

Finance Committee

Minute

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Finance Committee of the SFC was held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 @ 10.15am, at 99 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh.

Present: Douglas Mundie (Chair)
Lorna Jack
Mhairi Harrington
Dr Veena O'Halloran
Professor Ewart Keep
Professor John Wallace

Officers: Lorna MacDonald (Secretary)
Karen Watt
Gavin Bruce
Fiona O'Neill
Lynne Raeside
Martin Smith
Stuart Fancey
Angela Seymour (Clerk)

In attendance: Luise Siekman (Scottish Government)
Gemma Dalton (Scottish Government)
Mike Cantlay (Chair SFC Board)

20/01 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Professor Ewart Keep, Professor John Wallace, and Mhairi Harrington, new Committee members, to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed other members and officers to the meeting.

20/02 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.

- 20/03 Minutes of previous meeting, 28 November 2019 (FC/19/Min06)**
The minute of the 28 November 2019 meeting was **agreed** as a true record of the meeting.
- 20/04 Matters arising (FC/20/01)**
The Committee received and noted the paper and actions taken since the last meeting.
- 20/05 Governance and Financial Sustainability of the College sector: update (FC/20/02)**
The Committee received a paper providing an update on the governance and financial sustainability of the college sector.
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
- 20/06 Governance and Financial Sustainability of the University sector: update (FC/20/03)**
The Committee received a paper providing an update on the governance and financial sustainability of the university sector.
Lorna Jack declared an interest in relation to the University of Aberdeen.
The following two paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 33, Commercial interests and the economy.
- [] × 2 paragraphs
- 20/07 SFC Grant-in-Aid letter following Spring Budget Revision**
The Committee received and noted a paper providing confirmation on the budget allocation including the Spring Budget transfers (SBR) for Financial Year (FY) 2019-20.
- 20/08 SFC Summary Resource Return (FC/20/05)**
The Committee received and noted the SFC summary resource return for January (based on December results) for FY 2019-20.

20/09 Financial Year 2019-20 forecast outturn, spend to date, and potential reprofiling (FC/20/06)

The Committee received and noted a paper providing the financial monitoring information for FY 2019-20 for HE and FE Revenue and Capital funds.

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

20/10 College and University indicative funding allocations for Academic Year (AY) 2020 – 21 (FC/20/07)

The Committee received a paper setting out indicative budget funding allocations for colleges and universities in AY 2020-21 following the Scottish Government's draft Scottish Budget 2020-21 announcement on 6 February 2020.

The following paragraph will be withheld from publication on SFC's website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002; Section 27: Information intended for future publication, Section 30: Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

[] × 1 paragraph

20/11 European Social Funds update (FC/20/08)

The Committee received and noted a paper updating on European Social Fund (ESF) programmes that SFC is participating in as a Lead Partner

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

20/12 Recovery and penalties AY 2018 – 19 (FC/20/09)

The committee received and noted a paper setting out the position for universities and colleges relating to over and under-recruitment in AY 2018-19 following the analysis of final student numbers and the action that the Council executive is taking in order to finalise the position.

20/13 Internal audit reports (FC/20/10)

The Committee noted the outcomes from the recent internal audits on SFC's financial control and grant funding distribution activity and expressed its appreciation of the work done by the Executive in achieving such consistently good audit reports.

It was noted that these reports had been considered by the Audit and Compliance Committee on 11 December 2019.

20/14 Finance Risk Register (Oral)

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

20/15 Long term agenda (FC/20/11)

Members noted proposed agenda items for future meetings of the Committee.

20/16 Next meeting

Date of next Committee meeting: 21 April 2020 (subject to change). Confirmation of the date of the meeting will be sent to members in due course.

20/17 Any other business

No items were raised.