

The David Hume Institute

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NEWS RELEASE

Spring Seminar Series 2007

6pm 22 February 2007

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh

Sponsored by



The Economic and Social Research Council

**Prof Bernard King (Principal, University of Abertay)
and**

Dr Diane Coyle (Economic Consultant)

“Mr Gradgrind meets Jude the Obscure - what use is Higher Education to the economy?”

Chair: Dr Chris Masters

Jeremy Peat, Director of The David Hume Institute said “The Institute is extremely grateful to the ESRC for sponsorship of this seminar. We are delighted to welcome Bernard King and Diane Coyle to discuss Higher Education, and Dr Chris Masters to chair the evening’s proceedings.

Diane Coyle will cover research evidence on the role of universities as part of the innovation chain, aspects of clustering and the need for Higher Education to be close to production centres. Bernard King will take a totally different tack, looking at the emergent global Higher Education market, the cost of Higher Education, the ambitions of Government, and its lack of understanding of cost, especially if Scotland wants “a world class system”.

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Bernard King sees institutions like Abertay playing a very different role to the ancients, e.g. through working with industry. (Abertay will be the only Scottish university featured in the forthcoming DTI/Office of Science & Innovation publication on successful research and collaboration between business and the research community.)

There is certainly no shortage of topics for our two excellent speakers to explore and we expect their talks to stimulate a lively Q & A session”.

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Professor Bernard King is Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abertay. As Principal of the University of Abertay Dundee, Professor King is a member of the Committee of European Rectors and his institution is in membership of the Association of European Universities (EUA) and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Professor King has served as a Board member of the Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC) of the UK and has been a member of the Quality Committee of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC), a member of the Irvine Committee on the Academic Year, a Board Member of the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and the Institute of Learning and Teaching. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Scottish Crop Research Institute, and a Governor of the Unicorn Preservation Society. Professor King writes and lobbies extensively on higher education matters and the University is respected as an authoritative contributor to Government thinking in Scotland in these spheres. He was a member of the Scottish Executive's Science Strategy Review Group and is currently a member of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council's Knowledge Transfer Working Group.

Dr Diane Coyle is an Economic Consultant and freelance writer, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Manchester's Institute for Political and Economic Governance. She was formerly Economics Editor of The Independent and also European Editor of Investors Chronicle. Dr Coyle worked as Senior Economic Assistant to the Treasury in 1985-6. She has published several books on economics and is a member of various bodies such as the Executive Committee of the Centre for Economic Policy Research, and the Council of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce and is a member of the BBC Trust. She has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

Notes to Editors:

The views that will be expressed by the speakers are their own and do not commit the¹ Trustees or Officers of the Institute in any way.

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