Higher Education Information Directors in Scotland (HEIDS)

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, 27 September 2012
University of Dundee

Present:

Chair

Steve Watt	University of St Andrews	SW

Vice-Chair

Brian Mullins	The University of the West of Scotland	BM

Secretary

Fraser Muir	University of Edinburgh	FM
Dean Drew	University of St Andrews	DD
Alan Doyle	APUC	AD
Brian Gilmore	University of Edinburgh	BG
Dave Graham	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	DG
Alun Hughes	University of the Highlands & Islands	AH
Ellen Kerr	University of Dundee	EK
David Johnston	The University of the West of Scotland	DJ
John Maher	University of the Highlands & Islands	JM
Simon Marsden	University of Edinburgh	SM
Kathy McCabe	University of Stirling	KM
Gordon McLoughlin	GSA	GML
Ronnie McIntyre	SAC	RMI
Tom Mortimer	University of Dundee	TM
Raymonde Murphy	Glasgow Caledonian University	RM
Frances Neilson	JANET UK	FN
Moriamo Oduyemi	University of Abertay	MO
Dean Philips	University of Aberdeen	DP
Brian Robertson	University of Aberdeen	BR
Fraser Ross	RCS	FR
Jem Taylor	University of the Highlands & Islands	JT
David Telford	Edinburgh Napier University	DT
Mark Toole	University of Stirling	MT
Colin Watson	Glasgow School of Art	CW

In attendance

Anna Matthews	UCISA	AM

1. **Apologies were received from the following:**

David Beards	SFC
Caroline Cochrane	RCS
Frazer Greig	University of Abertay

Sandy MacDonald	University of Glasgow
Andy McCreath	RGU
Catherine McMillan	University of Strathclyde
Mike Roch	Heriot-Watt University

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** **Action**

The minutes of the meeting held at the University of the West of Scotland, Ayr on 16 May 2012 were approved and matters arising are covered elsewhere in the agenda.

3. **Reports from Shared Services report progress groups:**

The Chair asked each of the sub-group convenors to report on any progress with their relevant shared services work.

3a. IT Continuity and Storage
BM introduced and talked to the circulated paper of the previous night. The group discussed the various options but costings were considered necessary in order to be able to make fully informed decisions.

BM added that additional details would be necessary in order to be able to allow suppliers to provide the detailed costing required.

The group discussed the response from JANET Brokerage, in particular the timeliness of information. FN apologised to the group on behalf of JANET UK. MT & TM sit on the Brokerage advisory group and agreed to escalate on behalf   MT/TM of HEIDS.

Members agreed to further pursue requirements through JANET Brokerage but with a cut-off date of the next meeting for further information from the Brokerage.

3b. Collaboration tools
MT advised the group that the mobile event was positively received and a small working group constituted from members of HEIDS and SCURL formed to look at taking this theme forward.

The platform was seen not as a differentiator, but an enabler with content being key, not the platform.

The group discussed various options for collaborative procurement as well as potential issues with variation of degree of uptake of smartphones within different university campuses. Trend in usage is upwards, in all cases.

3c&d. Blackboard; licensing and hosting
MT updated group of progress with Blackboard negotiations on both hosting and licencing. Progress was slow. HEIDS is represented by MT with further representation from ScotBUG. BB have presented their vision for the future of their services, based on cloud provision.

The group discussed the need to keep pressure on the supplier to ensure progress is made and to also see progress on additional tools that would be provided as extras. Members decide to go separately; they should include a clause to allow them to move to the shared model when it becomes available.

The group discussed further experiences of moving to Moodle from Blackboard and that as a relatively quick process, this could be used as a lever to engage

further with the supplier.

Finally, MT concluded by reiterating the four deals being negotiated with Blackboard.

3e. Moodle
DT updated the group on progress with Moodle-related shared services. A requirements document has been produced to inform progress with APUC. A PIN has been release to help develop requirements in conjunction with suppliers. 40 responses were received with 10 chosen to progress – various models have been put forward.

A paper is in production to help inform the way forward. Input from members is required.   All

The group concluded by discussing the maturing Moodle market as a serious alternative to more established players like Blackboard.

4.   **Update on FE/HE ICT strategy**

The Chair introduced discussions on the ICT strategy document and the widely considered poor communication with HE sector, especially in comparison with FE.

AH updated group on his understanding; engagement is with Universities Scotland (US) executive; no dissemination wider than that is apparent. FE sector   AH
was more widely circulated but little response. AH agreed to circulate the most recent version to members.

The group discussed the options and possibilities for greater input into the strategy by the group. It was widely agreed that this was desirable to avoid marginalisation. US engagement was considered key to this process and work is required to ensure HEIDS is seen as the go-to group for input in this area. The   Chair
Chair agreed to write to US representatives to this effect.

The group agreed that general representation on other groups and bodies is   FM
desirable. FM agreed to collate current and possible representation on strategically relevant groups using UCISA information as model.

The Chair concluded discussions with a summary of actions.

5.   **Sector work on Business Intelligence; Stirling & St Andrews**

KM presented the work on Business Intelligence at the University of Stirling. Members discussed the project and lessons learned.

Members agreed that a follow up discussion using St Andrews as case study   Chair
should be undertaken at our next meeting.

6.   **Presentation of shared register of interests**

RM presented work so far on the online shared interest system to members.

Members discussed and advised on how to progress. RM endeavoured to   RM
update system as per the discussions.

Members discussed specific example of office 365 and possibility of building a community of practice since this was such a common platform amongst

members.

7.   Reports from groups
7.1   SFC (DB)
No update received.

7.2   UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND (DT)
No update received.

7.3   JISC (MT)
MT updated members on developments with JISC; Business review has been completed and budgets agreed with a stakeholder meeting being held on 7 Nov. JISC ownership concluded.

7.4   JANET UK (FN)
JANET 6 re-procurement is progressing as planned. A number of events are planned; JANET 6 online Oct 4, CSIRT London, JVCS user event in November.

An event is planned for 22 (technology) -23 (strategy) Nov for JANET Scotland members.

7.5   SMCG/SWAN
MT summarised recent communications in this area. NHS were considered at the vanguard of uptake. 2014 is considered the earliest impact on our sector at regional level.

Regarding representation on SWAN, an advisory group will inform those not in the vanguard. The SWAN member should also be representative on the Sector ICT strategy oversight board.

Members discussed appropriate membership and representation. Agreed to take a watching brief. To be discussed at next meeting.

7.6   RSCs (CC)
FM reported on behalf of Caroline Cochrane the following update:
- 3 new advisor posts recruited over the summer, however, there will be a 5% funding cut in 2012/13.
- Collaborative activities and partnerships are a continuing priority, with partners such as SQA, Scotlands Colleges and the HE Academy.
- Regionalisation continues as a priority and work conducted by the RSC on consolidation of multi-campus information systems & services is being drawn upon by the colleges
- There are concerns that the JHEEP (JISC Higher Education Extension Project) could deflect focus from the FE Sector (highlighting that over 30% of HE teaching in Scotland is delivered by FE).
- There will be a move in premises for the RSC, but it will remain in the GU estate.

7.7   SCURL/SCONUL
MT updated group on activities in SCURL and SCONUL:
- Walk in access has completed and MT agreed to circulate the resulting paper.   MT
- JISC funded investigation into shared LMS across universities in Scotland will report in January.

- Mobile event well received by SCURL.
- Work is underway to identify most beneficial JISC services.
- Finch report also discussed in SCONUL – potential impact for HEIDS members with respect to open data.
- KB+ project to provide shared electronic resource licence management and reporting. Funding for second phase has been agreed.

7.8   UCISA

TM and AM presented to the group on work undertaken in UCISA recently.

7.9   APUC

AD updated members on items not already covered in earlier discussions:
- NDNA expires in 2013 - comments welcome
- NSSA is in standstill period.

Members discussed the SIP handsets strategy previously circulated and AD sought both feedback and authority to proceed. Authority was provided by the group.

8   AOCB

As there was no other business the Chair brought the meeting to a close and thanked the University of Dundee for hosting.

Fraser Muir
27/09/12