

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance Steering Group on 30 January, 3.00pm to 5.00pm in Room B219 in the Britannia Building at Glasgow Caledonian University

Attendance

Steering Group Members

Lord Robert Smith (Chair)
Dame Elish Angiolini
Mr Simon Pepper
Mr David Ross
Mr Tony Brian
Mr Eric Sanderson

Consultants

Mr Kevin Clarke
Dr Peter West

Special Consultee on behalf of the SSIs

Lord Vallance of Tummel

Secretariat

Mr Darren Thompson

13-01 Welcome and Apologies (Oral)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. There were no apologies.

13-02 Approval of Minutes from 16 November 2012

Members approved the minute of the previous meeting.

13-03 Matters Arising (Oral)

There were none.

13-04 Recent engagement activity (Paper SCoG 12)

The Chair reported on his recent meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, on 9 January: discussion had covered the process and the timetable for developing the Code of Governance.

The consultants reported on their respective engagements with other stakeholders, including the national staff trade unions (EIS and UCU). At the time of the meeting, no formal written submissions

had yet been received from the national trade unions.

Dr West reported on discussion with the Director of CBI Scotland on the development of the Code.

13-05 Summary of institutional visits and emerging conclusions (Paper SCoG 13)

The consultants reported that the programme of institutional visits was drawing to a close, with only one still to be completed. The paper provided a range of preliminary conclusions, based upon a wide range of discussions with staff and students, and the collective view of Steering Group members was sought on the details of these in order to direct the consultants' work on the drafting of a Code.

Steering Group members welcomed the paper, which extensively summarised the range of opinions expressed in relation to the questions raised in the Issues Paper, as key evidence to be considered in drafting a new Code.

Taking account of the evidence from the institutional consultation visits, the Steering Group discussed the preliminary conclusions in detail. They offered suitable amendments and reached agreement on a number of the issues.

13-06 Structure and format of the draft code: initial thinking (Paper SCoG 14)

The Steering Group took the opportunity to discuss and comment upon a suggested draft structure for the Code. Recognising that the content was very much in draft form, Steering Group members nevertheless offered comments. Members were content with the suggested structure.

It was agreed that a full draft Code should be circulated to Steering Group members before 28 February. It was felt that this approach would facilitate an iterative drafting process and allow for more detailed and informed discussion at the final meeting of the Group on 21 March.

13-07 Post-16 Education (Scotland) Bill: implications for the Code (Paper SCoG 15)

The secretary introduced the paper and a brief discussion followed on the on-going legislative process and on the potential implications for the Code once it was provided by the Steering Group to the Committee of Scottish Chairs.

13-08 AOB (Oral)

Lord Vallance requested that teleconference facilities be made available at the next meeting to allow him to participate. The secretary undertook to arrange this and provide the details in due course.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 21 March, 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Glasgow Caledonian University