



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2015

THE BOARDROOM, STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Present: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)

Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
Ms Amy Barr (Legislative Studies & Practice Student)

Apologies: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

10:06 am The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Chairperson welcomed Mr Alex Easton to the Committee.

- The Chairperson reminded Members that the Include Youth Employability Programme shadowing event is taking place on Tuesday 20 October 2015.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 7 October were agreed.

4. Matters arising

The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 7 October 2015.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental correspondence requesting that it provide the Committee with a written briefing on European issues instead of an oral briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive a written briefing and to reserve the right to request an oral briefing.

- Correspondence from Assembly Research and Information Service regarding the destination of older workers following the public sector voluntary exit scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the cost of transition to monthly payments for students in Scotland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing a copy of the EU Matters update paper, Issue 07/2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding High Level Apprenticeships funded by the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental update on the Assured Skills Programme and the Academy Model.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from the Department to a panel discussion on the Higher Education Big Conversation on 21 October 2015 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting clarity on how the Department intends for the Committee to engage in the process.

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to an event on Local and Global Impact of its research on 11 November 2015 at the Whitla Hall, Queen's University Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Chief Executives Forum to a Racism Perceptions briefing on 20 October 2015 at the Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 9 December 2015.

7. SR 2015-146 The Shared Parental Leave and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015 No.146 Correction Slip - The Shared Parental Leave and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order (Northern Ireland), and has no objection to the rule.

8. Briefing from Stranmillis University College on its work

10:14 am The representatives joined the meeting.

10:14 am Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Dr Anne Heaslett, Principal and Professor Sir Desmond Rea, Chairman of the Governing Body.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:59 am Mr Alex Easton left the meeting.

11:29 am The representatives left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that Assembly Research and Information Service prepare a briefing paper on the reclassification of Further Education Colleges and the University Colleges to NDPB's.

9. Briefing from NUS-USI - Student Finance and Student Fees

11:31 am The representative joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Fergal McFerran, President.

11:41 am Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The representative agreed to attend a Northern Ireland Assembly All-party Group on Disability.

12:00 pm The representative left the meeting.

10. Briefing from the University and College Union Ulster University Branch

12:01 pm The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Dr Anthea Irwin, President, Dr Tracy Irwin, Vice-President, Dr Linda Moore, Secretary, Dr Lucy Michael, Equality Officer and Professor John McCann, Ulster University School of Modern Languages.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

12:56 pm The representatives left the meeting.

11. Any other business

None.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Monday, 19 October 2015 at 1.00 pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12:57 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

21 October 2015