

Finance Committee minutes

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Finance Committee of the SFC was held on Thursday 30 May 2019, 10.15am, at 99 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh.

Present: Marlene Wood (Chair)
Douglas Mundie
Dr Veena O'Halloran

Officers: Lorna MacDonald (Secretary)
Sheila Meehan (Clerk)
Andrew Millar
Fiona O'Neill

In attendance: Danielle Hennessy (Scottish Government)
Ben Walsh (Scottish Government)
Luise Siekman (Scottish Government)

Apologies: Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli

19/43 **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed Veena O'Halloran, new Committee member, to the meeting.

19/44 **Chair's business: Papers for discussion and declarations of interest**

The Chair reminded members, and those in attendance, of their responsibility to indicate if they have, or may be perceived to have, a conflict of interest under any item.

19/45 **Minutes of previous meetings, 16 April 2019 (FC/19/Min03)**

The minute of the 16 April 2019 meeting was **agreed** as a true record of the meeting.

19/46 Matters arising (FC/19/26)

The Committee received and noted the paper and actions taken since the last meeting.

The following paragraph is withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs

[] × 1 paragraph

19/47 Financial sustainability and governance of the university sector: update on analysis of 2017-18 financial statements (FC/19/27)

The Committee received a paper providing an update on the governance and financial sustainability of the university sector.

Veena O'Halloran declared an interest in relation to the University of Strathclyde.

The following four paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 33, Commercial interests and the economy.

[] × 4 paragraphs

19/48 Financial sustainability and governance of the college sector: Analysis of 2017-18 financial statements (FC/19/16)

The Committee received a paper summarising the analysis of the colleges' Mid-Year Returns for Academic Year 2018-19 and to update on the assessment of the colleges' financial health.

The following paragraph is withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 33, Commercial interests and the economy.

[] × 1 paragraph

19/49 Scottish Funding Council Draft 1 Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19 (FC/19/29)

The Committee received a paper presenting the Council's draft 1 annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The following four paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 27, Information intended for future publication.

[] × 4 paragraphs

19/50 Financial Year 2018-19 year end spend and reconciliation to draft 1 SFC 2018-19 Statutory Accounts (FC/19/30)

The Committee received a paper presenting the financial outturn information for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 for HE, FE and SFC Admin revenue and capital funds and a reconciliation to the draft SFC 2018-19 Statutory Accounts.

The following paragraph is withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs

[] × 1 paragraph

19/51 Final clawback and penalties for funded student places in AY 2017-18 (FC/19/31)

The Committee received a paper setting out the final position for universities relating to over and under-recruitment in AY 2017-18.

19/52 Scottish Government/SFC planning for 2020 Spending Review (Oral)

The Committee received an update on Scottish Government/SFC planning for the Spending Review.

The following two paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs

[] × 2 paragraphs

19/53 European Social Funds (Oral)

The Committee received an update on European Social Fund (ESF) programmes that SFC is participating in as Lead Partner.

19/54 Finance Risk Register (Oral)

The Committee received an oral update on the Finance Risk Register.

19/55 Finance Committee Annual Report (FC/19/32)

The Committee received the Finance Committee's Annual Report. In discussion the Committee noted the remit and forward look for the Committee and confirmed that additional Board member resource for the Committee would be welcomed, particularly with financial experience.

19/56 Long term agenda (FC/19/33)

The Committee received proposed agenda items for future meetings of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the Council executive would give consideration to the potential need for an additional Finance Committee meeting later in the year.

19/57 Next meeting

Date of next meeting: 2 October 2019