



Chair's Report

1. This paper provides Council with a report from the Chair on his key external engagements and other relevant business.

External Engagements

2. The Chair's external engagements are noted at the Annex. Specific attention is drawn to the following engagements:

Meeting of the Committee of University Chairs

3. The Chair joined the Minister for a meeting with the Committee of University Chairs. Discussion focused on university governance and implementation of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016.

Meeting with Chair and CEO of NES

4. The Chair joined the CEO and the Director of Research and Innovation at a meeting with the Chair and CEO of NES (NHS Education for Scotland). SFC renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with NES which was first signed in 2008. The focus of our joint activity is to advise and support Scottish Government in progressing key policy areas such as access and participation to health and social care professions. It is also intended to support the health and education sectors in addressing changes to the NHS workforce across all professional and occupational groups.

Meeting of the HE Ministerial Strategic Futures Group

5. The Chair joined the CEO and members of the senior team at a meeting of the HE Strategic Futures Group chaired by the Deputy First Minister and attended by the Minister. Topics for discussion included Brexit, the spending review and the wider impact of universities on Scotland's future prosperity and wellbeing. The Deputy First Minister expressed an interest in exploring three areas further: (i) universities' support for the business network; (ii) the learner journey and how the journey can be made more efficient; and (iii) research and its relationship to productivity and how this might be impacted by Brexit.

Meeting of the Chairs of the Enterprise and Skills Agencies

6. The Chair attended a meeting of the Chairs of the Enterprise and Skills Agencies

to discuss further collaborative working across the agencies.

Risk assessment

7. The content of this paper does not change the analysis of risk contained in the Council's Risk Register.

Recommendations

8. The Council is invited to:
 - **Note the content of this report.**

Financial implications

9. There are no financial implications associated with this paper.

Publication

10. This paper will be published on the SFC website following the Council meeting.

Further information

Contact: Mike Cantlay, chair@sfc.ac.uk

Chair's Meetings/Visits – 7 November – 4 December 2019

7 November 2019

Scottish Apprenticeship Awards, Dundee

8 November 2019

Skills Development Scotland Board Appointment Interviews in Dundee

11 November 2019

Meeting with Paul Johnston, DG Education, Communities & Justice

12 November 2019

Skills Development Scotland Board Appointment Interview in Glasgow

13 November 2019

Meeting with Richard Lochhead and University Chairs Group
Lunch with University Chairs Group

19 November 2019

Annual Meeting with SFC and National Health Education for Scotland

26 November 2019

Universities Strategic Futures Group Meeting with Richard Lochhead

26 November 2019

Green Gown Awards in Glasgow

28 November 2019

Meeting of Agency Chairs
Collective Meeting of Agency Chairs and CEO's

4 December 2019

National Economic Forum, Stirling