

**Draft Minutes from the
ECIU Executive Board meeting
at Tec de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico**

Friday, 20th November 2009

Participants

Louis Lemkow and Marta Vilalta (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Isabel Martins (University of Aveiro); Finn Kjaersdam, Peter Plenge and Lise Thorup-Pedersen (Aalborg University); Martin Morgeneyer (Université de Technologie de Compiègne); Silke Viol (TU Dortmund University); William Salaneck, Janerik Lundquist and Lars Holberg (Linköping University); Enrique Zepeda, Patricia Montano, Antonio Pita, Inés Sáenz and Osiris Medina (Tecnologico de Monterrey); Mikhail Karyakin (Southern Federal University); Martin Gregory (University of Strathclyde); Sue Fujino (Swinburne University of Technology); Anne Flierman, Jan van Alsté and Sander Lotze (University of Twente); Albano Baptista (University of Aveiro and Student Wing); Bettina Burger (ECIU Secretariat)

Apologies: Mille Millnert (LiU), Peter West (UoS), Garabed Antranikian (TUHH) and Ursula Gather (TU Do)

0. Welcome by ECIU Speaker

The ECIU Speaker welcomed the participants to the meeting, and thanked the host for the interesting programme that had already been offered during the week.

1. Minutes from ECIU Executive Board meeting at the University of Strathclyde, 19 June 2009

No comments were received after the circulation of the final minutes in August 2009.

Decision

- The minutes of the ECIU Executive Board meeting at the University of Strathclyde in June 2009 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Organisational issues:

2. Finances

2.1 Interim accounts 2009

Decision

The ECIU Board notes the current financial situation.

2.2 Budget 2010

The ECIU Secretary presented the suggested budget for 2010. It was pointed out that the consortium still needs to provide additional income through new members and alternative

forms of financing. Additional activities and projects can only be pursued if additional funding is available, e.g. through the member institutions or through external funding. Expenditures have to be evaluated very carefully. The ECIU Executive Board postponed the decision on the proposed budget until the end of the meeting.

Decision

At the end of the meeting, the ECIU Executive Board decided the following change in the proposed budget for 2010:

Instead of a Student Mobility Symposium, a Summer School for Students, organized by UTC, will be supported with € 10.000,- in 2010.

- The ECIU Executive Board approved the budget with this change.

3. Registration of new Board members

The ECIU Executive Board noted the changes in the composition of the ECIU Executive Board.

Up-date on ECIU Activities, Working Groups and Projects

4. Short reports by ECIU members

TU Dortmund University

- Silke Viol reported that the engagement and cooperation with the student representatives and the Student Wing has been improved.
- With regard to student mobility, faculties are encouraged to negotiate more bilateral agreements with ECIU member institutions.
- Preparations are underway for the 2010 Board meeting at Dortmund.

Swinburne University of Technology

- Sue Fujino reported that Stephen Connelly will resign from his post at SUT, and take up a position at RMIT University as Pro Vice Chancellor, International Development. Mr. Jeffrey Smart will take over his position within ECIU. Also, Sue Fujino will step down from her post at SUT and will retire. Her successor will be announced in due time.

Linköping University

- Bill salaneck reported that Mille Millnert has been re-elected as rector. He will continue his strong commitment towards ECIU.
- LiU will offer a seminar on renewable energies, see item 10.3.

University of Twente

- Sander Lotze reported that Pieter Binsbergen has stepped down as secretary of the university. The new secretary will be appointed soon, and will be present at the Aveiro meeting.

Southern Federal University

- Mikhail Karyakin reported that English-taught programmes are currently being introduced at SFedU.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

- Marta Vilalta reported that preparations are proceeding for UAB to take over the coordination of the ECIU Graduate School in late 2010.
- UAB will be hosting the third seminar of the 2009 / 10 run of the Leadership Development Programme.
- The Environmental Studies programme as well as other bilateral activities are developing successfully.
- One of UAB's strategic goals is the promotion of Post-Docs. UAB has presented a proposal for an ECIU-wide activity in this field at the Human Resource Steering Committee.
- Louis Lemkow has taken over the coordination of the cooperation between ECIU and PTU.
- On November 16, a UAB office has been opened in Seoul. All ECIU partners are welcome to use these premises.

Universidade Aveiro

- Isabel Martins reported that in January, a new rector will be elected at UA.

University of Strathclyde

- Martin Gregory reported that the restructuring progress at UoS is going on. A new vice-principal for internationalisation will be appointed as of December. It is likely that he will be taking over the position as ECIU Executive Board member.
- The work on the EU Working Group continues.
- The new Erasmus Mundus II rules pose an obstacle to the further development of the GIM JMP. The programme has permission to run for one more year the way it is set up at the moment. The future is unclear, as fees will pose a difficulty both for UoS and AAU.
- Measures are being taken to encourage faculty institutions to consider ECIU as exchange partners.

Université de Technologie de Compiègne

- Martin Morgeneyer reported that UTC has started an initiative to push students to be mobile. This has resulted in an increase in 40 % of mobility, among which ECIU partners have played an important role.

Aalborg University

- Finn Kjaersdam reported that AAU is offering an entrepreneurship workshop to students that will be opened up to students from ECIU institutions for participation. It will be possible to send up to 10 students to give the workshop a more internationalised character. Students will be able to gain ECTS points through participation.
- AAU is undertaking efforts to further develop problem-based learning. In May, a conference will be organised to set up standards for international problem-based work. ECIU members will be invited.
- The financial crisis has affected AAU in a way that results in an increase in the number of students. This means that AAU also receives more funds from the state, thus resulting in an increase in income.

Tec de Monterrey

- Enrique Zepeda reported that Tec de Monterrey is currently exploring the options for further increasing collaboration within ECIU.

- The financial crisis has affected Tec de Monterrey considerably, with a decrease in in- and outgoing mobility by 50 % in the last semester. Numbers are recovering by now, and further improvement is expected.

5. ECIU Marketing and Communication

Lars Holberg, chair of the Marketing and Communications group, commented on the written report presented to the Board. The Marketing and Communications group has made further progress, and by now, all ECIU member institutions have appointed staff from their marketing and communication offices to participate in the ECIU Marketing and Communications group. Results of the joint efforts of the last months include an update of the factsheets on all ECIU members, the integration of the web pages of the ECIU Graduate School which is almost finished, and a recommendation for narrowing down the target group for ECIU student mobility. This last item hopes to contribute to the decisions on further actions for the improvement of student mobility between ECIU member institutions.

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the current lack of a regular newsletter. It was concluded that a newsletter should be re-established. The ECIU Executive Board decided that the former format should be revitalised, which also included general news from ECIU member institutions that are of interest to the international ECIU audience. However, the ECIU member institutions are advised to contribute through their Local Coordinators and PR officials news for the ECIU webpage on ongoing genuine ECIU activities in close temporal proximity as well. These news reports will also be used in the newsletter.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board decided to re-establish the regular ECIU newsletter, to be published four times a year.

Actions

- The PR group and the Student Mobility Group to develop and implement a procedure for publishing and circulating a newsletter in e-mail-format.
- The Board members to encourage their local coordinators and local PR officials to meet on a regular basis, to spread information on ECIU activities within their institutions and to contribute to the ECIU webpage.

6. Additional activities

6.1 Project Group: Collaboration between Library Services

The ECIU Executive Board noted the ongoing activities of this project group.

6.2 Project Group: Tec Trans Legal

The ECIU Executive Board noted the enthusiastic start of the new working group, and the fact that a next meeting is scheduled for May in Aveiro.

6.3 Project Group: Innovative Teaching

Isabel Martins gave a presentation on the outcomes of the last two symposia on innovative teaching. The project group aims at publishing the results of the symposia in a book; with ECIU acting as editor. While the University of Aveiro offers to fund the first publication, finances for following issues would still have to be secured. The ECIU Executive Board suggested to first approach publishing corporations and negotiate the conditions for having the series published as a whole.

A third symposium on Innovative Teaching is planned to take place at Tec de Monterrey, or possibly Aalborg University in connection with the conference on problem-based learning.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board supported the idea to look for a publisher for the results of the ECIU symposia on Innovative Teaching.
- The ECIU Executive Board welcomed the fact that the series of symposia on Innovative Teaching will continue.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary together with members of the project group to explore possibilities to have the results of the symposia on Innovative Teaching published.
- The project group to decide on a place and date for the third ECIU symposium on Innovative Teaching.

6.4 PTU Project

Louis Lemkow gave a presentation to illustrate the written report. He emphasized the fact that Korean institutions have a very strong interest in engaging with European partners. PTU has identified ECIU as their preferred partner, and they are still eager to develop a more extensive collaboration. The meeting on October 9th with representatives from PTU was well-structured and very productive. The participants from the ECIU member institutions now have the task to take the suggestions made at the meeting back to their institutions, and discuss and decide on next steps. Louis Lemkow will continue to coordinate the activities. To present the ideas for future collaboration, PTU has asked for an opportunity to meet with the ECIU Executive Board.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board acknowledged the development, and the work Louis Lemkow is contributing to it.
- The ECIU Executive Board reaffirmed the pick-and-mix-strategy that all ECIU members are welcome to join the activities with PTU, but that no member is obliged to do so.
- The ECIU Executive Board decided to organise a meeting between the ECIU Executive Board and representatives of PTU in connection with the next ECIU Board meeting in Aveiro.

Actions

- Louis Lemkow to coordinate the ongoing contacts with PTU.

- The ECIU secretary together with Louis Lemkow to arrange for a meeting between the ECIU Executive Board and representatives of PTU at the Aveiro meeting.

6.5 ECIU participation in the MODERN project

The ECIU secretary commented on the written reports.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board reaffirmed their support for the participation of ECIU representatives in the conference on higher education funding, and the online survey on training needs.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary to circulate more detailed information on the two activities following this meeting.
- The ECIU Executive Board to encourage the participation in these two activities within their institutions.

6.6 Project Proposal: Student Business Plan Competition

The project proposal submitted by Sue Fujino had been discussed in the Steering Committee on Knowledge Triangle. It was concluded that at the ECIU member institutions, currently many similar activities exist. While it was noted that a genuine ECIU competition would maximize the PR effect for ECIU among students, the Steering Committee agreed that a first step has to be to gather information on existing student business plan competitions at ECIU member institutions, and to look into possibilities to open these existing initiatives for international participants from ECIU members. In a next step, a two-stage approach could be developed. The existing competitions could act as a first stage, and the winners of these competitions could qualify for the ECIU competition. The ECIU Executive Board followed the suggestions made by the Steering Committee

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board decided to pursue the idea of an ECIU Student Business Plan Competition, based on existing initiatives.

Actions

- The members of the Steering Committee Knowledge Triangle to collect information on existing student business plan competitions at the ECIU member institutions, and the possibility to open up participation for students from ECIU members.
- The ECIU secretary and the Marketing and Communications Group to publish information on student business plan competitions at ECIU member institutions.
- The ECIU Student Wing to approach the European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management to exchange experiences.
- In the long run: The members of the Steering Committee Knowledge Triangle to develop a possible structure for a joint ECIU Student Business Plan Competition, and funding possibilities.

7. ECIU Strategy and Implementation

There were no comments received on the final version of the ECIU 2009 Strategic Paper.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board approved of the final version of the ECIU 2009 Strategic Paper.
- The ECIU Executive Board decided to update the goals in the annex to the paper following the outcomes of the ongoing meeting.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary to update the annual goals for 2010.

8. Student Mobility and the Graduate School

8.1 Report by the Steering Committee

Martin Morgeneyer gave a presentation on the discussions of the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School. The ECIU Executive Board discussed the pros and cons of defined targets for student mobility between ECIU members. It was acknowledged that student mobility continues to be one of the pillars of ECIU, and that targets are necessary to further increase mobility. However, the ECIU Executive Board agreed that local / national circumstances have to be respected, and that binding obligations to fulfil certain mobility numbers are not realistic. It was agreed that all ECIU members support the goal of increasing mobility within the consortium, and that all ECIU members should aim for accepting two students per ECIU partner institution. This aim should serve as a basis for bilateral negotiations. In addition, the suggestion of looking into the possibilities of setting up a consortium agreement for student exchange was received favourably.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board decided on the target of each ECIU member institution aiming at receiving (at least) two students from every ECIU member institution.
- The ECIU Executive Board decided to look into possibilities for a consortium agreement for student exchange.

Actions

- The members of the Steering Committee Student Mobility and the Graduate School together with the members of the Student Mobility Group to take up bilateral negotiations to reach the target of accepting two students per ECIU member institution, where this has not already been achieved.
- The Student Mobility Group to follow the development of these numbers, and to display best practices.
- The members of the Steering Committee Student Mobility and the Graduate School to study the possibilities of a consortium agreement for student exchange and to present the results at the next ECIU Executive Board meeting.

8.2 Feedback Targets on Student Mobility

The discussion of mobility targets has been included under item 8.1.

8.3 Report by the Graduate School Coordinator

Jan van Alsté reported on the development of existing and emerging joint master and joint Ph.D. programmes. As a critical sideline, it was mentioned by the ECIU Executive Board that the meeting of the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School had not been used to discuss the status of the ECIU Graduate School sufficiently. It was implied that merging the two steering committees might not have been a successful measure. The ECIU Executive Board reaffirmed that it expects a thorough report on all ongoing initiatives within the ECIU Graduate School at every meeting of the Executive Board (i.e. twice a year). Likewise, the ECIU Executive Board emphasised that the meetings of the Steering Committee should be used to raise and address recent difficulties in the development of the ECIU Graduate School, and to find solutions jointly.

The ECIU Executive Board acknowledged that many people have already put a lot of work in the development of the ECIU Graduate School, and in some cases are starting to get frustrated with national provisions that hinder further development. At the same time, a lot of expertise on obstacles for the development of joint master programmes has been collected within ECIU. It was therefore suggested by the University of Strathclyde to make an inventory and possibly organise an exchange of experiences on national legal provisions that have proven to be obstacles for the development of joint master programmes.

The Graduate School coordinator also suggested using the expertise that has been developed on Erasmus Mundus applications. Regarding the development of Twin programmes, it was suggested to directly approach the programme directors.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed that a regular report on the development of the initiatives of the ECIU Graduate School is expected at every meeting of the ECIU Executive Board and the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School.
- The ECIU Executive Board welcomed the initiative to gather expertise on obstacles for the development of joint master programmes.
- The ECIU Executive Board welcomed the initiative to initiate Twin programmes.

Actions

- The Graduate School coordinator to provide thorough reports on the development of the Graduate School initiatives at the next meeting.
- The Graduate School coordinator to keep the Local Coordinators at the ECIU member institutions in the information loop when addressing programme directors at the respective institutions.
- The University of Strathclyde to look into possibilities to organise a workshop on obstacles for the development of joint master programmes.

- The Graduate School coordinator to identify programme directors that are candidates for the development of Twin programmes within ECIU and to contact them directly, supported by the ECIU Executive Board members.

8.4 Report by the Student Mobility Group

The ECIU Executive Board noted the issues raised by the Student Mobility Group. A number of requests regarding the definition of structures and responsibilities within ECIU have been addressed in the ECIU 2009 Strategic Paper. Regarding the problems related to the transfer of credits, first measures have been taken by the chair of the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School to address this issue. The difficulties will also be mentioned in the ECIU response to the EC consultation process on the Green Paper on mobility of young people.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to further observe the development of the problems regarding credit transfer.

Actions

- The Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School to address the problem of credit transfer within ECIU.

8.5 Student Mobility Benchmark

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the benefits of conducting the Student Mobility Benchmark for 2009. It was pointed out that the Student Mobility Benchmark would provide ECIU with a set of data and information on the current status of student mobility that can be used as a valuable resource for further developing exchange activity. The ECIU Executive Board agreed that all ECIU member institutions should therefore participate in the 2009 Student Mobility Benchmark study. To further increase the benefit and learning effects of the study, it was suggested to have the consultant carry the analysis of the responses further, and to have him identify best practices. A prerequisite to this is that all ECIU member institutions agree to disclose the information they are providing for the Student Mobility Benchmark study. The study will, however, be kept in confidence within ECIU.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to conduct the Student Mobility Benchmark study with all ECIU members.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to disclose the results to make a comparative analysis possible.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary to negotiate with the consultant that conducted the Student Mobility Benchmark study two years ago on the conditions for conducting the study as described above.
- The ECIU secretary to circulate the original benchmarking tool to ask for comments and suggestions for additional questions.

8.6 Report by the Student Wing

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the Student Wing Charter, the Student Wing Agreement, the Year Plan, and the budget for 2010. The ECIU Student Wing secretary pointed out that the new charter opens up the possibility to have student representatives that are either engaged in a student union of one of the ECIU members, or that are engaged in internationalisation. The latter is the preferred option in case there are no adequate students' organisations in place. It will be up to the respective Local Coordinator to organise an adequate representation of students at the ECIU Student Wing. The ECIU Executive Board welcomed the development of the ECIU Student Wing and encouraged it to actively contribute to discussions and activities within ECIU.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board approved the ECIU Student Wing Agreement.
- The ECIU Executive Board approved the ECIU Student Wing Charter.
- The ECIU Executive Board approved the ECIU Student Wing year plan 2009.
- The ECIU Executive Board approved the ECIU Student Wing budget 2009.

8.7 Discussion of next steps

The Chair of the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School suggested to organise a summer school for students on cultures, changes, and challenges as a clear contribution and an innovative way to satisfy today's needs. The summer school would substitute the Student Mobility Symposium. It would be developed and hosted for the first year at UTC. The ECIU Executive Board received the suggestion favourably. The following points were noted:

- The summer school should only include generic courses, and no courses that are explicitly tailored to "engineers" (or any other specific subject group)
- The organisers are encouraged to look for third-party funding to realise the summer school.
- The experiences made during the first run of the summer school in 2010 will be evaluated at the fall 2010 meeting of the ECIU Executive Board.

The Chair of the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School suggested additional activities in the field of student mobility:

- Parallel courses
- ECIU young researcher
- Student data transfer

The ECIU Executive Board noted the project ideas, and encouraged the preparation of more detailed project outlines.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to organise a summer school for students as described above in 2010, instead of the Student Mobility Symposium.
- The ECIU Executive Board decided to commit € 10.000,- in the 2010 budget to the organisation of the summer school for students.

Actions

- The UTC to organise a summer school for students, and to circulate the necessary information in time to the ECIU member institutions.
- The Chair of the Steering Committee on Student Mobility and the Graduate School to prepare project outlines on the suggested project ideas for the next meeting.

9. Human Resource Development

9.1 Report by the Steering Committee

Peter Plenge reported on the results of the meeting of the Steering Committee on Human Resource Development. The ECIU Executive Board favourably noted the initiatives for additional activities in the field of Human Resource Development. The ECIU Executive Board supported the following suggestions:

- To get the HR officials at ECIU member institutions involved to promote staff development within ECIU.
- To set up a network of HR officials.
- To develop a structure for themed staff mobility with annual focus themes.
- To encourage the establishment of self-organised thematic working groups.
- To have participants of the most recent run of the LDP present the outcomes of their LDP project at the spring meeting of the ECIU Executive Board.
- To encourage a LDP alumni network.

In addition, the UAB proposed a project to develop a structure for an exchange of Post-Docs.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed on the suggestions for future activities in the field of HR development, as described above.

Actions

- The Steering Committee Human Resource Development to draft a letter for the ECIU speaker to send to the HR officials of all ECIU members to encourage the setting up of a network of HR officials.
- The Steering Committee Human Resource Development to undertake the necessary steps to initiate the suggested activities listed above.
- UAB to provide a project outline in English on the proposed exchange of Post-Docs for the next meeting.

9.2 Report on the Leadership Development Programme

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board noted the continued success of the Leadership Development Programme.

Actions

- The ECIU Executive Board suggests that ECIU would in the future act as client for the LDP, i.e. formulate strategic questions regarding ECIU as a consortium and have one of the project teams of the LDP work on them.

9.3 Outline of Future Activities in Human Resource Development and Staff Mobility

9.4 Discussion of next steps

9.5 Goals for the next years

Items 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 had been covered by the discussions of item 9.1.

10. Knowledge Triangle

10.1 Report by the Steering Committee

Antonio Pita gave a presentation on the outcomes of the meeting of the Steering Committee Knowledge Triangle. The ECIU Executive Board discussed the potential of “Employability” as a potential topic for ECIU activities. It was suggested that the scope of the topic “Employability” would be too narrow, and not innovative. Instead, the ECIU Executive Board agreed that the headline “Employment transitions / New skills for new jobs” would be more appropriate for a new field of activities for ECIU. The objectives of this topic would be on the one hand to make students fit for the needs of professional life of the future (flexible, virtual working environment), but on the other hand to also critically question which skills will be necessary in the future to shape society.

Under the impression of the presentations of Tec de Monterrey on their Technology Park, it was also suggested to start an initiative on an exchange of experiences in the set-up of Technology Parks.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board supported the idea of pursuing the topic “Employment transitions / New skills for new jobs” for ECIU activities.
- The ECIU Executive Board supported the idea of pursuing the topic “Set-up of Technology Parks”.

Actions

- The members of the Steering Committee Knowledge Triangle to gather information on educational concepts and models at ECIU institutions on teaching transferable skills.
- All ECIU representatives to consider “Employment transitions / New skills for new jobs” as a potential topic for envisaged events (e.g. the conference on Regional Innovation, or the envisaged ECIU event in Brussels).
- Sue Fujino to provide the Steering Committee with an Australian study on skills desired by employers.
- The members of the Steering Committee Knowledge Triangle to gather information on the structure of Technology Parks, Incubators, Accelerators, Spin-off activity at ECIU members

10.2 Proposal “Market Intelligence”

Antonio Pita presented his ideas on an ECIU project on “Market Intelligence”.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board supported the idea of developing a project proposal on “Market Intelligence”.

Actions

- The Chair of the Steering Committee Knowledge Triangle to elaborate on a project outline.

10.3 Proposal “Renewable Energy”

William Salaneck gave a presentation on the proposed seminar on “Renewable Energy” at Linköping University. Under the impression on the interesting presentations by Tec de Monterrey on sustainable campuses, it was suggested to broaden the scope of the event and to include the topic of sustainable campuses as well. The ECIU Executive Board supported the idea to develop sustainability as one major topic of ECIU, which would clearly add to the innovative character of the consortium. It was also suggested to leave room for discussions on next steps and potential project proposals at the seminar in Linköping.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board supported the project proposal by Linköping University.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary to circulate the presentation on the suggested seminar and to collect expressions of interest and feedback on content and suggested dates by December 4.
- The ECIU secretary to collect registrations by December 18, LiU to decide on the realisation of the event based on the number of registrations (Two participants per ECIU member minimum).

10.4 Conference on Regional Innovation

The ECIU secretary commented on the written report. It was highlighted that the content of the conference has to be developed together with the EU project MODERN partners.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board supported the engagement of all ECIU members in contributing to the conference and encouraged ECIU members to make suggestions for topics, speaker, and case studies.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary to address ECIU members and collect input on the conference.
- The ECIU secretary to negotiate with the MODERN project partners on the content of the conference.
- All ECIU member institutions to ensure participation of ECIU delegates.

10.5 Co-operation with the regions

At the moment, no significant feedback was received regarding the initiative on co-operations with the regions.

10.6 Discussion of next steps

10.7 Goals for the next years

Items 10.6 and 10.7 had been covered by the discussions of the items above.

11. EU activities: Focus areas

11.1 Report by the Steering Committee

Anne Flierman gave a presentation on the outcomes of the meeting of the Steering Committee EU Policy. It was emphasised that ECIU is experiencing a growing visibility at the EC – level. ECIU has received several invitations to relevant events of the EC, like for example to the EU – US policy dialogue, or the University – Business Forum. Unfortunately, ECIU is still facing persisting difficulties in providing adequate content for events and responses within a short time-frame. Still, only a very low number of ECIU staff is involved in joint-ECIU activities in the EU-policy field. It was suggested that “Dialogue between ECIU and EU” could be a promising topic for thematic staff exchange to stimulate more interaction between ECIU member institutions in this field.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board suggested initiating a thematic staff exchange on “Dialogue between ECIU and EU”.

Actions

- The Steering Committee Human Resource Development to take steps to initiate a thematic staff exchange among EU officials at ECIU member institutions.

11.2 Report by the EU working group

Martin Gregory commented on the written report. He, too, emphasised the fragile structure of the EU working group, and the current difficulties to make adequate use of the Scotland Europa office, due to a lack of input from the ECIU side. For example, a joint ECIU response to the consultation on community innovation policy has failed because there was no considerable input received from ECIU member institutions. It was suggested that every ECIU member institution should assign personnel to the EU working group. The ECIU Executive Board members would have to make clear to the representatives of their institutions that once they have agreed to join this group, they will be expected to actively engage in ECIU activities in the area of EU policy. This will include the contribution to events and responses within a very short timeline, since the EC in many cases expects feedback within very short deadlines.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to assign personnel to the EU working group, and to commit them to actively engage in ECIU activities.

Actions

- The ECIU Executive Board members to assign personnel to the EU working group, if they have not already done so.
- The ECIU Executive Board members to reaffirm the commitment of these participants in the EU working group.

11.3 Green paper on Mobility of Young People

The ECIU secretary reported that a number of responses to the Green Paper on Mobility of Young People have already been received, but more would be welcome. The ECIU Executive Board agreed that in a joint ECIU response, only those arguments will be included on which the members of ECIU agree upon. Controversial statements will not be included in a paper that will be handed in on behalf of ECIU. The EU working group will work together with Scotland Europa on a joint response. Depending on the time available until the deadline for submission, the final draft will be circulated to the Executive Board for approval. This will, however, happen with a very short deadline of only a few days.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board reaffirmed the wish to submit a joint ECIU response to the Green Paper on Mobility of Young People.

Actions

- The ECIU member institutions to submit input on a joint response by the end of November to the ECIU secretary.
- The ECIU secretary together with the EU working group and Scotland Europa to finalise the joint response
- The ECIU secretary to circulate the final draft to the ECIU Executive Board, and to submit the joint response to the EC.

11.4 ECIU event in Brussels

Anne Flierman reported that the suggested concept for an ECIU event in Brussels that had been laid out in the written report had been revised in the meeting of the Steering Committee EU Policy. To optimise the preparations for the event, it has been suggested to take on a two-step approach. In a first step, the ECIU Executive Board, the personnel working on EU Policy at the ECIU member institutions, representatives of the relevant regional offices and representatives of Scotland Europa will meet in an internal ECIU event to get to know each other. ECIU would present itself at this occasion, with a focus on topics that are relevant for raising ECIU's profile in Brussels. For this first event, the envisaged date in March 2010 (March 11) should be kept.

In a second step, a larger event with representatives of the EC and relevant stakeholders will be organised. At this event, ECIU will present itself with topics relevant to the modernisation agenda, e.g. the Leadership Development Programme / management modernisation, New

Skills for New Jobs – ECIU approach, Sustainable Campus,... This will also leave more time to collect input for the second event.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to change the plans for an ECIU event in Brussels towards a two step approach.

Actions

- The EU working group to revise the concept of the events and implement it with the help of Scotland Europa.
- The ECIU secretary to address ECIU members regarding ongoing ECIU activities in all areas and collect input for the upcoming event.

11.5 Discussion of next steps

Anne Flierman referred to the discussion regarding ECIU's membership in Scotland Europa. When signing the initial contract in January 2009, it had already been suggested that one year would be a very short time to evaluate the success of an engagement with Scotland Europa. Given the current challenges on the ECIU side, it was suggested that the contract with Scotland Europa would be prolonged for one more year to give the collaboration the opportunity to develop.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to prolong the contract with Scotland Europa for one more year.

Actions

- The ECIU secretary and the ECIU speaker to negotiate and sign the prolongation of the contract with Scotland Europa.

11.6 Goals for the next year

Item 11.6 has been covered by the discussions of the items above.

12. Research inventories

The ECIU secretary reported on the feedback received on the request for an inventory of research facilities. The ECIU Executive Board agreed that in order to make proper use of the research inventory, the information should be made available on an internal webpage for ECIU members. In order to do so, consent has to be achieved on publishing the information within the ECIU context. The ECIU Executive Board also agreed that the list should concentrate on those research facilities that are considered to be top-level or unique. This should be kept in mind when collecting the information.

The University of Twente offered to sort the inventory thematically, once the inventory has been completed. The ECIU Executive Board welcomed this offer. It was also suggested to collect in a second step information on top-level research groups at ECIU member institutions.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed on further developing the research inventory.

Actions

- The ECIU member institutions to provide information on top-level research facilities that are available to co-operation for ECIU members by the end of the year, if they have not already done so.
- The University of Twente to sort the list thematically.
- The ECIU secretary and the ECIU PR Group to set up an internal webpage for the research inventory.

13. Invitation of additional members

Anne Flierman reported on the outcomes of the work of the evaluation committee on membership candidates. The evaluation committee recommended inviting Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia, and Technical University of Lodz, Poland, for membership to ECIU. The committee also recommended not to invite the Universities of Agder and Stavanger. It was also mentioned that negotiations are still going on with three more potential candidates that have shown interest, but require more information at the moment. The ECIU Executive Board acknowledged the progress of the search for new members. The Board advised the evaluation committee to also take a closer look at the University of Tromsø in Norway as potential partner.

Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board decided to invite Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia, and Technical University of Lodz, Poland, for membership to ECIU.

Actions

- The ECIU speaker to invite Tallinn University of Technology and Technical University of Lodz to the next meeting of the ECIU Executive Board in Aveiro.
- The evaluation committee to continue negotiations with other interested candidates.
- The evaluation committee to consider and evaluate Tromsø University for membership to ECIU.

14. Concluding remarks

The ECIU Speaker again thanked Enrique Zepeda, Patricia Montano and their colleagues for being wonderful hosts to the meeting and for having organised everything perfectly well.

The ECIU Speaker thanked all the participants for their attendance and their input to the fruitful discussions. He concluded that the meeting had been very successful. As a follow-up of the meeting, the ECIU secretary will provide a to-do-list and the minutes.

15. Miscellaneous

The next ECIU Executive Board meeting will take place on May 6th/7th 2010 at the University of Aveiro, Portugal.

Bettina Burger, December 10 2009