
TUCO North West Region Catering Group Meeting Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 10:00 am via Teams MINUTES

Attendees:	Ian White [Chair]	Chester
	Alison Bates	Manchester
	Ann Bickerstaffe	Liverpool
	Colin Burrow	Runshaw College
	Angela Church	Bangor
	Debbie Cramphorn	Keele
	Dominique Deveroux	NWUPC
	Joanne Dooley	RNCM
	Nichola Gill	Manchester
	Margaret Haynes	Lancaster
	Judith Hoyle	TUCO Meeting Secretary
	Nicola Mellor	TUCO Category Manager
	David Nuttall	Harper Adams
	Michelle Ollerhead	Salford City College
	Gary Pace	Liverpool Hope
	Lorraine Pickles	Blackpool & the Fylde College
	Tom Robinson	UCLAN
	Derek Rout	Bolton
	Sarabjoth Singh	NWUPC
	Ros Wilkinson	Lancaster
	Chloe Williamson	Queen's Belfast
	Carol Yates	UCLAN
Apologies:	Nick Burdett	Leeds Conservatoire
	Sarah Dye	NWUPC
	Mandy Johnston	TUCO
	Tracy Lupton	Lancaster
	Sarah McLoughlin	TUCO Academy
	Paul Murphy	Edge Hill
	Emma Woodcock	Keele

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies as listed above. Ian welcomed new attendees.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were taken as agreed.

3. Presentation by Craig Gilson from Britvic Drinks

A copy of Craig's presentation is attached to these Minutes, during which he demonstrated the support which is available to each member.

- Sustainability Initiatives & Toolkits
- New Product Development
- Brand Insight
- Marketing and Activation Support
- Freshers & Sampling support

For all queries, please contact: craig.gilson@britvic.com

4. TUCO Update

Joint Conference and Competitions event in Summer 2022 at Keele University – the Conference will definitely be going ahead but the Competitions are in doubt as members are suffering with serious staff shortages and will not be able to spare the staff for several days. David Nuttall has stepped down from the Board as his term of office ended and also as Chair of the Sustainability Group. Two members of the Category Team – Kim Ashley and Carys Hopcyn have now left TUCO and we have welcomed two new Team members – Li Davies and Natalie Phillips.

The Winter Conference was held at the University of Nottingham in December and enjoyed excellent attendance along with some brilliant presentations.

5. Procurement Update (Nicola)

TUCO White Delivery App

This has now gone live with a company called OrderPay. The Buyers Guide is on the website.

Temporary Staff

This went live on 1st October under Regional Lots and has some new suppliers on there. This framework has proved extremely popular.

Food Waste Management

This was renewed on 1st November and is a DPS agreement. Some new suppliers have been introduced – details are on the website and in the Framework Report.

Many of our frameworks have been extended.

Milk and Bread

This went live on 24th January with 3 suppliers – BAKO NW, Coultons and Freshways no longer on there.

Meat and Poultry

This is being managed by new Category Manager Natalie Phillips and launched on 1st January under regional lots.

Design and Installation for the Customer Experience

Nicola has been doing the research for this and trying to make it easier to use. We are hoping to advertise this as a new framework in March and need volunteers to sit on the Tender Working Party.

Sandwiches

New Team member Li Davies is re-tendering this and has had an initial meeting with the Tender Working Party.

Fresh Fish and Seafood

Being re-tendered this year.

Fruit and Veg

Being re-tendered this year.

Soft Drinks

Current agreement extended into final year of the contract until 30th September 2022. The tender renewal process has now started, and a survey has been issued for members to complete.

EPOS

This has 3 new suppliers on there – UniWare, Zonal and Blink.

CICS

This has 2 new suppliers on the framework – Theo's and Change Please. Hannah is also working with Pret and Costa.

Angela commented that large companies are not interested in renting space from smaller universities and the 'proud to serve' model of working with branded businesses is important to maintain on frameworks for smaller Universities to tap into.

Contract Review Meetings have been held for Soft Drinks Vending, Catering Light and Heavy Equipment and Alcohol.

Price Changes

These are all in the pricing Newsletter. DipChem increases came in in December with Soft Drinks in October however Coke have not brought theirs in yet. On Grocery, Frozen and Chilled, most of the suppliers have introduced high increases between 2 and 4.6%. Further increases are expected of around 6%. Hot Beverage price increases came into effect on 1st January or with Scottish suppliers, from 1st February. It is mainly beans which are affected but also syrups and teas with increases of up to 21% having been seen.

On the alcohol framework there are wine shortages on such things as Sauvignon Blanc with average price increases of between 4 and 6.5% on Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio and Chablis effective from March. Fresh Fish prices will also change in March.

On Catering Light and Heavy the cost of raw materials has increased for such products as stainless steel and aluminium.

On Sustainability, TUCO Chair Phil Rees-Jones had asked if any members need to calculate the CO₂ emissions of their kitchen equipment and energy savings if it needs upgrading. Is this something which members' Estates Departments manage? He suggested a company called CaterOps who will measure the CO₂ and recommend energy savings if new equipment was put in place. Chester and Liverpool both confirmed that this was something which comes under their Estates Department.

6. TUCO Academy

We had reached 800 qualifications gained by the end of December 2021. Sarah has delivered 7 or 8 courses over the last couple of weeks, the majority of which are compliance and have been held online. We are holding two Study Tours for Vegan and Vegetarian offerings – Newcastle on 15th and 16th March and London on 30th and 31st March with support from both LWC and Vegetarian Express. This is at a heavily subsidized cost to members of £99.

Regarding the new Calorie Labelling regulations coming into effect, Sarah has recommended the Brakes website for giving excellent information on calorific content.

Graduations for the first cohort of the Masters Degree took place on Saturday 15th January at LSBU. Ian wished to congratulate all the candidates who had successfully achieved their Masters Degree. There are places available for the next cohort to commence in January 2023. We are establishing a working party for Menus of Change and one of the things they will be looking at is content to upload to the TUCO website.

The Winter Conference took place on 9th December at the University of Nottingham and we were only down around 8 – 10% on numbers from 2019. All the videos of the presentations are available to view on the TUCO website. Also, the Global Food Trends Report was launched there which is an excellent piece of research.

<https://www.tuco.ac.uk/insight/research/global-food-beverage-report-2021>

A benchmarking study will be going out to members over the next few days. Sarah is currently speaking to Highfield about T-Levels which may be a good resource in terms of supplying labour.

The deadline has now passed for completion of the Labour Survey. Results are expected to be published last week of February.

The date for Conference has been set and will be held at Keele University from the 25th to 27th July.

7. Sustainability

Matt Tebbit from Reading has now taken over as Chair of the TSG from David Nuttall. We are looking at Menus of Change and Ian has taken the lead on this on the working group. Lancaster are currently looking at it and also going for the Kale Yeah! Accreditation. Menus of Change does not push you in any set direction, it is just about doing what you can. We are also looking at the possibility of sharing of menus.

Angela asked if there is any accreditation attached to this, as she would be interested in doing this at Bangor. David announced that he is working with the EAUC along with CUBO. Chester went with Kale Yeah! as they had already done the work on everything with Creature Kind.

8. Board Update

Ian reported that the last Board Meeting was held online on 16th December 2021. It is hoped to resume face-to-face meetings as from March. At the last meeting it was decided that TUCO's new chosen charity would be the Natasha Foundation.

TUCO have been approached by Crown Commercial Services (CCS) to tender for the NHS business, but this was felt to be 'too much business' for TUCO to take on as we would have had to nearly double our staff. However, business via the LACA Partnership is growing.

The Board had also discussed how we could have a local supply solution. This is difficult as TUCO is a national company. Only the big companies such as Brakes and Bidfood can supply all the products. Lancaster are using a lot of local suppliers so run some of their own tenders.

9. Member Updates

Liverpool Hope

They are back to 90% income levels in the outlets and the bars. Gary is now more heavily involved with the Residential Life Team.

NWUPC

They have had a number of staff changes since the last meeting. Natalie Peacock has now left and Sarah Dye has been promoted to Senior Category Manager. They have also renewed their Strategic Plan. Some new frameworks have recently gone live including the IT Recycling framework.

10. Any Other Business

Jo Dooley asked about the TUCO Selling Price Research on the website as some of it looks in need of updating, the form at the end states February 2018. In the Cafes, Bars and Shops section, hot food is not on there now. A lot of information seems to have dropped off. The Secretary will speak to Mike Haslin about this.

Action: Secretary

11. Dates for Next Meeting

It is hoped that the next meeting (some time in May) will be a face-to-face event. LWC had offered to host at their new depot in North Manchester, so this may be an option but it would still be a blended meeting with members who would prefer not to travel having the option of joining the meeting remotely.

Date and further details to follow.