



## HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION FORUM

25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016

10AM-1PM, EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS

**Forum Chair: Dr Simon Guild, Glasgow University**

### ATTENDEES:

Name	Organisation	Email
Keith Bohannon	Scotland Malawi Partnership	<a href="mailto:keith@scotland-malawipartnership.org">keith@scotland-malawipartnership.org</a>
Mizeck Chagunda	SRUC	<a href="mailto:Mizeck.Chagunda@sruc.ac.uk">Mizeck.Chagunda@sruc.ac.uk</a>
Kathryn Chipperfield	Scotland Malawi Partnership	<a href="mailto:kathryn@scotland-malawipartnership.org">kathryn@scotland-malawipartnership.org</a>
Martyn Edelsten	University of Edinburgh	<a href="mailto:Martyn.Edelsten@ed.ac.uk">Martyn.Edelsten@ed.ac.uk</a>
Kathryn Fowler	University of Aberdeen	<a href="mailto:k.m.fowler@abdn.ac.uk">k.m.fowler@abdn.ac.uk</a>
Lore Gallastegi	The Open University	<a href="mailto:Lore.gallastegi@open.ac.uk">Lore.gallastegi@open.ac.uk</a>
Paul Garside	University of Glasgow	<a href="mailto:Paul.Garside@glasgow.ac.uk">Paul.Garside@glasgow.ac.uk</a>
Lindsay Graham	Soko Fund	<a href="mailto:Lindsay@thesokofund.org">Lindsay@thesokofund.org</a>
Simon Guild	Glasgow University	<a href="mailto:Simon.Guild@glasgow.ac.uk">Simon.Guild@glasgow.ac.uk</a>
Johanna Holtan	University of Edinburgh	<a href="mailto:Johanna.Holtan@ed.ac.uk">Johanna.Holtan@ed.ac.uk</a>
David Hope-Jones	Scotland Malawi Partnership	<a href="mailto:david@scotland-malawipartnership.org">david@scotland-malawipartnership.org</a>
Bob Kalin	University of Strathclyde	<a href="mailto:Robert.kalin@strath.ac.uk">Robert.kalin@strath.ac.uk</a>
Derek MacLeod	University of Edinburgh	<a href="mailto:Derek.MacLeod@ed.ac.uk">Derek.MacLeod@ed.ac.uk</a>
Magnus Maharg	Scottish Government	<a href="mailto:Magnus.Maharg@gov.scot">Magnus.Maharg@gov.scot</a>
Yonah Matemba	University of the West of Scotland	<a href="mailto:Yonah.Matemba@uws.ac.uk">Yonah.Matemba@uws.ac.uk</a>
Bryne Ngwenya	University of Edinburgh	<a href="mailto:Bryne.ngwenya@ed.ac.uk">Bryne.ngwenya@ed.ac.uk</a>
Siobhán O'Connor	Edinburgh Napier	<a href="mailto:S.O'Connor@napier.ac.uk">S.O'Connor@napier.ac.uk</a>

Peter West	Honorary Consulate in Malawi	<a href="mailto:p.west@strath.ac.uk">p.west@strath.ac.uk</a>
Ulrike Peter	Universities Scotland	<a href="mailto:Ulrike@universities-scotland.ac.uk">Ulrike@universities-scotland.ac.uk</a>
Eilidh Simpson	DFID	<a href="mailto:eilidh-simpson@dfid.gov.uk">eilidh-simpson@dfid.gov.uk</a>
Norman Wagstaffe	University of Strathclyde	<a href="mailto:n.wagstaffe@strath.ac.uk">n.wagstaffe@strath.ac.uk</a>
Peter West	Honorary Consul to Malawi	<a href="mailto:p.west@strath.ac.uk">p.west@strath.ac.uk</a>
Emma Wood	Queen Margaret University	<a href="mailto:EWood@qmu.ac.uk">EWood@qmu.ac.uk</a>

## APOLOGIES:

Janey Andrews, University of Strathclyde  
 Geoff Simm, SRUC  
 Julie Struthers, University of St Andrews  
 Alistair Tough, University of Glasgow

## AIMS:

The Forum exists to:

- Support and raise awareness of existing Scotland-Malawi HE/FE links.
- Promote collaborative working, shared learning and reduce duplication of effort.
- Establish a central channel for the dissemination of Malawian HE/FE priorities and support Scottish institutions to work within these areas.
- Facilitate the sharing of experience, learning and resources *between* Scottish HE/FE institutions.
- Disseminate HE/FE news from Malawi to Scottish HE/FE institutions.

## ITEM ONE: TUITION FEES

Two speakers gave an update on tuition fee rises in Malawi, Lindsay Graham from the Soko Fund, a small Scottish charity that works to secure university education for women in Malawi, and Colin Reilly, SMP Board Member, who is currently carrying out PhD research in Malawi.

- Mature entry students are being asked to pay fees in the region of K900, 000 to K1.4 million, depending on the institution.
- Generic students are seeing rises to between K400, 000 and K600, 000.
- The cost per student is approximately K1.6 million per year.
- The rise in tuition fees has sparked protests at the universities and resulted in students withdrawing from their studies.

### Open discussion

- Colin commented that Malawian students are largely in agreement that fees need to increase, but that the increase needs to be gradual.
- Universities are giving students a 10 days window in which to pay their fees. The grace period used to be larger, but universities can no longer afford to do this.

- Lore explained that last year the Open University had 90 Malawian students who could have progressed into teacher training, but did not have the funds to pay.
- Maintenance costs are also an important issue.
- Malawi needs a loan system and financial support; this is an area that DFID could get involved in.
- Paul commented that medical students training at the College of Medicine receive support from the Wellcome Trust. He suggested that large pharmaceutical companies should be approached about sponsoring students because Malawi will be a market for them.
- Keith recommended that attendees read the discussion paper provided by Benedicto Kondowe, Executive Director of Civil Society Education Coalition in Lilongwe. The paper considers two potential ways forward: i) strengthening corporate social responsibility and ring-fencing it for education, ii) private sponsorship.

#### Actions

- SMP to help raise awareness of the tuition fee issues and promote scholarships.
- Soko Fund to write an article for the SMP's upcoming segment in the Scotsman.
- SMP to contact Johnson & Johnson to discuss the possibility of pharmaceutical companies sponsoring medical students.

## ITEM TWO: MZUZU FIRE UPDATE

Norman Wagstaffe gave an update on the Mzuzu University library, which was destroyed by a fire in December 2015, along with 45,000 library books. The University of Strathclyde coordinated the shipment of equipment and books from the university and other donors out to Mzuzu.

- Strathclyde University had already been collecting books for Malawi before the fire, and had 4000 suitable books ready to send, as well as having unused library equipment.
- Mzuzu University Hall is being used to temporarily house a library service. The hall is a valued resource, required for university functions and exams, and is not a long term solution.
- The temporary library will be used for 3-5 years, but has insufficient shelving and storage.
- A new library building is required, at a cost of several million pounds.
- The focus needs to be on funding for short-term loan books.

#### Open discussion

- It is vital that any books sent are needed and appropriate.
- Electronic resources are not always suitable because there can be days with no electricity.

#### Action

- SMP to ask Mzuzu University librarian for a 1-page update on library priorities.

## ITEM THREE: VISITING MALAWIAN STUDENTS

Johanna Holtan told attendees about the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, which provides talented young people who are living in poverty, with access to quality education.

- At the University of Edinburgh, the programme will last for 7 years and support 200 African students who are committed to giving back to their communities.
- The University will welcome 80 undergraduate students, 60 postgraduate students and 60 online distance learning scholars from other MasterCard Program institutions.
- Scholarships cover tuition fees, accommodation, living costs and travel.
- In the first year (2016) there is one Malawian scholar and the University is keen to increase the intake from Malawi for 2017.
- Scholarship applications open on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and close 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.
- Applications are particularly welcomed from Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

#### Open discussion

- The University is looking to work with education partners in order to recruit students in-country.
- Emma commented that IELTS tests are excluding students from poorer backgrounds.
- Linking with Malawian diaspora will be important.
- Paul suggested Michigan State University could be a useful contact, as they are part of the MasterCard Foundation Program.
- David encouraged Johanna to contact the SMP for support if there are any visa issues.

#### Actions

- The launch of the program will be celebrated on October 4<sup>th</sup>, at Playfair Library Hall with speakers, music, story-telling and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend from 4-6pm.

## ITEM FOUR: STUDENT SOCIETY UPDATE

Kathryn summarised the Malawi Student Society concept note, which has been circulated to university members. The aim of establishing Malawi Societies is to engage with student-age Scots, both those that were involved with Malawi at school and those yet to form a link.

The SMP envisages it can offer:

- Assistance with content for events- such as talks from NGOs, videos, discussion sessions etc.
- Connection with our larger network of over 1000 members and partners across Malawi and Scotland.
- Co-hosting a larger annual event, such as a student conference, music night or TEDx style event.
- Free membership of the Scotland Malawi Partnership for all members of the Society

#### Update

Students from several universities have shown interest in a Malawi Society:

- **University of Glasgow-** Society registration papers have been submitted by Colin Reilly and Ben Wilson, PhD students. The next step is to organise a recruitment event with talks from the SMP and those with Malawi links at the university.
- **Queen Margaret University-** The society has been registered and will have a stall at the Freshers' Fair in September. Their first project has already taken place. QMU provided a camera to a Malawian

teenager living at a children's home there, and the film has been edited by two QMU media students. The aim is to raise funds for a youth village where they teach vital skills to Malawian teenagers.

- **University of St. Andrews**- Kathryn will be attending the 2016 Dorothy Millar Bursary Presentations on October 10<sup>th</sup> at St Andrews to give a presentation on the SMP and setting up of a Malawi Society.

#### Action

- SMP to continue promoting and supporting the set-up of student Malawi Societies.

## ITEM FIVE: DFID SPHEIR CONSORTIUM

A consultation meeting on SPHEIR took place at Kamuzu College of Nursing in Lilongwe on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. The organisations represented were: British Council Malawi, National Council for Higher Education, numerous public and private universities, and the University of Strathclyde, representing the Scotland Malawi Partnership HE/FE Forum. Notes from this meeting were provided to HE/FE attendees.

#### Open discussion

- A consortium bid is still at the early stages of development.
- Bob commented that a bid should look at a timescale to 2030.
- Eilidh confirmed that the next call for SPHEIR proposals will open in October 2016.
- Half a dozen work packages need to be created and circulated to everyone involved.
- The following attendees put themselves forward to be in a working group: Mizeck Chagunda, Ulrike Peters, Derek MacLeod, Simon Guild, Bob Kalin, Alistair Ager and Kathryn Fowler.

#### Actions

- SMP to contact Colin McGinty and ask for an update on SPHEIR pilot demonstration projects.
- SMP to report back to the Malawi working group on progress in Scotland.
- SMP to contact Matthews Mtumbuka (IT Director, previously worked at Airtel Malawi) regarding potential private sector partners.
- SMP to contact every member of the forum to invite them to be part of a working group.