

## 1994 Group launches its first quarterly newsletter

May 2007

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Bill Rammell, MP, Minister of State for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning

### Minister for Higher Education launches the 1994 Group's new visual identity at the Houses of Parliament

On Thursday 29th March 2007, the 1994 Group held its unveiling of the Group's new visual identity, publication and website at an event hosted by Bill Rammell, MP, Minister of State for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, at the House of Commons. The event was attended by over 200 guests from the political, academic and media communities including the Vice-Chancellors of member institutions, Alumni, Ministers, Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords. The event provided the 1994 Group with the opportunity to raise awareness of its identity, activities and substantial contribution towards the rapidly developing Higher Education sector.

The re-designed visual identity of the Group has been developed by the award winning design company, Blast, to reflect and communicate the modern and progressive nature of the 1994 Group, whilst maintaining the established individual status of the Group's member institutions. The Group's new website ([www.1994group.co.uk](http://www.1994group.co.uk)) went live on the day of the launch, and is intended for use as a point of reference and information on 1994 Group projects and activities for all stakeholders.

The launch publication, designed by Blast, is a three part book providing information on the Group's aims, structure and activities. Book one provides an overview of the Group's background, values, activities and aspirations. Book two provides detail of the Group's profile and performance based on data and excellence indicators. Book three provides an overview of each member institution relating their individual excellence and achievements through to the distinctive character of the Group. 200 copies were distributed at the launch event and a further 400 have been sent to various stakeholders. Further copies of the publication can be requested from the 1994 Group Office.

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Images from the launch

## **1994 Group co-sponsors Neil Stewarts Association FE-HE Collaborative Provision: Seamless progression and employer engagement Conference**

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007 Neil Stewart Associates hosted the FE-HE Collaborative Provision Conference in London. The event, supported by the 1994 Group looked at FE-HE Collaborative Provision: Seamless progression and employer engagement and was attended by various stakeholders within the sector. The conference:

- Set out the market demand and opportunities for developing and improving FE-HE partnerships;
- Considered the implications of new policy and developments on the horizon;
- Examined how best to develop the FE-HE interface;
- Heard the next steps from the consultation on HE in FE Colleges, including the commitment to further join-up funding;
- Looked at how HE is to be expanded in the coming years, including the latest with HNDs, HNCs, Foundation Degree development and Lifelong Learning Networks;
- Disseminated the latest trends and best practice in collaborative provision;
- Shared best practice through interactive seminars examining key issues in depth;
- Provided an opportunity for networking and sharing good practice for all those involved in or looking to embark on collaborative provision.

### **1994 Group Board Meeting May 2007**

The 1994 Group's Board met on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 to discuss a variety of issues. The meeting was attended by Sir Peter Lampl, founder and Chair of the Sutton Trust.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

#### **1994 Group Research and Enterprise Policy Group May 2007**

The next meeting of the 1994 Group's Research and Enterprise Policy Group meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 will be attended by Lord Sainsbury and Rama Thirunamachandran (HEFCE).

#### **Stakeholders Dinner June 2007**

The 1994 Group is to hold a dinner towards the end of June to formally mark the retirement of two former chairs of the Group, Professor Sir Ivor Crewe and Professor Alasdair Smith. During the evening, Professor Sir Ivor Crewe and Professor Alasdair Smith will reflect upon their time as Chair of the Group and as Vice Chancellor of the University of

Essex and the University of Sussex respectively. They will also comment on their vision on the future of Higher Education over the coming decade.

#### **Annual Board Residential Conference June 2007**

The 1994 Group is holding its annual Board Residential Conference at the University of Loughborough on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June. The conference will reflect on the major strategic issues for the year ahead, with a focus upon themes around the 'HE Engagement with 14-19 Reforms', a research project funded by the DfES and the 1994 Group, and led by William Richardson and Laura Bell at the University of Exeter; the Communications Strategy; the Internationalism

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project; the Student Experience Report; and league tables.

### **‘Enhancing the Student Experience’ Conference June 2007**

The 1994 Group’s Student Experience Policy Group will be hosting a conference on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007 for selected key stakeholders. Issues surrounding the student experience across the Higher Education sector and the ‘Enhancing the Student Experience’ project will be discussed. This is an important event, aimed at furthering the sector’s understanding of the Student Experience, and looking at ways in which the 1994 Group and the sector as a whole can work together to enhance the various aspects which affect the experience of students at university, particularly in light of the introduction of variable tuition fees.

### **Student Experience Internal Stakeholders Conference July 2007**

The Student Experience Internal Stakeholders Conference has been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> July at Queen Mary’s, University of London. The conference will be attended by Student Union staff and officers from around the 1994 Group institutions. It is intended that discussions will centre on the issues relating to the 1994 Group Student Experience Enhancement Project.

### **Working Internationally: sharing international policy and practice across the 1994 Group**

The 1994 Group is currently participating in a benchmarking programme led by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, looking at internationalisation. The process is enabling 1994 Group institutions to identify institutional good practice and to share experience, and to explore potential areas in which to act collectively in achieving excellence in internationalisation. An integral part of the process is a two-day workshop, which will take place at the University of Essex on 16–17 July, at which the outcomes of the research will be discussed in detail.

### **Joint 1994 Group/NUS/Neil Stewart Associates Conference on Enhancing the Student Experience**

The 1994 Group is currently making arrangements to jointly hold a conference on Enhancing the Student Experience. The conference is provisionally scheduled to take place in October /November 2007. The conference will provide a platform for the Group to launch its policy statement and will enable a debate surrounding the issues arising from the Group’s Student Experience Report.

## **Recently Issued Information Notes:**

### **Review of the teaching funding method: second consultation on changes to the method (HEFCE January 2007/02)**

The 1994 Group submitted a response to the HEFCE T-funding consultation in March 2007. To view the full Information Note:

[http://www.1994group.ac.uk/documents/Teaching\\_Funding%20Response\\_to\\_HEFCE\\_consultation\\_2007-02.pdf](http://www.1994group.ac.uk/documents/Teaching_Funding%20Response_to_HEFCE_consultation_2007-02.pdf)

### **Outcomes of the HEFCE consultation on developing the TQI/NSS**

In November 2006, following on from HEFCE’s update on Teaching Quality Information (TQI) and the National Student Survey (NSS) in July 2006, HEFCE encouraged responses to a consultation exercise on the development of TQI/NSS.

The 1994 Group Office asked member institutions for their responses to the consultation exercise, which were then submitted as a collective group response.

Overall, the majority of respondents to the HEFCE consultation shared similar views to those of the 1994 Group. Many of the concerns raised by the 1994 Group in response to the proposals appear to have been shared by respondents and in response addressed by HEFCE. This demonstrates the important role the

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1994 Group has in shaping and developing areas of Government Higher Education policy.

To view the full Information Note: <http://www.1994group.ac.uk/270407.php>

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