

FROM: DR. ANDY BURKE.

TO: Ms PATRICIA McALLISTER, CENTRE FOR CROSS BORDER STUDIES, ARMAGH.

RE: REPORT ON THIRD NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE ON INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION, June 3rd and 4th. 2005.

DATE: Aug. 31st 2005.

The *Standing Conference for Teacher Education, North and South* (ScOTENS) was established by a group of senior teacher education and ministry of education specialists in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement. Its establishment was supported by the ministries of education in both jurisdictions.

In the past five years the ScOTENS sub-committee dealing with the initial and continuing professional development of teachers has organised three very successful North-South conferences involving representatives of ministries of education, university departments and colleges of Education in both jurisdictions. The papers presented at the second conference were published by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, Armagh, in November 2004.

The third North-South conference took place in St. Patrick's College, Dublin on June 3rd – 4th 2005. The conference theme was *The Competences Approach to Teacher Professional Development: Current Practice and Future Prospects* – a topic of particular interest in view of current developments related thereto in the EU, the OECD and the USA. The keynote speakers were Dr. John Coolahan, Professor Emeritus, NUIM and Professor Marilyn Cochran-Smith, Boston College. Other presenters included: Dr. A. Burke, St. Patrick's College, Dublin; Dr. J. Deegen, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick; Ms Emer Egan, Assistant Chief Inspector, DES; Dr. J. Gleeson, University of Limerick; Dr. Delores Loughrey, University of Ulster; Dr. E. McArdle, Registrar, GTC, Northern Ireland; Ms Janet Moody, University of Limerick; Mr. S. Moran, Open University, Northern Ireland.

The complete schedule of presenters and presentation topics was as follows:

SPEAKER	INSTITUTION / POSITION	TOPIC
Dr. John Coolahan.	Professor Emeritus of Education, National University of Ireland, Maynooth.	The operational environment for future planning in teacher education: OECD and EU initiatives.
Dr. Marilyn Cochran-Smith.	John E. Cawthorne Professor of Education, Lynch School of Education, Boston College.	Standards and accountability for teacher education: Consensus and debate.

APPROACHES TO THE APPRAISAL OF TEACHING IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND		
Dr. Jim Deegan.	Director, Postgraduate Studies in Education, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.	Approaches to the appraisal of teaching: ITE Primary.
Dr. Jim Gleeson. Ms Janet Moody	Head of Education, University of Limerick. Lecturer in Education, University of Limerick.	Approaches to the appraisal of teaching: ITE Post-Primary.
Ms Emer Egan.	Assistant Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Science, Dublin.	Evaluation of teaching and teachers in Irish primary and post-primary schools.
APPROACHES TO THE APPRAISAL OF TEACHING IN NORTHERN IRELAND		
Dr. Delores Loughrey.	Director, Primary Education, University of Ulster.	Competences in ITE: A classroom perspective.
Dr. Eddie McArdle.	Registrar, General Teaching Council, Northern Ireland.	Competences: Opportunity or constraint?
Mr. Sean Moran.	Staff tutor for education, Open University, Northern Ireland.	The teacher as <i>Phronimos</i> – an alternative model.
Dr. Andy Burke.	Dean of Education, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin.	Cross currents: Arguments for and against the competences approach.

The Conference concluded with aroundtable group discussion and a comprehensive plenary session.

Feedback from the participants in all three ITE conferences indicates that

- they found them timely, informative and very worthwhile.
- they provided a welcome forum for the discussion of common interests and the sharing of professional wisdom.
- there is considerable potential for further development of this initiative.

It is intended to publish the proceedings of the third conference.

Members of the ScOTENS ITE sub committee are: Barry Burgess (University of Ulster), Andy Burke (St. Patrick's College, Dublin), Ms Rose Dolan (National University of Ireland, Maynooth) and Jim Gleeson, University of Limerick. It is intended to seek at least one more member from Northern Ireland and one from the Republic to replace Andy Burke who has served two terms.
