

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2007 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Kerry Anderson, Dave Calder, Struan Campbell,
Howard Dickson, Keiron Harris, Pete Ramand,
Julie Sherry, Jamie Wisbey

**1 MINUTES OF THE 1st COUNCIL MEETING
8 November 2007 – Factual Corrections**

None.

2 MATTERS ARISING

**2.1 Results of the Advisers of Studies Survey
(Refer 4.4.1)**

Council noted that the results of the survey had been submitted to the Education, Policy & Strategy Committee and the Student Advisory Needs Working Group.

2.2 Freshers' Week (Refer 6.1)

A copy of G Lee's Freshers' Week report had been circulated with the papers and was on the Agenda for the meeting.

Minutes adopted by Council.

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 1-28 November 2007

Each Sabbatical Officer highlighted some points from their reports.

**MHAIRI WILSON, PRESIDENT
(Copy of report circulated)**

3.1 CHESS (Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland)

M Wilson was pleased to report that CHESS is up and running again. Along with St Andrews University she is working on producing a policy document which concentrates on education and welfare issues, related to education. It is hoped to have this produced by the end of January and then brought to Council for approval.

3.2 The Rector

The campaigns have now started and appear to be going well. At the moment four candidates are standing for the position: Aamer Anwar, Charles Kennedy, Patrick Harvey and Hardeep Singh-Kohli.

3.3 Questions or Comments for the President

None.

4 FILIPPO TREVISAN, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)

ACTION

4.1 Media Week

F Trevisan is working on preparations for Media Week which takes place 4-8 February 2008. The week will be sponsored by Apple and he hopes that the BBC, The Herald and quite a few of their reporters will be attending. The provisional schedule should be ready before the Christmas break.

4.2 National Postgraduate Committee

Glasgow University has been involved in this Committee for a number of years and F Trevisan recently attended their training day in Cardiff. F Trevisan's name has been put forward as the Chair for NPC Scotland. The outcome will be advised early in the new year. If successful, F Trevisan will seek to develop an Agenda which, hopefully, will interest and attract more members.

4.3 Revision of 'The Guide'

F Trevisan had met with the SRC staff and the Sabbatical Officers who had proof read 'The Guide' over the summer. Some ideas were suggested at the meeting and F Trevisan will incorporate these into a 'handover' document ready for his successor next year. Any Council member with any suggestions/ideas should pass them to F Trevisan.

FT

4.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)

None.

5 GAVIN LEE, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT) (Copy of report circulated)

5.1 Clubs & Societies

Council noted that at the Executive meeting due to take place on Monday 10 December, Clubs & Societies who have applied for grants will be considered.

5.2 Departmental Reviews for Teaching & Learning Assessment

This is going well and Council noted that there are now student reps on every DPTLA panel. 5 Council members are now trained and G Lee is meeting next week with the Senate Office to discuss some of their concerns.

5.3 Learning & Teaching Committee Away Day

G Lee had attended this and was asked to lead one of the sessions. He talked about student feedback and how it could be improved both from the student and staff perspective. The Committee were appreciative of G Lee's input. G Lee will meet shortly with the VP Learning Teaching and Internationalisation for further discussions.

5.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)

None.

6 STRUAN CAMPBELL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)**(Copy of report circulated)**

As S Campbell had submitted his apologies, M Wilson highlighted some points in his report.

6.1 SHAG Day

Despite the day not being as well planned as S Campbell would have liked, it was a success. He feels this event should be held at the same time each year as it fits in well with World Aids Day. Because last year mainly focused at the GUU, this year it concentrated on late nights at the QMU. He thanked Sara and Gordon and the QMU and also Jamie, Keiron, Kirsten and Gareth for all their help and support. A total of £86.10 was raised for World Aids Day.

6.2 SALT Meetings (Support, Advice & Learning Team)

Council noted that the Welfare Team (VP Student Support, VP Learning, the Permanent Secretary and Advice Centre Staff) has been renamed. The group meets every 6 weeks to discuss any issues being raised in the Advice Centre which can be linked to or inform campaigns. It was agreed the outcome of the meetings would be distributed to Exec, Staff and Council and it is hoped these will be circulated before the next Council meeting in January.

6.3 Annual St Andrew's Day Anti-Racist March

Despite a very low turnout of Council members the march had been a success. There are photographs on Face book and Council noted that S Campbell had been on ITV. S Campbell had expressed his thanks to L Harvey for all her hard work for this event.

6.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)

None.

7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

No reports submitted. M Wilson reminded members Report Back Forms should be completed and submitted one week prior to Council in order for them to be circulated with Council papers.

8 COUNCIL PROCEDURES

This was brought up at the Council Training Day so M Wilson thought it would be worthwhile to highlight a few points from the Constitution, namely:

- *The quorum for any meeting will be one third of the actual membership of Council;*
- *Only Council members may speak at meetings unless the Chair agrees otherwise;*
- *Motions may be submitted to the Chair through the Permanent Secretary in writing no later than 5pm, two days before an Ordinary meeting of Council;*
- *Motions require the written support of two Council members or fifteen SRC members;*

ACTION

SC

- *Any rejected motion may not be submitted again until three months has elapsed;*
- *No later than one week before a meeting any member may submit an item to the Chair for his or her consideration as an agenda item.*

And finally

- *All students must treat other members with courtesy and respect. They must show the same consideration to SRC and University employees or guests. They must act in accordance with the SRC's Equal Opportunities Policy.*

M Wilson urged members to refer to the Constitution if they had any queries. She also informed Council the Constitution is currently being reviewed and some amendments will be submitted to Council for their approval.

9 APPROVAL OF SOLICITORS FOR 2007/2008

Council approved the recommendation that Mike Dailly of Govan Law Centre be re-appointed as the Council's Solicitor for the financial year beginning 1st July 2007 to 30th June 2008.

Proposer: K Broad
 Secunder: S Tomlinson.

10 APPROVAL OF AUDITORS FOR 2007/2008

Council approved the recommendation that Alexander Sloan be re-appointed as the Council's Auditors for the financial year beginning 1st July 2007 to 30th June 2008.

Proposer: J R Wightwick
 Secunder: S Cawley

11 FRESHERS' WEEK REPORT

A copy of G Lee's report had been circulated to everyone for information. Overall Freshers' Week had gone really well and G Lee was happy with the level of turnout at events and the number of events that had been organised. He was also very appreciative of his Freshers' Helpers. The Freshers' Address had been very well attended. Global Village had to turn people away at the door and the Ceilidh in the Cloisters went down very well with international students and societies. The Freshers' Fair ran for three days but day three was considerably quieter which should be borne in mind when organising next year's Fair. One slight concern at Freshers' Fair was the military presence. While the situation was monitored, in future it should be made clear in the Freshers' Fair Agreement that stall holders are provided with one stall and they must limit themselves to that. The Faculty Inductions went well and there was a slight increase in the number of inductions undertaken. G Lee thanked all the helpers, staff and the rest of the Exec for their support.

Discussion followed about the military presence on campus and G Lee confirmed this would be reconsidered for next year. It was also recommended that Global Village be included again but in a bigger venue. K Broad also suggested that Freshers' Helpers be given fire drill training. This was agreed.

12 THE SCOTTISH BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

M Wilson referred to this and explained to Council that the SNP government had not kept the promises they made during their election campaign. Their promises to students were the first things they had dropped. As a result of this M Wilson had spoken to one of the VPs at St Andrews who had suggested emailing all the MSPs expressing everyone's disappointment and pointing out it was the students that had lost out. Other institutions had also sent emails.

M Wilson's email read:

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament,

As President of Glasgow University Students' Representative Council (SRC), I would like to bring to your attention the disappointment felt by the students of the University of Glasgow about the recent budget announcement. Students who supported the SNP Higher Education policies can no longer trust the governing party to support our needs. By getting rid of one of the key manifesto policies, the government has shown that they had no intention of keeping the promises they made to students during the election.

Young people who care about their futures should be able to find a way of improving their society and their prospects through politics. By not financially committing to the policies that were promised, it will be even easier for students to disengage from Scottish politics.

Whilst extremely disappointed that students have been let down by the SNP, we are also very concerned for the future of our University. The SRC is also constituted to look after the rights of future students, and feel that if funding to the Higher Education sector is not fully reviewed, then institutions like Glasgow are going to be severely affected. Scottish business and retention of our graduates are key factors related to economic growth in Scotland and will be critically impaired.

I hope that you will take these concerns into account.

As a result of this correspondence M Wilson had received various responses which were now on the SRC website.

A discussion followed and it was agreed M Wilson would gather all the information and put it on the forum before deciding what further action should be taken.

MW

13 THE BOTANIC GARDENS DEVELOPMENT

A document was circulated from S Campbell giving background information about a proposed development by Glasgow City Council to lease part of the Botanic Gardens to the G1 Group for the development of a restaurant, night club and children's railway. Council are being asked if the SRC should take a stance on this issue and if so, is it the same stance as Hillhead Community Council.

After lengthy discussions a vote was taken on whether the proposed planning permission from the G1 Group for a nightclub in the Botanic Gardens should be passed.

No one voted in favour of the proposal.

M Wilson and S Campbell will draft a letter to Hillhead Community Council informing them of the SRC's decision, taking into account the comments made. They will then circulate it to Council and put it on the forum.

ACTION

MW/SC

14 AOCB

14.1 The US Ambassador's Visit

M Wilson asked Council to mandate her to write to the Principal with regard to the action taken by Strathclyde Police and the University Security Staff during a recent visit by the US Ambassador where two students, protesting about the visit, were arrested and charged with breach of the peace. The protest had been very peaceful and it was felt that the action taken by the Police and Security Staff had been overly harsh. Discussion followed and it was agreed that M Wilson would draft a letter to the Principal and put it on the forum before sending it.

MW

14.2 Christmas Drinks & Mince Pies

M Wilson invited everyone to stay for some wine and mince pies before heading off to the GUU. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.