

University of Glasgow Students' Representative Council
SRC Sustainability Group
sustainability@src.gla.ac.uk

First meeting (2005-06), 26 May 2006 at 6pm
Boyd Orr building, Room 321

MINUTES

Present:	Rhiannon Breed	Secretary, Dirty Weekenders Society
	Kate Edwards-Kearney	Co-President, People & Planet Society
	Kathryn Johnson	
	Gavin Lee	SRC Law, Business & Social Sciences Ordinary
	Tom MacGregor	SRC Arts Faculty Ordinary
	Duncan MacKenzie	SRC Environmental Officer (<i>author of minutes</i>)
	Michael Marshall	Co-President, People & Planet Society
	Mhairi Paterson	
Apologies:	Kat Borrowdale	SRC Arts Faculty Convenor
	Struan Campbell	SRC Officer for Students with Disabilities
	Patrick McGlinchey	SRC Charities Officer
	Shona Morrison	SRC Vice-President (Communications)
	Sarah Tomlinson	SRC Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

1. Welcome and introduction

Duncan welcomed the assembled throng and thanked them for attending. He explained what on earth this was all about: the Sustainability Group was established by an SRC Council resolution on 11 May 2006 to replace the post of Environmental Officer, which will cease to exist on 1 July. It's an SRC committee open to any student, and its role is to bring together Unions, clubs, societies and students to organise events and campaigns to promote sustainable development. According to Council's resolution of 11 May, the SRC also has a collective duty to promote sustainable development. Sustainability, in this sense, includes environmental, social and economic issues.

Some members commented on Gavin's decision to attend wearing a suit and tie, but he said in his defence that he had just had to attend an interview, and besides, his tie lent an air of seriousness to the proceedings.

Everyone missed Kate's antics. The laughter to words ratio increases at least sevenfold with her silence games and, er, falling over backwards which we didn't do until the barbecue afterwards...

2. Ideas for campaigns and activities

The Group discussed some ideas for campaigns. It will decide on how to progress each of these ideas before the next meeting – if you would like to get involved, please email Duncan MacKenzie, the Convenor (see below, point 4), at sustainability@src.gla.ac.uk.

a) More and better recycling on campus

The Group agreed that the university should have better recycling facilities in general and that it should pursue a campaign for this. Kathryn mentioned The Reclaimer, which provides waste collection for recycling on a commercial basis, and the Group agreed to look into this. It was suggested that the Group should arrange for a map of recycling sites around campus to be published; this could be along with other information about it in the SRC Guide. Recycling sites could also be just one feature of a 'Green Map' of campus: see www.greenmap.com. Mhairi proposed that Halls would be a good place to start with recycling, since a lot of recyclable waste is generated directly by students living there. Michael and Mhairi, respectively, suggested that the Group could survey departments to discover current practice, and find some members of academic staff who would be sympathetic to bolster the campaign. We would also liaise with appropriate departments and committees reporting to the Court of Governors.

b) Energy efficiency in Halls and student accommodation

Duncan told the Group that he had already spoken to the staff of the SRC Advice Centre about the possibility of running a campaign in 2006-07 for energy efficiency in student accommodation. He anticipated that this would be popular with students because of its money-saving potential, and would also promote sustainability by helping to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. It was pointed out that private landlords may be much less willing to install potentially expensive measures than large organisations such as the university. The Group decided to investigate this further in liaison with the Advice Centre and appropriate departments, while being ready to concentrate on campaigning for what was achievable. Kate arrived during this discussion, thinking the meeting started at 6.30pm.

c) 'Bike library'

Duncan had been considering the possibility of establishing a 'bike library' on campus – a space where students could come to borrow bikes at low or no cost. He had met with Viola Retzlaff, the Travel & Transport Co-ordinator in Estates & Buildings, and Beth Hamer, the Art School student who had run a project called the Glasgow Bike Library (www.glasgowbikelibrary.co.uk) for two weeks this Spring, and on another occasion informally with Helen Durnell, Acting Director of the Library, who had suggested that using the Library card system to authenticate access to the bike library, and borrowing of bikes, might not pose any great problem. At a recent meeting of the Travel Advisory Group he and Viola Retzlaff had discussed the idea with Julie Ommer (Director, Sport and Recreation Service), Ann Galbraith (Administrative Officer, Safety & Environmental Protection Services) and Allan Maclean (Cycling Officer, Land Services, Glasgow City Council). The possibility was raised that the bike library might be housed in the apparently derelict shed just north of the Hub and near the Library. There was also discussion about funding possibilities and insurance.

The Sustainability Group agreed to support this project.

d) Stop Climate Chaos campaign

Duncan proposed that the Group might run a campaign in support of the national Stop Climate Chaos coalition, which campaigns for "a world in which human-induced climate change is capped at a level that will allow all of humanity to prosper, by means that promote global social, environmental and economic justice". The campaign might include running stalls to ask students to sign petitions and to pledge to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions by changing their behaviour. Kate spoke in support of the proposal; the campaign is being run nationwide by People & Planet. The Group agreed to look into running this campaign in 2006-07.

e) Environment and sustainability events

Duncan proposed that the Group might co-ordinate a series of events in 2006-07 focused on environment and sustainability. These might include stalls, talks with invited speakers, debates (perhaps at the GUU), film screenings, street theatre, and so on. The Group agreed to look into this. Kathryn suggested that a speaker from Glasgow City Council could be invited to give a local perspective. Duncan would like to use annual celebration days as 'excuses' for themed events: for example, on International Biodiversity Day there could be one or more biodiversity-themed events. Please send all your ideas for suitable 'days' for events, and for the events themselves, to Duncan at sustainability@src.gla.ac.uk. And remember, sustainability isn't just about the environment – we can also cover social and economic issues...

f) Double-sided printing as university policy

Kate raised Annie Wild's idea (since Duncan had forgotten about it, naughty boy) of persuading the university to change its policy so that students would be obliged to submit essays and assignments printed using both sides of each sheet of paper, in order to halve the quantity of paper used. The Group agreed that this was a good idea and agreed to pursue it as follows – the actual running order is subject to change without notice!:

- pass a motion at SRC Council to endorse the idea and urge the University to change its policy;
- survey faculties and departments to ascertain current policy and practice;
- liaise with the Library and Computing Service to change practice or find out how easy this would be to do;
- pursue a change of policy through the appropriate University committees.

3. Priorities for the summer, freshers' week, and start of next academic year

The Group agreed that its priorities for the summer should be as follows:

- Liaising with the SRC Executive and Guide editor to ensure that information about it is included in the SRC Guide – including, as appropriate, the 'Green Map' mentioned in 2(a) above;
- Preparing the Energy Efficiency and Stop Climate Chaos campaigns for launch in freshers' week.

Duncan realised after the meeting that we would also have to brainstorm ideas for the planned series of events.

4. Election of Convenor

The Group's governing resolution obliges it to elect a Convenor to lead the Group from among its members at least once in each academic year. Gavin said that he would nominate Duncan (although the election was not by nomination). No other members of the Group put themselves forward. Duncan therefore accepted to run for election and the Group agreed unanimously to elect him as Convenor. Duncan was very pleased, thanked them and jumped for joy.

5. Barbecue with Dirty Weekenders – if you missed it, you missed out!