



Higher Education Information Directors in Scotland (HEIDS)

Approved Minutes

Thursday, 29 November 2012
Heriot-Watt University

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

Mark Cockshoot	Heriot-Watt University	MC
Alan Doyle	APUC	AD
Alun Hughes	University of the Highlands & Islands	AH
Simon Marsden	University of Edinburgh	SM
Gordon McLoughlin	Glasgow School of Art	GML
Moriama Oduyemi	University of Abertay	MO
Brian Robertson	University of Aberdeen	BR
Mike Roch	Heriot-Watt University	MR
Fraser Ross	RCS	FR
Jem Taylor	University of the Highlands & Islands	JT
Colin Watson	Glasgow School of Art	CW

In attendance

Anna Matthews	UCISA	AM
Dan Perry	Janet Brokerage	DP

1. Apologies were received from the following:

David Beards	SFC
Caroline Cochrane	RCS
Gerry Dougan	Scotland's Colleges
Brian Gilmore	University of Edinburgh
Dave Graham	Queen Margaret University
Frazer Greig	University of Abertay
John Maher	University of the Highlands & Islands
Kathy McCabe	University of Stirling
Ronnie McIntyre	SAC
Catherine McMillan	University of Strathclyde
Frances Neilson	Janet UK
Mike Roch	Heriot-Watt University
David Telford	Edinburgh Napier University

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Action

The minutes of the meeting held at the University of the Dundee on 27 September 2012 were approved.

Matter arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda were covered.

FM reported that information had been received from UCISA in relation to developing HEIDS relationships and that he would endeavour to have this drafted by the next meeting.

Since Raymonde Murphy was not present at the meeting it was not possible to report on progress with the Register of Interests. RM

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 led the discussion and updated the group on progress with this strand. The needs questionnaire was circulated twice to prompt responses. BM met with Aberdeen colleagues at a recent event and concluded that there may be problems with question ambiguity and therefore agreed to attempt to define these areas: DR, backup, archive.

It was concluded that members are only likely only to use Archive in the foreseeable future. Backup may well come when institutions look for tape replacement. DR is seen as most complex therefore most time consuming to deliver.

DP presented an update on Janet Brokerage progress in this and other areas. The group discussed the presentation and raised several points for discussion. Colleagues were reminded that Mark Toole and Tom Mortimer represent HEIDS on the Brokerage Advisory Group.

Members were updated on work with DropBox looking at their “For Teams” offering.

Discussion concluded with a recognition that a substantial driver to this area would be long term storage, archiving and open access to research data. Therefore it was felt that additional input from a research intensive University was required. SM volunteered to undertake this. Members asked for colleagues at the DCC to be invited to the following meeting to better inform discussions in this area. FM agreed to approach DCC. SM
FM

Finally, involvement of FE on this strand in general was raised again.

3b. Collaboration tools

AMC recapped the event at Hamilton whose purpose was to establish a community of practice in this area, led by Gerry Dougan with input from SCURL. A survey, due in December, will be circulated via SCURL to institutions, with analysis in January. AMC agreed to circulate to members. AMC

The group discussed several possible options to progress this area and AMC

agreed to poll interest in joint procurement of a particular commercial product.

AD updated members on procurement of other aspects of this work regarding SIP handsets.

3c&d. Blackboard; licensing and hosting

FM reported on behalf of Mark Toole.

Our requirements and their product/service offerings have been established; next meeting on 27 November when it is expected that Blackboard's initial offer on pricing will be received.

3e. Moodle

FM reported on behalf of David Telford that a report would follow on progress in this area shortly. DT

4. Digital Economy Act; implications

BM introduced the item and a general desire to raise awareness of its implications for the sector.

AM briefed members on sector work in this area, particularly highlighting the work of Andrew Cormack of JISC.

BM agreed to collate and circulate links to various resources in this area for members. BM

5. Sector work on Business Intelligence; St Andrews

The Chair introduced the work in this area undertaken at St Andrews following on from the presentation from the University of Stirling at the group's previous meeting.

Members heard a presentation from George Beaton of the University of St Andrews on their work using Qlikview.

6. Reports from groups

6.1 SFC (DB)

No update received.

6.2 UNIVERSITIES SCOTLAND (DT)

No update received.

6.3 JISC (MT)

FM reported on behalf of Mark Toole. New JISC company to be formed on 1 December. This will mainly consist of the old JISC Executive. There will be one main subsidiary company ("JISC Operating") which will have two Divisions, infrastructure and content, each with their own CEO.

The JISC business review analysed some 140 activities and is now drawing to a conclusion.

Major new projects for 2013 announced on 19 November including: access all post 1989 BBC broadcast materials online; a platform for easy access to open source software for education and research ; "next generation" space for collaboration and communication for research, learning and virtual organisations; library analytics suite; a research data registry to ensure research data can be

discovered and re-used by others to improve research; support for better exchange and re-use of Research Council and university research.

6.4 JANET UK (FN)

FM reported on behalf of Frances Neilson.

Janet suppliers, SSE Telecoms and Ciena are completing their surveys as part of the implementation of Janet6.

A Janet Aberdeen Technical Briefing will be held on 22nd January 2013 at the University of Aberdeen. This half-day event will take place in the afternoon, starting with a buffet lunch at 12 noon and presentations from 1pm onwards. Members of HEIDS wishing to attend will be made welcome.

Topics include: an update on the NESS (North East Shared Services) project, Andrew Cormack giving an update on the Digital Economy Act, Dundee University's experience of MS365, Aberdeen University's implementation of edu roam in Raigmore Hospital, virtualisation of desk tops by Banff and Buchan College, and Janet updates from Ian Corden and Frances Neilson.

It is proposed to run the Janet Scotland event either in February or May and feedback on this is appreciated, both for the preferred date and suggestions for topics to be covered.

All

There are two training courses on videoconferencing being held in Edinburgh University on 6th and 7th December. These are: The Introduction to VC and Technical Aspect of VC.

Some important changes are taking place to the Janet Certificate Service. Following a regular and scheduled review of our services, and to reflect a self-sustaining business model, a charge for this service will be introduced from 1st May 2013.

Existing customers, as well as members of the community who are eligible for the service, can take advantage of the 6 months grace period from November 2012 until 30 April 2013 to obtain free certificates. Current certificates can be updated via the portal at <https://certificates.ja.net/jcs>.

Members of the Janet Brokerage team recently attended a successful event organised by the NESS group, showcasing 3 of the suppliers of the Janet Cloud and Data Centre framework. Ian Corden also, met with Brian Mullins, Andy McCreath and Brian Robertson to discuss how to take forward the HEIDS storage requirements.

6.5 SMCG/SWAN

Procurement is progressing, little contact at this stage with the vanguard. JANET (UK) is assisting Education Scotland in their vanguard activities.

BM also updated members on the meeting held the previous day. Some concern was expressed regarding HE presence at the meeting.

6.6 RSCs (CC)

No update received.

6.7 SCURL/SCONUL

The JISC funded project exploring a shared library management system/ platform for Scottish HE is nearing completion; at a "town event" in early October there appears to be strong library enthusiasm for progressing this. Once the

MT

project has been completed, SCURL will be looking how to take this ahead in the New Year.

SCURL's report of its Walk in Access Project has been published (URL previously circulated). Both SCURL and SCONUL are spending a lot of time on the follow up to the Finch report on open access journals and the Royal Society report on open access research data. SCURL is also looking to expand its collaborative purchasing activities.

Funding has been secured for further development of the JISC Collection's Knowledge Base Plus project which is developing a shared subscription and licence management service across the UK.

6.8 UCISA

AM update members on recent work undertaken in UCISA. In particular that a survey of members technical infrastructure usage would be taken by UCISA IG. This would model the UCISA CISG survey.

A new project management group has been formed, led by Mark Ritchie and Kathy McCabe.

6.9 APUC

AD updated members on NSSA and NDNA agreements. The latter would also include tablets and options for leasing.

Regionalisation agenda continues to have impact on procurement. Finance and then HR systems are being undertaken.

6.10 FE/HE ICT Sector oversight

The Chair introduced this new standing item on the agenda and invited AH to update members.

A meeting of the group was held the previous week and draft circulated. UCISA responded to AH. Modest tweaks are expected.

7 AOCB

The group requested that the following meeting discuss both research data management and BYOD. DCC should be invited to attend.

FM

FM reminded members that the February meeting was our AGM and that he would have completed three years as Secretary to the group.

2013 meetings will be as follows:

February	Glasgow Caledonian
May	Edinburgh Napier
September	St Andrews
November	Robert Gordon

With exact dates to follow.

Fraser Muir
29/11/12