interviewed the college principal, Carol Turnbull during International Woman’s Day. Primary Ed and Education students from Strathclyde University spoke at the International Contemporary Conference looking at their work within the Hidden Voices project and the impact on children with parents in prison. Well done to Kimberly from Greenock Nursing on her award for her charity work.

**Objective 4 - Social justice**

Particularly conscious of our partnership aim in terms of social justice and the impact on our students.

Highlighted the basket of measures we use as our evidence base for SWAP. Our challenges still with students who have multiple disadvantages and mental wellbeing. Increase in males, is positive with a stable completion rate.

KA tabled a report on early evidence from enrolment data for 2021/22. One stat that jumped out was that of students with dependants and family. With a rise from 50% to 60%, single parents from 25% to 30%. The average age has risen for the first time from 28 to 30 years old. Main occupations have traditionally been in retail and care, but we are now seeing a broader base in terms of people coming from customer care and admin assistants and office based work.

Highlighted the information from the Post SWAP survey with specific questions relating to COVID. Thanks to Lisa for the really good work.

**Partnerships for education**. The SFC funded work was incorporated into our core funding. Managed to continue our work with the Strathclyde Engineering Academy with NCL and South Lanarkshire Council

SCAPP have been fantastic with supporting us and delighted that PC will be involved in the pilot of their accreditation work.

Colleges Development Network have done a lot of good work with SWAP in Health and Nursing, it has been a little more challenging with our partnership with the health board. PC and EN have registered with CDN for their research opportunities KA highlighted the work of CRADALL at University of Glasgow. How interesting their webinars are in highlighting the broader challenges of adult education.

**European projects**. The three European projects MASTER, ADVANCE and FETI were highlighted. Additional papers updating progress were submitted to the meeting. We were funded for the ADVANCE project which looks at digital skills.

For the MASTER project KA Gordon Murray from West College Scotland for allowing the pilot to be run with his cohorts.

FETI has been one of our more challenging projects, thanks to HC & PC for working on this and feeding back to the Scottish Refugee Council and City of Sanctuary. The work locally has really helped the profile of SWAP in working with refugee students.

KA paid particular credit to Helen Cormack, for all her work in these projects and keeping them moving forward. She is a considerable asset to the team and especially her role in developing Paula and Erica.

NC echoed thanks to KA on his work being done over the past year and partnership work, which could have been challenging and this evidences a true partnership.

**NC invited questions, comments, or feedback.**

Marcus Ross noted the work and results under the ongoing challenging conditions that COVID has given. The complications make it more difficult.

John Rafferty noted that the stats are always impressive, and the presentation style is better. It has been a challenging year and staff have stepped up to help students succeed. It has been a year of innovation for SWAP. Interesting to note we have been thinking of some of these for a while. There are some challenges in retention, but recruitment has been better than expected. There are high pass rates with good progression options. One course at Glasgow Clyde has had a retention issue, but overall, the numbers are strong, and Science are very strong in recruitment, which was a surprise. Across the HN and NC courses there has been less recruitment compared to SWAP courses. SWAP is doing better than many other courses across the programmes.

Robin Ashton noted that you would be happy with these numbers in a normal year, but in a pandemic this is brilliant. As with John’s previous information the numbers across non-SWAP being down, and students using Student Support services may go up and SWAP has stepped ahead, and this can be learned across other provisions.

NC wished to add that the success of the students progressing into university and the numbers have been good. There was a risk that numbers dropping may happen or numbers being retained on courses could have gone down and this has not happened. Due to the support and preparation on their access programmes and working as a partnership to ensure transition works.

1. **Accounts**

The OSCR accounts run 1st May to 30th April. The annual financial statements were circulated prior to the meeting. SWAP executive has looked at these before Christmas. The meeting approved the accounts for submission to OSCR.

For funding KA advised that a bid would shortly be going to the SFC for 2022 – 2023. 1 year bid had been recommended. Partners will be advised of the outcome.

1. **SWAPWest SCIO governance**

**Election of Office bearers**

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

 Julie Maxwell: **Chair**

 Marcus Ross: **Vice Chair**

 Myra Sisi: **Secretary**

KA noted NC will stay on as Chair until the end of April to sign off the OSCR accounts.

**Annual subscription**

The following annual membership subscriptions were **tabled and approved**:

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

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

Small college provision £675.

1. **SWAPWest Partners Update**

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

**College partners**

Ayrshire College – Julie Maxwell (JM) is encouraged by numbers of SWAP students and the overall diversity within the students coming through. Positive developments in Health & Paramedic Sciences. Girvan HNC programme is a great addition to the subjects offered throughout the college group and it was noted that the Girvan programme is a great success from the last cohort, only one did not progress on to higher level studies. The college also offers a digital skills course for students over the summer, and this has proved popular for SWAP students and should be delivered again this summer.

WCS – Cathy MacNab (CM) Similar to others in relation to good attainment rates for SWAP students compared to other classes within the college. The numbers are holding up well, and there is a little bit of a high withdrawal rate in some programmes, and this has resulted in intervention by the college to address this. There is an online unit for online confidence that is encouraged to complete and student skills, including being able to articulate skills moving on to HE and this may be of benefit to SWAP students. Highlighted the link with the Golden Jubilee and potential work opportunities coming from this.

SLC - Myra Sisi (MS) highlighted the sustained demand on the SWAP programmes. Retention on Health & Sciences is good, 22 still on the course from 25. Access to Teaching & Social Science is going well with good progression projection for the students. January Access to Science is going well and recruitment is still ongoing. The Lanark programme failed to recruit, but other numbers are up so overall happy with this. Access to Social Work has 11 out of 14 students applying through UCAS. Access to Social Care is due to start. Access to Law, Business & Finance is going well too. It is all progress on the SLC programmes.

KA noted that the work on a class at Lanark will be ongoing and there is a desire to launch a class in Lanark.

Glasgow Clyde College – John Rafferty (JR) noted that retention is impressive, and Nursing has good attainment, Science has had good recruitment and attainment and the Law class at Langside is doing well, the only “weaker” programme is Humanities at Anniesland where the numbers are down to 15, but this is still very good as there was worries that it would be like this across the board. There has been a structural change, with Senior Tutors being offered Curriculum Leaders. The tutor base is mainly the same. There is a new Assistant Principle that will cover Wellbeing and part of her remit is SWAP students.

Glasgow Kelvin College – Robin Ashton (RA). Things are going well. There have been some slight tweaks that are in the Annual Report and a programme name has changed, mathematics has changed on an Engineering course. Recruitment is up overall. There have been some issues with longer term online teaching which the college is keeping an eye on.

NCLAN – Nicola Mulholland (NM) noted that the SWAP programmes at Motherwell are doing well and growing due to popularity. Paramedic Sciences is running again and going well, there have been discussions around more programmes being offered at NCLAN due to their demographic.

**University Partners**

University of the West of Scotland – Marcus Ross (MR) indicated that the numbers are holding up well. MR wished to indicate his interest in picking up with Ayrshire College on the Paramedic Science progression within NHS Ayrshire & Arran. There has been a mixed experience of the hybrid model, with highs in study skills registration and attendance online. University has introduced a new Virtual Learning Environment that is a social study space. There are some students that reflect positively on this, even without the physical interactions and some were not so keen. There is a reflection on those with caring and work responsibilities benefiting from this model adopted by UWS. One concern is around Nursing numbers being slightly down and this will be looked at, with demand being so high.

University of Glasgow – Dan Keenan noted strong numbers, and these are spread over the courses. There were 31 students that attended summer school in 2021. There is support offered around pre-UCAS as well as the SWAP study skills day. 10 out of 50 Talent Scholarships awarded to SWAP students, along with COVID support payments and a laptop loan scheme to assist students. There is also an articulation route being promoted at HNC that SWAP has helped advertise and allow an extra year at college before moving on to university. History & Philosophy option will be added to the articulation routes for Humanities. A more flexible approach to learning may be an opportunity to engage more adult learners with external commitments, such as single parents and carers.

Strathclyde University - Stephanie McKendry noted things are going well. The numbers are slightly down at Strathclyde. However, this is possibly due to the bumper intake the year previously and not an impact on COVID. The new Learning and Teaching building is now open and hosts Student Services, the university continues to assist with technology to allow students to study in the blended learning environment, along with financial support where needed. Strathclyde are now working on their 2030 strategy and there will be a focus on mature students.

Stirling University – Amy McDermott (AM) wished to thank the college partners for their continued work and support in the SWAP West partnership. 10 – 15 presentations were delivered to college programmes. AM is delighted to deliver these online and in person the few times she has been able to do so. There has been personal statement seminars and post application events too. Looking at some materials with AA and PC and there is a website for this as part of the Stirling main site. Applications and enrolments are growing. Retention figures, etc. can be provided on request.

KA noted the Science numbers growth at Stirling and indicated his work to do this over the years.

Glasgow Caledonian University – Andy Shea (AS) noted 158 students progressed to GCU, which is higher than the year before. Bill MacDonald has now retired from the Nursing programme, and it is noted that KA and AS wish to thank him for his time and hard work with students and wish him all the best in his retirement.

KA looks forward to working with the new team that is in place at GCU for Nursing.

NC – Thank you to everyone to hear about the successes and innovations brought in by the partners,

**6. AOCB**

DK – Thank you to KA for passing round the information and writing the kind words for Jane O’Rourke who was a lovely person and a great person both personally and professionally.

KA entered into the minutes the tribute put together by Fiona Andrews. Felt this was a fitting tribute for someone who contributed so much to SWAPWest:

“Colleagues will be very sad to hear that Jane O’Rorke, previously Senior Widening Development Officer and Multi-Faith Co-ordinator at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) passed away peacefully on Tuesday 9th November 2021. Jane will be remembered as a passionate ambassador for widening access and the main lead in highlighting the needs of care experienced children and adults in Scotland. Her commitment to equality and fairness ensured that many students progressed into further and higher education and on to successful careers. Any individual who worked with Jane across her career in higher education working in the Scottish Wider Access Programme (West) and UWS would have been inspired by her enthusiasm and constant willingness to help. Jane had many close friendships inside and outside of work, but was definitely proudest of being mum to her three sons, Michael, David and Robert.” – Fiona Andrews

**Closing remarks by NC (Outgoing Chair)**

NC has the last word. I wish to thank everyone over the past 3 years in SWAP Governance as a Vice-Chair and eventually as Chair for two and half years. I have always been involved and passionate about SWAP and Widening Participation. I got into this field due to my dad returning to education in the 1980s to do his O-Levels and Highers after being a welder, turner, and a serviceman in the RAF. Also highlight the influence of Fiona Andrews as a line manager, she was heavily involved in SWAP during her years in Widening Access. The idea of SWAP was a great reflection for me, being able to offer a one-year Access course instead of doing O-Level and Higher studies. It has grown at the University of Glasgow from around 50 – 60 students in 2009 to 120 – 130 students a year now across the broad spectrum of courses available at Glasgow University.

Working in this area has been great to meet such lovely people that care. We are all in Widening Participation because we care and want to make a difference. It has always been an accolade to say that I am the Director of SWAPWest. SWAP is the prime example of how a partnership can work in the education sector.

I wish to thank everyone for their hard work over the years and I want to wish a good luck to the new SWAP Executive.

NC Closed the meeting.