

# BUFDG

## Costing & Pricing Group

Terms of Reference

(22 September 2005)

### Main Responsibilities

- (i) *Within the context of sustainability, to be the conduit for identifying and recommending changes to TRAC fEC<sup>1</sup> to the Funding Councils and for ensuring the core structure of the methodology and accountability of fEC is protected.*

It has to be the first requirement that the methodology as currently devised forms the basis of a single system of costing within the sector.

It should be the role of the group to negotiate and agree any changes in methodology and to communicate this to the Funding Councils who will communicate the changes to the sector.

- (ii) *To support advocacy, negotiation, co-ordination and education with key funders on the implementation and use of the fEC for teaching, research and other services provided by HEIs.*

It is crucial that one group speaks for the sector on fEC and supports negotiations with a range of funders on pricing issues linked to fEC. The group will, for example, be responsible for negotiating on the elements of the methodology. The group will include representatives from other key sector interest groups.

- (iii) *To set the agenda for the training and support of senior managers, finance and other staff responsible for implementing the fEC agenda.*

The group will gauge need and demand from feedback from the self-help groups and will decide what is required, linking then with the BUFDG T&D Group to deliver the training through a common member on both groups. It will also work with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education to identify the needs of academic colleagues and governors.

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<sup>1</sup> Transparent approach to costing: full economic costing.

- (iv) *To support the regional self help and other groups in the implementation of fEC and act as a UK-wide point of contact, via Regional FD Groups for issues which have implications for universities throughout the UK.*

The evidence is that the majority of regional self-help groups will continue after the end of JCPSG. An important role of the group will be to act as a point of contact for information both from and to these groups and to encourage their continuing existence, if they remain worthwhile.

- (v) *To communication effectively with the sector and its funders on those issues being addressed by the group, using the section of the HEFCE website given over to Costing and Pricing matters and other websites of interested sector groups.*
- (vi) *To be involved in and support discussions on policy formation with HM Treasury and other bodies in order that policymakers are informed at as early a stage as possible of changes that will affect the costing methodology.*

## **BUFDG**

### **Costing & Pricing Group**

#### Membership

- Jon Gorringe (Director of Finance, University of Edinburgh) - Chair - [jon.gorringe@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jon.gorringe@ed.ac.uk)
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