

ECIU Executive Board Meeting

Draft Minutes

Friday 18 April, 2008

Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

Participants

Finn Kjaersdam, Lise Thorup-Pedersen and Peter Plenge (Aalborg), Isabel Martins (Aveiro), Montse Roca (UAB), Peter Wagstaff (UTC), Eberhard Becker, Barbara Schneider, Bettina Burger and Laura Hope (TU Dortmund), Mille Millnert, Bill Salaneck and Janerik Lundquist (LiU), Patricia Montano and Antonio Pita (Tec de Monterrey), Igor Uznarodov and Evgeny Aydarkin (SFU), Rae Condie and Martin Gregory (Strathclyde), Ian Young, Stephen Connelly, David Hayward and Sue Fujino (Swinburne), Klaus-Joachim Scheunert and Randolph Galla (TUHH), Anne Flierman, Anke Kohl and Pieter Binsbergen (Twente), Jeppe Stricker (Aalborg and ECIU Student Wing) and Saskia Loer Hansen (ECIU Secretariat).

Adam Taylor (Strathclyde) and Derek Whitehead (Swinburne) attended for agenda item 7 and 9 respectively.

Apologies: David Law (Warwick), who would be leaving Warwick and a new Board member was yet to be finally confirmed; and Carlo Naldi (PdT).

0. Welcome by ECIU Speaker

The ECIU Speaker welcomed participants to the meeting and extended a particular thank you to Ian Young and colleagues at Swinburne for the warm welcome and the fantastic hospitality, and thanked Sue Fujino for all her work in having organised both the Sarawak programme and the three-day programme in Melbourne.

1. Minutes

The ECIU Secretariat had received no comments since the circulation of the draft minutes in December 2007.

Decision

The minutes of the ECIU Executive Board meeting at Twente in November 2007 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. ECIU Finances

i) ECIU Final Accounts 2007

The ECIU Secretary presented the Final accounts of 2007 and the ECIU Executive Board noted the closing balance of €128,229.70 of which commitments of €65,204.85 were still to be paid. The ECIU Board also noted the situation regarding the recent currency fluctuations where the weakening of the Pound Sterling had an impact on the value in Euros of the £57,701.73 currently held in trust by the University of Strathclyde on behalf of the ECIU.

The Board considered the fact that funds committed already in 2005 were yet to be used and agreed that for future project allocations, funds would be clawed back if the funds had not been spent within a year from the date of the project funds being approved by the ECIU Board

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed that the Assistant Director of Finance at Strathclyde should identify an appropriate time for transferring the ECIU funds held in Sterling into the Euro account at TU Dortmund.

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to claw back unspent funds within a year from the date of the project approval in the first instance affecting the scholarships allocated to the ECIU Graduate School in 2005.

ii) Revised budget 2008

Four institutions were yet to pay the membership fee for 2008.

Action

ECIU Secretariat to chase up outstanding payments and the institutions concerned to ensure payment as soon as possible.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board approved the revised Budget 2008.

3. ECIU Speaker

The current ECIU Speaker, Prof Eberhard Becker, would retire later this year and had consequently had telephone meetings with individual ECIU Board members to identify a candidate to stand for election as the new ECIU Speaker and to gauge the support for this candidate.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board unanimously elected Dr Anne Flierman, President from the University of Twente, as the next ECIU Speaker starting on 1 June 2008.

Action

Dr Flierman to meet with the current and new ECIU Secretary in July to ensure an appropriate transfer of knowledge, tasks and responsibilities.

Dr Anne Flierman thanked for the confidence expressed in him by the ECIU Executive Board and was happy to accept the election. Furthermore, he thanked Prof Becker for his work and dedication as ECIU Speaker, and informed colleagues that the formal farewell for the current Speaker would take place at the next meeting at the TUHH in October 2008.

4. ECIU Secretariat

The ECIU Executive Board noted that the ECIU Secretariat would move from the University of Strathclyde to TU Dortmund, and agreed that Ms Bettina Burger would take up the role as ECIU Secretary on a part-time basis (based in the International Office) taking effect from the 1st of August 2008.

Ms Bettina Burger would spend a week at Strathclyde in June, working with Ms Hansen to ensure a smooth transition of work tasks and responsibilities.

5. EU Funding Group

i) EIT Governing Board

Prof Andrew Hamnett, who was not attending the ECIU Board meeting, had emailed the ECIU Secretary in the early morning of 18 April and had asked that the Board consider nominating Prof Frans van Vught, former Rector Magnificus of the University of Twente, as a member of the EIT Governing Board. Organisations in Europe had been asked to make nominations of individuals, who would act on the Governing Board in their own personal capacity and not as representative of the various organisations.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to nominate Prof van Vught as a member of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Technology and Innovation.

Action

The ECIU Speaker to write the letter of nomination and to submit this to the Commission before 25 April.

ii) An ECIU Agent in Brussels

The ECIU Speaker introduced the actions taken since the Twente Board meeting in respect of identifying an Agent to work for the ECIU in Brussels. Mr Martin Gregory, chair of the EU Funding Group, emphasised the key issues that were critical in making the work of an ECIU agent a success:

- Ensuring an appropriate supportive infrastructure surrounding the agent such as the support of senior management within individual ECIU institutions (including the willingness of ECIU Board members to travel to Brussels when required), and the set-up of internal institutional support groups consisting of subject experts and policy advisors that could provide the agent with the content to be used for writing up ECIU responses to public consultations;
- Ensuring that the regional offices of the ECIU institutions in Brussels get to know each other and start to operate as a network;
- Ensuring that EU funding officers within the ECIU institutions start to work as a broader network surrounding the ECIU Agent in Brussels;
- The continuation of the current EU Funding Group to act as an interface between the ECIU agent and the ECIU Executive Board.

The ECIU Executive Board discussed which of the two roles, which had been outlined in the paper by Andrew Hamnett, was the most important and agreed that priority should be given to the proactive role i.e. lobbying and policy influencing.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to make use of the North Denmark office in the first instance with monthly payments to Aalborg University, and for the ECIU EU Funding Group to liaise with the North Denmark Office and the ECIU Executive Board in writing a proposal for how the proactive role could be taken forward. The appointment of an appropriate person for this proactive role would take effect later this year.

Action

The new ECIU Speaker to identify a person to take up the role as the more proactive ECIU agent in Brussels.

The North Denmark Office to organise a meeting where Regional Development project collaboration could be discussed and for this meeting to take place in conjunction with the DIFUSE Final Conference in Brussels on 27 May 2008.

The ECIU EU Funding Group to continue their work and provide the Executive Board with advice about how the proactive role can be taken forward and further developed and to support the ECIU agent in Brussels in building a network of EU officers in individual ECIU member institutions and regional representatives in Brussels to support the proactive efforts.

6. ECIU-PTU Collaboration

Mr Pieter Binsbergen gave an introduction to the current state of the collaboration between the ECIU and Pyeongtaek University. The due diligence report that Swinburne had made available to ECIU institutions was considered, and the Board noted the conclusions from this report such as the low ranking of PTU in the university hierarchy in South Korea, but also the confirmation that a wealth of regional development activities were taking place in the Pyeongtaek region.

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the difficulties that had been encountered in the collaboration with PTU, including the constant change of focus of activities and the lack of ECIU control with how the collaboration was being marketed in South Korea. The Board agreed that PTU's approach to promoting all institutions in whole consortium as engaged in the collaboration posed risks to the reputation of individual ECIU institutions and the ECIU brand as such. Only those institutions directly involved in activities should be mentioned in the relevant promotional material and not the remaining institutions in the Consortium.

The Board discussed the fact that the first activities as outlined in the MoU had not been realised so far. However, the MoU called for a six-month notice to terminate the collaboration between ECIU and PTU. Up to now, the ECIU had not issued a warning to PTU with regard to the continuation of the project.

Regarding the European Study Centre in South Korea, the ECIU as a consortium had not been involved in the composition of a proposal. Instead, the UAB was in charge of this project

Decision

The Board agreed that the current activities did not qualify as joint ECIU activities. Individual ECIU members could continue the collaboration on a bilateral basis, e.g. the universities who were prepared to deliver short courses could still do so. At the next Board meeting in Hamburg the final decision on the ECIU-PTU collaboration would be made.

Action

The ECIU Speaker to assess the PTU situation in light of the commitments made in the MoU.

Mr Binsbergen and the ECIU Speaker to meet with the PTU President and Prof Cha and explain the ECIU's grave concerns to them.

7. ECIU Marketing and Communications

Mr Adam Taylor gave an update to the Board on behalf of the ECIU Marketing & Communications Group.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed that the Strathclyde survey of student mobility should be repeated at the other ECIU institutions.

Actions

Adam Taylor to provide the link to the e-survey to the ECIU Secretariat for onward transmission to all ECIU local coordinators and to agree with the Marketing & Communications Group who should take the lead in producing a summary study of the different institutional responses to the mobility survey.

All ECIU member institutions to ensure that they have links on the websites to the ECIU website and to provide regular news and updates for the website.

All institutions to confirm that they have circulated the ECIU Brochure to relevant members of staff within their institutions.

The ECIU visual/brand identity to be presented on the website including powerpoint template, new ECIU logo and letter head etc.

8. Innovative Teaching for a 21st Century Europe

The ECIU Executive Board noted the successful symposium that had been hosted by the University of Strathclyde.

Actions

The University of Aveiro would host the next symposium in May 2009.

All ECIU institutions to share information about the symposium with relevant colleagues and Board members to liaise with teaching and learning experts about the symposium to ensure that the network of experts be kept going until May 2009.

9. Collaboration between Library Services

Mr Derek Whitehead introduced the proposal to establish an ECIU network of Library Services/Chief Information Officers.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed that a network of institutional Library Services/CIO's should be set up.

Actions

All Board members to discuss the proposal with their Chief Information Officers/Library Services and to forward a contact name and contact details to the ECIU Secretariat.

A first meeting of the Group to be organised e.g. in connection with the Hamburg meeting in October, and otherwise to be organised as a virtual network.

10. ESMU

The ECIU Executive Board noted that the ECIU had been part of two applications submitted by ESMU. Information was expected in May/June about the outcome of the project bids, and if they were successful, a second stage application had to be made before final project approval could be achieved. If so, the projects would start in May/June 2009. This, however, would not provide funding for a continuation of the ECIU Leadership Development Programme.

Actions

The ECIU Executive Board to consider submitting an application to the European Commission for the continuation of the ECIU Leadership Development programme for the February 2009 deadline.

The TUHH meeting in October 2008 to make a final decision on this matter and to set up a group to write the application.

11. ECIU Core Areas

A) University Industry Interaction

The Steering Committee had had a fruitful meeting and recommended a series of actions to the Board as outlined below.

i) DIFUSE

The ECIU Executive Board expressed its thanks to Ms Monica Schofield for having taken the initiative to get the DIFUSE project established and for having managed the project so well. The ECIU could not, however, expect Ms Schofield to take responsibility for a continuation of the project as she was part of an independent organisation and therefore not able to invest a lot of time in pursuing opportunities for project continuation (TuTech being a private company partly owned by TUHH).

Actions

The ECIU to make best use of the meeting on Regional Development which would be organised by the North Denmark Office in conjunction with the final DIFUSE Conference to discuss and identify specific opportunities for continuation of the DIFUSE project activity.

All ECIU institutions to send one high-level representative to attend the DIFUSE conference (as numbers are limited, names of participants have to be sent to the ECIU Secretariat and Ms Schofield ASAP).

ii) Creative Industries

The Steering Committee had considered a project, currently organised by TU Dortmund, on Creative Industries.

Actions

TU Dortmund to circulate information on how students from other ECIU institutions might be able to access the programmes and training activities that are currently offered to Dortmund student and alumni.

TU Dortmund to organise a Forum on Creative Industries (in the form of a workshop or seminar).

iii) Science Park Collaboration and Relationships with Local Government

The Steering Committee had identified opportunities for stimulating contacts between Science Parks within the Consortium, and for sharing best practice on the development and organisation of relationships with local government and authorities.

Actions

Twente to organise a conference/workshop on the combined theme of Science Parks and relationships with regional authorities and local governments.

All ECIU institutions to identify appropriate contacts for participation in this activity once an invitation to the conference is circulated.

iv) Market Intelligence

The Steering Committee had identified opportunities for enhancing university-industry interrelationships through ECIU collaboration on market research.

Action

Prof Antonio Pita to work up a proposal for the TUHH meeting on how the ECIU might start a new activity in the area of development of market intelligence / identification of market needs.

v) FP 7 Collaboration

The ECIU Executive Board considered whether more could be done to assist ECIU associate partners in getting early access to joining FP7 applications made by researchers within ECIU institutions. The Board agreed that top-down approaches would be inappropriate and that it would be for individual associate partners to make early contacts with relevant researchers within particular areas of research interest, and to try to build the research links that would allow for inclusion in subsequent FP7 project bids.

Action

Where relevant, research staff from ECIU associate partners to make direct contact with their counterparts at ECIU institutions (with no central ECIU support being provided).

B) ECIU Graduate School

EGS Project Manager, Mr Randolph Galla, gave a presentation on the progress of the different curriculum developments and joint masters' programmes that were currently being explored under the umbrella of the ECIU Graduate School (EGS).

Aalborg University was the most active ECIU member in EGS activities, with Warwick, the UTC, SFU and Tec de Monterrey not having any involvement in EGS activities at all. The twinning programme scheme could be further utilised to ensure the participation of these institutions in EGS activities.

Decisions

A more fundamental discussion about the future organisation and activities of the ECIU Graduate School should be organised for the TUHH ECIU Executive Board meeting on 10 October.

The €4,500 currently held in the ECIU budget for study trips to be spent before 1 May 2009; otherwise the funds would be clawed back.

Further financial decisions about the EGS to await the discussion at the next Board meeting.

Actions

Tec de Monterrey and SFU to nominate more programmes for the twinning programme schemes.

The EGS project manager to work with the Marketing & Communications Group to ensure alignment of the promotion of EGS programmes with the new ECIU brand.

ECIU to apply for ICI ECP funds as a consortium, using the emerging programmes that the Graduate School coordinates as a basis as there are already defined curricula and identified academics for these courses and initiatives.

All ECIU institutions to identify contact persons for an urgent application to the ICI-ECP programme (for funding of activities with Australian, South Korean and Japanese partner institutions/consortia).

C) Improved Student and Staff Mobility

Dr Anne Flierman made a report on the basis of the discussions that took place within the Steering Committee meeting on Improved Student and Staff Mobility including the recommendations below.

i) ECIU Leadership Development Programme

The Steering Committee recommended that the programme be continued in 2008-09 and that the €20,000 that had already been reserved in the budget to support the running of the programme be utilised to support the organisation of the programme on the same basis as had been the case with the 2007-08 programme.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed that the programme should be continued in 2008-09 and agreed to release the funding reserved in the budget for this purpose.

Actions

All institutions to nominate participants as soon as possible (ECIU Secretariat to circulate details about whom the nominations should be sent to).

Tec de Monterrey, Twente, Strathclyde and TUHH to confirm their willingness to act as sponsors/hosts of workshops. ECIU Secretariat to assist in ensuring that this confirmation is received and passed on to colleagues at CHEPS, who will be responsible for the organisation of the programme with the workshop hosts.

ii) ECIU Staff Development Programme

The Steering Committee recommended that all ECIU institutions make best use of the staff development programme for administrative members of staff.

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board decided that the SFEDU staff development programme be continued, paid for and organised by the Southern Federal University, and hosted by different ECIU members.

Actions

Mrs Lise Thorup-Pedersen to contact all ECIU Admin staff development programme contact persons at ECIU institutions to identify what is currently being done to promote the scheme at individual ECIU institutions.

Mrs Thorup-Pedersen to circulate a template, produced by Swinburne, for staff who are applying to visit another ECIU institution.

Interested members of staff from ECIU institutions to attend the programme on "International Relations & services offered to foreign students at UAB", organised by the UAB and offered to SFU and other interested institutions.

LiU to organise a programme on "Business incubators and entrepreneurship at LiU" and TuTech/TUHH to organise a program on "Technology transfer activities" under the umbrella of the SFEDU staff development programme.

iii) Swinburne European Study Centre

The ECIU Executive Board noted that the Centre had now been launched and that different activities such as joint programmes and study tours would be organised where possible.

Action

All interested ECIU institutions to liaise with Swinburne about possible future collaborative activities.

iv) ECIU Student Mobility Benchmark

Mr Stephen Connelly presented the findings from the ECIU Student Mobility Benchmark that 9 ECIU institutions had taken part in.

The ECIU Executive Board noted the huge diversity in the responses submitted.

Decision

The Benchmark study to be repeated in 2010 with participation of all ECIU institutions.

Actions

The next survey to take place in 2010 on the basis of 2008/09 student numbers (unless the involved institutions decide that an annual report would be preferred to develop increased data collection sophistication. Further discussion about this would take place at the TUHH meeting).

The next benchmark questionnaire should include questions about the total proportion of male/female students to provide a context for the numbers of male/female students studying abroad.

More specific questions about the twinning programmes should be incorporated in the next benchmark questionnaire as should specific questions about how ECIU student and staff mobility is promoted within the ECIU institutions. Ms Karin Paardenkooper and Mrs Thorup-Pedersen to assist in formulating questions on student and admin staff mobility.

v) ECIU Student Mobility Group

The Steering Committee recommended that the ECIU Student Symposium be continued over the next couple of years and that the budget available for the symposium be increased to €10,000 (from the current €7500).

Decision

The ECIU Executive Board decided to continue the symposium in 2009 and 2010 and agreed to allocate €10,000 to cover the costs of organising and hosting each symposium.

Action

LiU to host the 2009 ECIU Student Symposium. Aalborg University to host the 2010 ECIU Student Symposium. Both institutions to consider emphasising leadership, rather than only entrepreneurship as a theme for the symposium.

vi) ECIU Student Wing

Mr Jeppe Stricker had attended the Student Wing meeting, hosted by Aveiro on 6-7 April, and introduced the key issues identified by the Student Wing. These included improved communications with local coordinators; a Student Wing entry on the website (which had already been agreed and simply awaited input from the Student Wing); the creation of a Facebook website for the Student Wing and increased usage of virtual communication within the Student Wing.

The ECIU Executive Board noted that a student representative from Aveiro had been elected as the new Student Wing chair, and that Aalborg would continue as ECIU Student Wing secretary.

Actions

The Student Wing to contact Janerik Lundquist at LiU to receive advice about the technological possibilities for virtual communication between Student Wing members.

The Student Wing to provide input for the Student Wing section on the ECIU website.

12. Sarawak visit

The ECIU Executive Board reflected on the experience of visiting Swinburne University of Technology in Kuching, Sarawak. All agreed that this had been a valuable experience and that it had been very interesting to see how Swinburne had managed the relationship with the local government in setting up, and developing, a separate Swinburne campus in Malaysia and the challenges associated with e.g. quality assurance.

The ECIU Executive Board noted that the Sarawak campus provided new opportunities for ECIU activities and congratulated Swinburne with the great achievement of developing such a successful new campus in collaboration with local Malaysian authorities.

13. Miscellaneous

The next ECIU Executive Board meeting will take place at Hamburg University of Technology on 9-10 October 2008.

The University of Strathclyde will host the next combined ECIU General Meeting and ECIU Executive Board meeting on 18-19 June 2009.

In closing the meeting, the ECIU Speaker again thanked Ian Young and colleagues for being such great hosts and for having made all ECIU delegates feel so welcome in both Sarawak and Melbourne.

Saskia Loer Hansen, 22 April 2008 (revised 14 May)