



This is the third FACE (Forum for Access and Continuing Education) e-bulletin, offered to policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. This message is sent to those in the sector, members and non-members alike.

This FACE e-bulletin will be sent to you each month. If you would prefer not to receive this message please contact me at Carmel.Dennison@ntlworld.com and your details will be removed immediately. If you have any comments about what might be added to this service to make it more useful, or if you would like me to add a colleague to the list, please let me know.

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FACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 'SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LIFELONG LEARNING: DIVERSITY, GLOBALISATION, TRANSFORMATION' 2-4 JULY 2007

Speakers include; Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, UK; Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive, Equality Challenge Unit, UK; Alan Tuckett, Director, NIACE, UK; Professor Tom Schuller, Head of CERI, OECD, France; Professor John Storan, Director, Continuum, UEL and Director, Action on Access, UK; Professor Roy du Pré, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal, Vaal University of Technology, South Africa; Geraldine L. McBroom, Dean, Division of Educational and Career Advancement, Central New Mexico Community College and President of NADE, USA.

Final call for papers: 31st May.

For more information go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/conference2007.htm>

FORTHCOMING FACE ONE-DAY SEMINARS IN 2007/08

- **QAA 'Integrated Quality Enhancement Review'** A report-back on a pilot project with the University of Derby and 18 FE partner colleges. This new process will soon replace the QAA Academic Review of HE in FE. Wednesday, 27th June at the Midland Hotel Derby. Only 15 delegate places available.
- **The Leitch Report: Implications for Adult Learning in Wales**, September, University of Glamorgan, Tuesday, 11th September, hosted by Professor Danny Saunders and his team.
- **The Practice of Academic Writing**: an overview of writing for publication in academic journals, books and also funding bid writing. Wednesday 28th November, Staffordshire University.

- **Autumn 2007** – Seminars in Scotland and London – details available shortly.

More information will be sent to you separately giving fuller details of the seminar programmes.

SEMINAR IN SCOTLAND ON 30th MAY 2007

The Centre for Lifelong Learning and The Centre for Academic and Professional Development at the University of Paisley present a one-day seminar on 'The Future of Part-time Higher Education in Scotland: the changing policy landscape'.

For more details contact hazel.knox@paisley.ac.uk Telephone 0141 848 3453

FACE NETWORKING WITHIN THE SECTOR

FACE members can join networks of researchers and practitioners around the UK and overseas with similar expertise and research interests. Go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/networking.htm> If you would like to add your details please e-mail FACE webmaster Jim Tate on: James.Tate@uwe.ac.uk

FACE BOOK REVIEWS

For recent book reviews by FACE members go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/reviews.htm> Please note that this service is available to all at present but will soon be available only to FACE members. Please note that FACE members are invited to submit their reviews of relevant recently-published books to carmel.dennison@ntlworld.com

NEWS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY

Developing and Embedding Inclusive Policy and Practice in Higher Education

Call for Proposals: The Academy is inviting proposals from UK higher education institutions (HEIs) who are interested in taking part in a new, 14 month programme. The programme aims to facilitate the development and embedding of inclusive policies and/or practices to enhance [widening participation](#) or [disability equality](#) to improve the learning experience of students from under-represented groups.

The programme – commencing July 2007 and finishing September 2008 - offers a framework to enable participating institutions to develop an aspect of either widening participation or disability equality by bringing together teams of staff from within HEIs to work alongside others focusing on similar themes. There is space for up to seven HEIs to join this programme and participation will involve attendance at four events, including a three-day residential.

The focus on embedding 'inclusive' policies and/or practices and the bringing together of the widening participation and disability equality agendas is in recognition that inclusion, widening participation and disability equality have complementary agendas. The programme also recognises the desirability of moving towards a whole institution approach to these agendas, particularly in light of recent equality legislation, research and policy developments.

For further information, including contact details for enquiries and how to apply, please download the [Call for Proposals document \(DOC 310KB\)](#).

The deadline for submission of proposals is 12 noon on Friday 18 May 2007. Please download the [Proposal Template \(DOC 68KB\)](#) and submit an electronic copy by the above deadline (with a signed hard copy to follow).

Contact helen.brand@heacademy.ac.uk (Widening Participation) or kerryjo.reilly@heacademy.ac.uk (Disability Equality) for enquiries.

NEWS FROM LIFELONG LEARNING NETWORKS

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provided constructive and positive feedback to the South West Lifelong Learning Network (SWLLN) for reaching its set targets for the first six months and for the clear presentation of its report on the progress achieved to date. For further details visit their [Press Release section](#). The first edition of SWLLN's Learning Power, their quarterly publication, is available to view in their [Publications section](#).

The West London Lifelong Learning Network develops additional activities, relationships and provision that increase the number of vocational learners progressing to and through higher education. For more information: www.westlondonlln.org

MOVE, The Lifelong Learning Network for the East of England, is a regional network including all the HEIs and FECs in the region. It operates in three employment sectors, Creative and Cultural Industries, Health and Social Care and Sustainable Built Environment. It has success in developing Progression Accords between FE and HE on vocational routes and have supported a wide range of development activity through our development fund. Visit the website www.move.ac.uk

The South West Lifelong Learning Network is uniting with universities and colleges, employers and other organisations across the region to improve the quality of choice in Higher Education for work-based learners. Flexible, bite-size university-level courses are being developed which will be specifically relevant to the Public Services, Heritage, Tourism and Hospitality sectors. Progression agreements will be put in place with institutions across the region to allow learners to move between different programmes and establishments. Information, Advice and Guidance will also be strengthened to support learners.

The SWLLN website is being developed into a resource for both Learners and Employers within the South West at www.swlln.ac.uk

ACTION ON ACCESS NEWS

For access to Action on Access bulletins including their latest news go to: http://www.actiononaccess.org/?p=2_5_4_1

NEWS FROM THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Wales TUC Partnership Opens the Door to OU Learning for 500,000 Welsh Workers

The two organisations are building on a common mission in Wales - to support the personal, career development and lifelong learning of people throughout Wales. They are pledging to work together to ensure that those who have previously benefited least from education and training can develop their skills, confidence and careers through access to learning opportunities. See <http://www3.open.ac.uk/media/fullstory.aspx?id=10822> for full article.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSPAPERS

Students demand value for money over fee increases

Students are willing to pay up to £6,800 a year in fees for top universities, but they would not tolerate big fee increases from less prestigious institutions, a survey revealed yesterday. The Government is due to review the current £3,000 cap on tuition fees in England in 2009 and several of the most popular universities are already pressing to be able to levy higher fees. Yesterday's survey of more than 14,000 first-year students by Opinionpanel Research suggests students would accept a more market-oriented system and be prepared to pay more for what they perceive as quality and better job prospects.

The Guardian, 4/4/07

Ucas points system to be overhauled

The university tariff system, which is at the heart of whether a student is offered a place to study a degree, is being reviewed, it emerged today. The university admissions service Ucas said it was taking a fresh look at its tariff - the number of points that students are awarded for the grades they achieve for an A level, or equivalent, qualification. Universities attach a tariff total to their individual degree programmes, which is then used as the target students have to meet before they can be offered a university place.

The Guardian, 4/4/07

University policies that filter out middle-class students

Six of the 20-strong Russell Group of leading research universities have written policies discriminating against middle-class students to boost recruitment from poor areas, documents showed yesterday. Liverpool, LSE, Newcastle and Warwick have followed the lead of Bristol and Nottingham, which have operated schemes encouraging tutors to give lower offers to working-class applicants for the past six years. Durham, which has not joined the Russell Group, has collated information about school and home backgrounds on "contextual sheets" since 2002.

The Daily Telegraph, 20/3/07

Overseas students brush off fees and flock to Britain

Foreign students are continuing to flock to British universities and colleges despite protests about fee increases and new restrictions making entry more difficult. China still accounts for the lion's share while India has now overtaken Greece as the second biggest source of foreign students seeking a British degree. Warwick University has the highest number of foreign students followed by Manchester University. The number of overseas students arriving to study at the 168 higher education institutions monitored by the Higher Education Statistics Agency rose by 3.7 per cent last year to reach 330,000, representing almost one in three of the total number studying for a qualification.

The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, 29/3/07

Student numbers below government target

The Government is likely to miss one of its key education targets after ministers today revealed the number of students applying to go to university in England has increased by 2 per cent. Prime Minister Tony Blair has set a 2010 deadline for 50 per cent of all 18 to 30-year-olds to participate in higher education. But provisional figures from the Department for Education and Skills have revealed that the higher education student participation rate reached 43 per cent in 2005 to 2006 - still seven points off the Government's target.

The Guardian, 29/3/07

Sale of debt raises fears of commercial rates of interest

Undergraduates must not be forced to pay back their fee and maintenance loans at commercial rates of interest as a result of the chancellor's decision to sell £6 billion of the outstanding debt to private companies, lecturers' and student unions warned last night. They fear that the Government has long-term ambitions to abandon the inflation-only interest rate, which cover repayments on their loans, and charge higher commercial rates on their borrowings. These already top £6,000 a year for this year's first-year students.

The Guardian, The Financial Times, 22/3/07

£10m plan to tackle drop-out rates from universities

Universities are to receive extra financial help in an attempt to tackle Scotland's high student drop-out rate, it was announced yesterday. The Scottish Funding Council is to make £10 million available for universities with high numbers of students from deprived areas, who are more likely to leave their courses before they graduate. Previously, universities shared a £5.7 million "widening access premium" which was designed to help them attract students from low-income backgrounds.

The Scotsman, 22/3/07

Welsh universities get 3% funding rise

Higher education in Wales will have £424 million to spend in the next financial year, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales announced today. Universities and further education colleges that deliver HE programmes will see their budgets increase by an average 3.84 per cent in 2007-08 compared to the previous year, the funding council confirmed. The increase is lower than the funding settlements made in England, which saw university spending rise by an average 6.4 per cent for the next financial year, and Scotland, where the rise was on average 4.7 per cent.

The Guardian 28/3/07

MEMBERSHIP OF FACE

For non-members, go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/members.htm#institutional> to see the benefits of membership.