Programme

14th August 2014

Venue: Heriot Watt, Edinburgh

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| **9.30** | **Registration, tea and coffee** |  |
| **10.00** | Welcome and opening session   * **Robert Foster, Vice President Education NUS Scotland** | Main Plenary |
| **10.20** | Plenary Speaker:   * **Alice Brown, Chair of Scottish Funding Council**   The role of students’ associations in the college sector |
| **10.40** | Plenary Speakers   * **Michelle Bingham, President South Lanarkshire College** * **Jules Fitzgerald, President New Lanarkshire College** |
| **11.00** | **Break and networking** | Students’ Union |
| **11.30** | **Workshop Session 1** |  |
| **Students’ Associations and Outcome Agreements**  *Scottish Funding Council*  This session will explore how students’ associations and colleges can work together to shape their region’s Outcome Agreement. | Committee Room 1 |
| **NUS and College Students’ Associations: Support and National Influence**  *Mike Day, Director of Nations*  This session will outline how NUS seeks to support its college students’ association members through developing capacity, research, information, influence and campaigns. We will discuss how students’ associations can influence the work of NUS, the support it provides and the stance it takes when dealing with decision makers at a national level. | Cafe |
| **Trustee Boards, Charity Registration, and Students’ Associations**  *Martin Tyson, OSCR and Natalie Masterson, NUS Scotland*  The session will cover:   * How college student associations can benefit from charitable status * What’s involved in becoming and staying a charity * Things you need to think about if you association is looking at charitable status * Some of the specific issues for charitable student associations – what are the risks?  What’s the right relationship with the College? | Office |
| **Joined up Thinking – authoritative student input from course rep to president**  *Simon Varwell, sparqs*  The student voice in quality is vital, but to be effective it must be joined up, authoritative and well-researched. This means that senior officers sitting on cross-college and regional committees need to know what other reps are hearing and saying. Ensuring that your democratic structures and coherent and well-connected is therefore essential. This workshop will look at the different levels of representation, and how to get them all talking to each other. | Volunteer Room |
| **12.30** | **Lunch** | Zeroes |
| **13.30** | **Workshop Session 2** |  |
| **Campaigning in Partnership**  *Jenny Batty, Campaigns Delivery Officer*  Students’ associations exist to make positive changes for the students that they represent. This can be by voicing student opinion in college meetings, or by identifying solutions to the issues that students are facing and campaigning for change. This session will explore the ways in which students’ associations and colleges can work together to make positive changes for students. | Committee Room 1 |
| **Are “harder to reach” students really harder to reach?**  *Stephanie Millar, sparqs*  With the numbers of students who are not full time or present on the rise, engaging “non-traditional” students can present a challenge to the formal processes used in colleges. Are they really harder to reach or can college processes adapt to better engage them? This workshop will explore the barriers students face that can limit their engagement and will consider what colleges can do to minimise these barriers and develop flexible approaches that can involve everyone. There will be particular emphasis on students in supported education, ESOL students and apprentices, but the core issues are relevant across all “non-traditional” student groups. | Café |
| **Democracy is dead! Long live democracies**  *Charlotte Lawley, NUS Scotland*  This session will focus on the findings of NUS’ Alternative Democracies research project which aimed to establish what the movement means by ‘student led and democratic’ and find new and innovative ways in which associations could involve and engage their membership in decision making processes. This session will allow you to explore and discuss the replacement of traditional democratic structures with exciting new ways for students to elect representatives, debate policy and influence your institution. Leave your traditions at the door – it’s time to think differently about student democracy! | Zeroes |
| **Equality and Diversity: Realising all of our potential**  *Gary Loke, Head of Policy, Equality Challenge Unit*  *Vonnie Sandlan, NUS Scotland Women’s Officer*  How do you deliver positive impact for all the students you represent? Do you know how diverse your student population is? This workshop will explore some of key equality challenges in colleges in Scotland and consider how Students’ Associations can work to ensure that the potential of all our students are realised. | Office |
| **Student Partnership Agreements**  *Mike Williamson, Development Advisor*  We often talk about Students’ Associations and Colleges working together in partnership, but what does partnership actually mean? What does it look like in practice? In this workshop we’ll discuss these questions, and we’ll also look at Student Partnership Agreements, a practical way to improve the relationship between a College and its Students’ Association. We’ll hear from Edinburgh College Students’ Association, who have already been through this process, to learn from their experience. | Volunteer Room |
| **14.30** | **Workshop Session 3** |  |
| **Going Global: How to Engender Open Campuses & Open Communities**  *Helen O’Shea, International Education Officer*  Cohesive campuses and communities generate wellbeing that positively impacts on the wider societal context. This workshop will explore the nature and extent of xenophobia on campuses in Scotland, discuss the challenges in creating a student climate of campus and community cohesion and disseminate best-practice solutions, including a copy of NUS UK’s Internationalisation Toolkit for each participant, to help tackle xenophobia on campus and in their community. | Committee Room 1 |
| **The Visibility Challenge: How can we make students aware of us?**  If you stopped a student in the corridor, would they know they have a students’ association, and what its role is? Increasing their visibility is a challenge many associations face. This session is an open discussion, enabling you to explore:   * What are the main barriers to students’ association’s visibility? * How can students’ associations increase their visibility and profile, and increase student involvement?   Come along, share and explore the many challenges of operating your Student Association and discuss strategies for overcoming them. | Café |
| **The Geography Challenge: How can we overcome distance?**  *David Scott, Institutional Support and Development Manager*  College Student Associations have all gone through a merger process in the past year. Many associations are now operating over fairly large distances.   * What are the challenges of trying to support and represent students in a multi-campus college? * How do you cater for the diverse range of students who attend your college? * Do you have ideas of how to balance centralised against local activities?   Come along, share and explore the many challenges of operating your Student Association and discuss strategies for overcoming them. | Zeroes |
| **Greening your Association, Campus and Beyond!**  *Alex Henderson, Sustainability Project Officer*  Scotland has set some ambitious targets to reduce our impact on the planet and it is time for action! In this session Alex will look at how far we have come as a sector, share with you some award winning projects for inspiration and help you continue your sustainability journey by highlighting campaigns, projects and competitions you can get involved with. Our environmental impacts are a serious issue but we can have some fun trying to stop it and together we can make a huge impact! | Office |
| **Supporting Staff Superheroes: What do students’ association staff need in their toolkits?**  *Eve Lewis, Head of sparqs*  This session is aimed at all delegates. The role of the students’ association staff member is unique and challenging. In this session you will explore the skills and knowledge they need to successfully support their students’ association, what a continuing professional development programme for association staff might look like, and hear what the Learner Voice Practitioner Network in England is doing. | Volunteer Room |
| **15.30** | **Break** | University Building |
| **16.00** | Plenary Speaker   * **Mandy Exley, Principal Edinburgh College** | Main Plenary |
| **16.30** | Plenary Speaker   * **Marc Winsland, President of Dundee and Angus College** | Main Plenary |
| **16.45** | **Summing Up and Closing Remarks** | Main Plenary |
| **17.00** | **Close** |  |