

Ref. SMcK/lr/merger



**South
Lanarkshire
College**

Date. 12 July 2004

Merger of the Funding Council Team
Enterprise Transport and Lifelong Learning Department
2nd Floor, Europa Building
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Principal: **Stewart McKillop** MA(Hons), Dip. Acc., Dip. Ed.

Dear 

Re: A changing Landscape for Tertiary Education and Research in Scotland

Please find below our response to the above proposal.

In many ways the proposed merger is a natural progression for further and higher education in Scotland. With a shared Chief Executive Officer and many joint committees the outcome of the proposal is almost inevitable. A pledge was given by Scottish Ministers in the partnership agreement for the current term of the Scottish Parliament in regard to the merger. The sensibility of the proposal is further enhanced by the continued development and implementations of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework which straddles both sectors.

The role of the merged funding body should be one where funding continues to be allocated on a fair, open, transparent and rational way. However the college has concerns in regard to the total funding being allocated to the merged organisation in one lump sum and then apportioned by the merged body. Allocation of funds have always and will always be part of the political process and are carried out under the comprehensive spending review. The lever for change has always been finance. Many colleges have a perspective of under funding for HNC and HNDs in comparison to University delivered year I and year II courses. We would hope that greater parity could be achieved through the merged body.

The match between support for economic development and the role played by colleges is also one that can be and should be influenced by the allocation of funding. With the disproportionate size of the sectors money allocated say on a global basis for estates would simply be swallowed up by the University sector.

In terms of the title for the new funding body while the proposed title "Scottish Tertiary Education Funding Council" has relevance to those closely involved with the sectors it may not strike a chord with the public at large. Perhaps simply to refer to the body as the "Scottish Colleges and Universities Funding Council" may have more resonance.



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Obviously the acid test is whether a merged council provides an enhanced service to the sectors. The view of this college is that it will.

We would also like to indicate the colleges support of the position adopted in the Association of Scottish Colleges.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart McKillop', written in a cursive style.

Stewart McKillop
Principal