

TUCO Scottish Regional Meeting
Thursday 28th February 2024 at 10:00 am
St Leonard's Hall, University of Edinburgh

MINUTES

Attendees:	Ian Macaulay [Chair]	Edinburgh
	James Adams	Ayrshire College
	Andy Anderson	APUC
	Watson Bell	St Andrews
	Michael Croy	St Andrews
	Thomas Day	Heriott Watt
	Judith Hoyle	TUCO
	David Kerr	Strathclyde
	Louise MacFarlane	APUC
	Calum MacLachlan	Aberdeen
	Steven McKay	ISt Andrews
	Sarah McLoughlin	TUCO Academy
	Lee Murdoch	Edinburgh Napier
	Nicola Mellor	TUCO Category Manager
	Graham Paterson	Strathclyde
	Michael Robinson	Dundee and Angus
	Lawrie Wilkinson	Fife College
Via Teams:	Nicci Robertson	Abertay
	Jonny Stevens	TUCO Online
Apologies:	Gareth Davies	Forth Valley College
	Matt Gilmour	Glasgow
	Robert Myler	Forth Valley College
	Laura Shaw	Strathclyde
	Ester Vasallo	Forth Valley College
	Pam Watson	Glasgow

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are as above.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were taken as read.

3. Procurement Update

The next UKUPC Impact Document is due out and the next Quarterly Spend Report will be out mid-March, along with TUCO Intelligence Q1 in March. The white label App is now live but still Work In Progress.

Meat and Poultry has been extended for a further six months.

Large and Small equipment framework Ian asked about fact Manufacturers are not on the options and it was confirmed that Hobart have made the business decision not to bid. Also, Meiko were unsuccessful on their bid as they failed on the SQ. Nicola suggested that members run a mini-competition on this. So advice is that manufacturers have chosen to supply via distributors in the main.

The Hot Beverage new framework starts on 1st March with 5 separate lots. If anyone is looking to call off on this please let Nicola know: Nicola.mellor@tuc.ac.uk

Tchibo are now Matthew Algie.

Nicola asked if anyone was offering a speciality hot chocolate on their campuses as she had an excellent new product she had been introduced to which was a bean which made hot chocolate.

Convenience Retail now includes confectionery and soft drinks. The notice is due to be posted week commencing 4th March.

Cadbury's have moved away from Fair Trade and instead have formed 'Cocoa Live'. Some institutions have dropped Fair Trade already.

Alcohol framework will commence 15th March.

For DipChem we are working on the strategy documents for the agreement to commence in July. The current agreement will expire on 15th July.

Fruit and Veg: Ian reported that a number of our Scottish members are moving away from the Fruit and Veg agreement and going over to APUC so this needs to be reflected in the TUCO figures.

The Vending DPS expires in September.

Sandwiches and Food Waste Management- Contract Review meetings have been held. McCain have de-listed a number of lines due to unavailability of some potato products.

The NPD section of the TUCO website showcases new products which are available for members to orders samples free of charge.

Greenhouse Gas Calculator – a new DPS agreement was launched on 1st February and some members are already using this, including Nottingham, Bristol and Manchester.

Supplies Issues

There has been delays on deliveries via the Red Sea due to the war situation along with additional costs for the extra nautical miles. Deliveries on the Catering Light and Heavy framework have suffered again with the shipping problems.

Procurement AOB

Ian questioned the spend at University of Edinburgh and the fact that they were the third biggest spender amongst TUCO members, which he thought was wrong as certainly not the largest institution in the UK. We now have some new members and Jane Eve is following up with some of the low spending ones to find out why they are not using our frameworks.

Ian re-capped on Tender Working Parties for Scotland and confirmed:

Grocery Frozen and Chilled – Steven McKay

Alcohol – Stuart McMaster

4. TUCO Online Update (Jonny)

Jonny demonstrated some new updates on the system. Both Heriot Watt and Aberdeen are using this. There has been some speed issues which Access Group have been working on so this has made a difference.

Access have also been working on the upcoming Deposit Return Scheme so that this will be ready when it comes in to Scotland.

The Ordering Portal has been trialled by University of Nottingham and this will be rolled out by Aberdeen over the next couple of months. Jonny ran through a demonstration of this.

5. APUC Framework Report (Louise)

Fruit & Veg – the window for this closed the previous Friday with 3 suppliers. Ian asked APUC for new pricing.

Fresh Fish – this will expire on 7th March.

Bakery – this has been live since 2021. Changes will be made next spring.

Calum commented that milk is cheaper from Bidfood than from Graham's.

They have not experienced any major issues with the Red Sea problems at the moment with food but due to the recent bad weather in the UK there has been shortages on some items.

APUC are continuing their work with Eco-Vadis.

Louise has been promoted to a new role as Head of Sourcing for Estates and Facilities.

6. TUCO Academy

Up to the end of March 2023 we ran 58 courses with 510 people. In the same period of 2024 we will have had 97 courses with almost 1,000 people if all the current courses go ahead. 13 courses have been delivered this month including 60 people from Newcastle on Customer Services, which is a face-to-face course and lots of compliance courses as well, including one down in Kent.

We run our KPIs annually from April to March and so far this year we have delivered 88 courses, by the end of this year will have run about 97 courses with almost 1,000 attendees and to date (since we became an awarding body centre for Highfields) we have delivered 1,800 qualifications in compliance.

Other courses we run include Presentation Skills, Report Writing, Time Planning which is open to anyone in the university not just the hospitality and catering depts. We can deliver courses either via webinar or in person but the Customer Services is Face-to-Face only. The Events Management course is being run in conjunction with David Kerr from Strathclyde. The first part of the course is via webinar but for the second part we will be travelling to Strathclyde. We will also be running a Food Photography course in Bury, Manchester. Other days planned include:

- Sushi Making
- Vegan Cookery School
- Flygerians on West African/Nigerian

Study Tours include:

- Bologna Barista
- Food To Go – London and Frankfurt
- Culinary Olympics in Stuttgart
- Studentwerke in Normandy in June
- Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg in 2026
- Colombia Coffee
- World Pizza Championships in Parma
- CIA Conference 9th to 15th June
- LWC Italian Tour to visit tasting of Peroni, Prosecco and olive oil
- Food To Go in Dublin
- NACUFS in Louisville Kentucky

The Academy will be running a webinar around Nudging and Menu Engineering in the next few months. We also have a new Travel Manager starting in March who will be curating the study tours and will be employed by the new TUCO Foundation.

We are also in talks with Oxford Cultural Collective and Ulster University to start running a Masters Degree in with them.

Reading are currently starting to look at their CO₂ emissions in relation to travel for Study Tours – costs for training are always a consideration but there seems to be a move towards sustainability impact from institutions when it comes to overseas study tours in particular.

The Winter Conference this year will actually be held on 14th January 2025 at the University of Manchester with the networking dinner and overnight stay to be held in the evening following the Conference.

On Menus of Change, Edinburgh, Strathclyde and St Andrews have pledged from the Scottish region which is a strong representation proportionally. 15 universities in total have now pledged to us the 24 principles.

There is an online chefs' training portal available through the CIA which is being considered for pledges – it's 97 courses across several modules which are based on the principles and have recipes which can be reproduced at scale.

A Quick Start Guide is being produced and there are plans for podcasts for the 24 principles.

7. TUCO Board Update

There will be some changes to the Board. Alan Riddell has now retired from the Board, Chair Phil Rees-Jones will step down in summer and will be replaced by Annabel Hurst from Cardiff. Matt Tebbit from Reading joined the Board in January. They recently underwent some CPD training in Birmingham in conjunction with the Regional Chairs.

Spend is currently being recorded at levels exceeding pre-COVID.

Over 40 members are now signed up to TUCO Online.

Research – we are undertaking research at the moment but Phil Rees-Jones has requested that if anyone has any particular projects they would like us to undertake, please let us know.

We have now released the first cut of the promotional video promoting opportunities within hospitality in the HE sector. Ian has already seen this and fed back along with Phil Rees Jones and the final version will be ready very soon.

TUCO Foundation – this has now been approved and a separate Board set up to oversee this. Matthew White will be the Chair of the Board and the Academy will move into the charitable foundation

Member Survey – this was carried out by Litmus Partnership and their findings recorded that members were 77.9% satisfied with the service they received from TUCO, which was very high, with the main areas of satisfaction being Study Tours, Training Courses and TUCO Family. The number of responses on this was very high. The TUCO family it was noted in the meeting was a very key part for the Scottish region to network and the overnight residential meetings have been especially popular

8. Any Other Business

As there was no further business, the meeting was duly closed.

9. Date for Next Meeting

Thursday 23rd May 2024 at Falcon Equipment, Stirling with a networking dinner and overnight stay following the meeting on the Thursday evening.

Dinner	Brea Restaurant, Stirling
Overnight	Stirling Highland Hotel