

**U21 First meeting of Faculties of Education,  
University of Glasgow,  
26-28 September 2000**

The first meeting of U21 Faculties of Education was held at the University of Glasgow in September. This was an intensive and very productive meeting that covered a wide range of common issues and led to concrete proposals for further action. The meeting was well attended with around 40 representatives from Auckland, Birmingham, British Columbia, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hong Kong, Lund, McGill, Melbourne, Nottingham, Queensland, Toronto.

The broad areas addressed included the following:

- Strategic issues facing Faculties of Education in the context of the knowledge society
- Potential areas of practical collaboration such as staff exchanges, student exchanges, utilisation of U21 fellowships, information exchange for benchmarking purposes, sharing of materials – in particular distance learning and e-based modules
- Critical analysis of the development and application of e-education
- Possible links with educationalists in U21 and selected non-U21 institutions in developing countries
- The role of educational researchers in supporting the enhancement of teaching and learning in U21 institutions more generally

The following is a **Draft Statement**, currently being circulated to participants for agreement.

The first meeting of U21 Faculties of Education was held at the University of Glasgow 26-28 September. This meeting involved representatives from the following U21 members, Auckland, Birmingham, British Columbia, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hong Kong, Lund, McGill, Melbourne, Nottingham, Queensland, Toronto.

Following discussion, the meeting agreed to create a forum under the auspices of U21 for international collaboration and exchange to

- Enhance the study of education and learning within each university and more widely
- Promote research, development and teaching to meet the educational needs of a knowledge-based society in a changing world
- Improve the educational provision by each institution for their communities, from local to global

The alliance of U21 Faculties of Education will seek to achieve the above objectives by capitalising on their specialist expertise in

- knowledge creation and management
- human development through formal, informal and lifelong learning
- the professional development of educators
- the inter-relationships between the distribution of educational experiences and their individual and social consequences

It was agreed that a number of working groups should be established with open invitations to all U21 members to participate. Full details and contact information for these working groups will be circulated in the near future. Broadly, they will cover the following areas

- a Development of a code of principles, ethics and practice for U21 collaborative activities
- b Mechanisms for information exchange relating to matters such as
  - i research activities
  - ii profile of course provision
  - iii e-programmes and distance learning courses
  - iv existing links between U21 institutions and other universities or networks
- c Areas of collaborative research and development
- d Student and staff mobility and exchange
- e Development of shared/joint (teaching) programs, and of other activities

As many members participate in the AERA, it is anticipated that the Forum will meet again around the time of the next annual conference.

**Professor Brian Caldwell (Melbourne) and Professor Maria Slowey (Glasgow)**

**Joint convenors, U21 Planning Group**

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**Planks of a framework for co-operation by Faculties of Education within U21.  
Interim working groups proposed at Glasgow meeting.**

**A Code of practice**

Development of a code of principles, ethics (mission statement) and of codes(s) of practice.

**Interim co-convenors:** Bart McGettrick, Glasgow

**B Information exchange**

Including:

- Courses on offer
- E-programs and course on offer or under development
- Research activities of faculty members
- Existing links with other universities or networks

**Interim co-convenors:** John Hattie, Auckland; Diane Chambers, Melbourne

**C Areas of collaborative research and development**

Including:

- Pedagogics of e-education
- Post-secondary (higher) education policies (including funding and re-organization)
- Teacher education

**Interim co-convenors:** Erica McAteer, Glasgow

**D Student and staff mobility and exchange**

**Interim co-convenors:** Hirek Kwiatkowski, Glasgow, Hans Schuetze, UBC

**E Development of shared/joint (teaching) programs, and of other activities**

**Interim co-convenors:** Anthony Paré, McGill, David Hopkins, Nottingham?

**Note – It was proposed that expressions of interest should be invited from all U21 members by the interim co-convenors of the above working groups. It is very important therefore that these co-convenors are identified as quickly as possible. A number of names are identified above. It would be helpful if those named could confirm their willingness to take things forward for the Seattle meeting and if people could volunteer where only one name is mentioned above.**