

**Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:
Higher Education finances - TRAC reporting, shared services and diversifying income streams**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 15th May 2013

Venue: Kohn Centre, Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Baroness Brinton, Treasurer, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning
- 9.05 - 9.30 **The financial stability of the UK HE sector**
Steve Egan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, HEFCE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.40 **Review of the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC): findings and next steps**
Andrew Bush, Director, KPMG
- 9.40 - 10.20 **Improving and streamlining TRAC**
Perspectives on the future of TRAC in light of the outcomes of the HEFCE Review. What are the benefits and burdens of the current Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) system, and have the right areas been identified for streamlining? What will be the impact of changes to streamline TRAC and TRAC(T) reporting into a single return? How can universities, HEFCE and Government work together to secure better use of the information generated from TRAC reporting? Is there a need for greater transparency on how public funding for Higher Education is spent, and if so what changes could be made to TRAC to deliver this? Are there viable alternatives to TRAC for HEI financial reporting?
Stephen Court, Senior Research Officer, University and College Union
Carol Prokopszyn, Assistant Director of Finance, University of Leicester
Gill Ball, Director of Finance, University of Birmingham
Questions and comments from the floor with **Andrew Bush**, Director, KPMG
- 10.20 - 10.30 **Shared services in Higher Education - the story so far**
Richard Wallace, Tax Director, Education Sector, PwC
- 10.30 - 11.10 **Shared services - concerns, barriers and benefits**
What are the potential benefits and challenges for the adoption of shared services in the HE sector? What lessons can be learned from existing sector-wide shared services, such as UCAS, HEDD and the Student Loans Company? What steps can be taken to address concerns that shared services represent a threat to effective competition in HE sector? What has been the impact so far of the shared services VAT exemption for cost-sharing practices within the HE sector? Are the administrative costs to operate the VAT exemption an obstacle to the wider adoption of the policy? What are the remaining, non-financial, barriers to the HE sector establishing shared services, and how can these be minimised?
Paul Hopkins, Director, HE-Shared Services
Denise Bertuchi, Assistant National Officer - Education and Children's Services, Unison
Mark Toole, Director of Information Services, University of Stirling and Chair, Strategy Group on Shared and Collaborative Services, SCOUNL
Dr Tom Jackson, Research Manager, Department of Computer Science, University of York
Questions and comments from the floor with **Richard Wallace**, Tax Director, Education Sector, PwC
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Baroness Brinton, Treasurer, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning
- 11.15 - 11.40 Coffee
- 11.40 - 11.45 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 11.45 - 12.10 **Philanthropy in UK Higher Education - current performance and opportunities for improvement**
Joanna Motion, Partner, More Partnership
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Diversifying income streams**
How do the challenges for increasing diversification of income streams differ across the sector? How successful was the HEFCE matched funding scheme for voluntary giving in raising donations across the HE sector, and should the scheme be extended? What other approaches could UK institutions and Government adopt to ensure philanthropic giving to universities remains strong? How can universities be encouraged to look beyond their alumni to alternative sources of philanthropic income? What could universities do to attract skilled fundraising professionals and improve development staff retention? What role can partnerships and out-sourcing with the private sector play in securing financial stability and improving efficiencies for universities; what are the issues around further private sector involvement? What steps can universities take to maximise income from their estates and expertise, for example opening facilities and offering services to external groups?
Paul Woodgates, Head of Services to the Education Sector, PA Consulting Group
Mary Glanville, Managing Director, Institute for Philanthropy
Dr Philip Extance, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Business Partnerships & Knowledge Transfer), Aston University
Richard Norman, Head of Principal Giving, University of Reading
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
Jonny Roberts, Senior Producer, Westminster Higher Education Forum