

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

Second meeting (2006-07), 26 October 2006 at 5pm
Boyd Orr building, Room 506

MINUTES (to be approved)

Present:	Jock Barge	Young Greens
	Lucy Barge	
	Kat Borrowdale	SRC Vice-President (Student Support)
	Rhiannon Breed	Secretary, Dirty Weekenders Society
	Kate Edwards-Kearney	Co-President, People & Planet Society
	Gavin Lee	Secretary, Conservative Association (note-taker)
	Duncan MacKenzie	Convenor (author of minutes)
	Angus MacLeod	GU Scottish Nationalists' Association
	Michael Marshall	Co-President, People & Planet Society
	Mohamed Osman	President, GU Muslim Students' Association
	Rachel Walker	
	Robbie Watt	Young Greens
	Claire Wilson	
Apologies:	Phil Cotton	
	Samreen Khan	
	Claire Macmillan	

1. Approval of previous minutes

The previous meeting's minutes were approved but it was suggested that in future the author might like to infuse the minutes with a dash of humour. "Humour, what's that?" said he. He pledged never to let any of that nasty stuff escape his mind, where it remains trapped, only eddies and whirls occasionally escaping. Have pity.

2. Matters arising

a) 'Change Tomorrow Today' in library catalogue (Duncan)

Duncan reported that he had donated SEPA's *State of Scotland's Environment 2006: Change Tomorrow Today* report to the Library and that as of yesterday one could find tomorrow in the catalogue today. That is to say, there's a link to the electronic version of the report in the catalogue already. He hoped that the print version would soon find its way out of the rabbit warren and into the molehill.

b) Energy efficiency in halls - feasibility study (Kat)

Kat reported that she hadn't made any progress on this, and suggested that later in the year might be a better time. Robbie mentioned that the Carbon Trust offered free audits to certain categories of organisation, and have developed services especially for the higher education sector. We **decided** that Kat would liaise with Mike, Robbie, Dan Gallagher (SRC Engineering Faculty Convenor), who had taken an interest in this, and Karen Morton (Residential Services Manager).

c) Bike library working group (Duncan)

Duncan reported that he had been liaising with Viola Retzlaff (Travel & Transport Co-ordinator, Estates & Buildings) about the bike library and was in the process of setting up a bike library sub-committee. He will keep the committee informed and asked anyone interested in taking part to contact him.

3. Stop Climate Chaos

a) Motion for SRC Council (Duncan)

There was a long, long, long discussion about this but after much toe-pulling, hair-twisting, and other things you don't want to hear about we agreed that it was important to justify in the motion why we wanted to affiliate to Stop Climate Chaos. We can't force the university to do anything, but we can commit to put pressure on the university to meet the Stop Climate Chaos demands itself. Eventually members felt the great hand of Time itself upon them and we **decided** that Duncan, Kat, Gavin and anyone else who is interested will meet to tease out a motion and report back at the next meeting.

b) Contacting MPs about Climate Change Bill (Duncan)

Duncan reported that there had been several responses to our earlier email to MPs, all of which were or would soon be on the SRC's web site (yay!). Duncan highlighted in particular the response of the local MP, Ann

McKechin, which seemed to have a significant amount of common ground with – and identical wording to – a reply to her from the Minister for Climate Change... We assume that's a coincidence.

One or two hawks among us demanded that we send a reply to those MPs who'd responded, and especially to Ann McKechin as the local MP, to show them that we weren't a load of overcooked vegetables. No! We are a gourmet collection of perfectly-done, al dente vegetables. Anyway, enough of vegetables... One of us mentioned that Ann McKechin was planning to hold a surgery on campus. We **decided** to plan a climate change forum and debate and invite politicians such as Ann McKechin to be on the panel; Jock had had this idea already and he **was to liaise** with Duncan and Kat to set things in motion.

Kate passed around the petition which People & Planet are promoting, which essentially has the same aims as the Group's email to MPs and focuses on Glasgow MPs, for members to sign.

4. Recycling

a) In halls - survey/petition (Kat, Robbie)

We had a fiery debate about whether or not to include halls of residence in the scope of a petition for better recycling facilities on campus. Lively anyway; how fiery can you get about dirty plastic and waste paper? Except when it goes up in flames, of course. There was a consensus after discussion that while some provision has been made for recycling it was far from satisfactory; some facilities were 1-1½ miles away from the residence. Kat **agreed** to draw up a petition and contact various representatives from Halls committees and other interested halls residents to involve them; Robbie from Murano Street and Rachel from Queen Margaret **agreed** to help.

b) Of printer cartridges in Library (Claire)

Claire reported that she'd established that the Library already returns its printer cartridges to the manufacturers, who make some donation to various charities. It was felt that it would be useful to have collection points around the Library and around campus to encourage recycling of cartridges. We also noted that cartridges can be refilled at at least two establishments around campus, and this should be encouraged.

c) Of batteries

Jock noted that it would be useful to have collection points for recycling of used batteries, since this was something a lot of students used regularly. Mohamed **agreed** to look into battery recycling.

d) List of recycling points around campus (Michael / Annie)

Duncan reported that Michael had sent him a list of recycling points around campus and that this would be put on to the SRC Sustainability page as soon as possible.

5. Double-sided printing (Kat / Kate, Annie)

Kat reported that she had contacted the deans of faculties by email to ask if double-sided printing would be acceptable in their faculties, and when you consider that these people are occupied 24 hours a day with thoughts of quantum mechanics and Old Norse runes, she had had quite a positive response. A number of them had passed the question down to departmental committees for consideration. The Library and Computing Services had been contacted and their reaction was more reserved; for a number of reasons (cost; insurance; extra time for printing) they were reluctant for students to be informed en masse about the facility. You gotta be careful; they might just use that knowledge, and we know that knowledge can be dangerous stuff, especially in a university. Having said that, information about how to do double-sided printing is buried somewhere in the depths of the Computing Service website. Kat **agreed** to contact Iain Logan (Deputy Director, Computing Service) about this.

6. Proposed supermarket development on Beith Street (Robbie Watt)

Robbie explained to the assembled throng that there was a campaign against a Tesco supermarket development in Beith Street [[Glasgow Green Party – Clyde Waterfront regeneration plan](#)]. The supermarket would be very large and there would be a very large block of student flats on top of the development. A lively discussion followed in which various members expressed concerns about the effect of the development on the local economy, the condition of the future student accommodation and treatment of its residents, and the general villainy of Tesco. Members expressing the opposing point of view highlighted the benefits of Tesco to the local economy and employment market (well, what do you know?), the benefits to students of having cheap accommodation and cheap food on their doorstep, and the benefits of helping Tesco's shareholders to increase the gargantuan share of every pound spent on the high street. No, sorry, I have to set the record straight; I must have imagined that last bit. *Anyway*, as you can see there wasn't enough consensus among members to decide on action, so we **decided** to keep the matter under review.

7. Ethics (Phil Cotton)

a) University ethical policy

As Phil Cotton could not attend the meeting we **decided** to defer consideration of this until a later date.

b) Fairtrade

Duncan mentioned that the University's Fairtrade status had recently been reviewed, but Phil, who is the [Fairtrade Foundation](#)'s liaison person at the University, had been concerned that the Foundation might not renew the status because, for one thing, of the absence of a Fairtrade policy at the [GUU](#).

Kat reported that although Nescafé had been present on SRC premises in the past, this was not SRC policy and Fairtrade products were always used where possible at official SRC events. SRC staff were, however, free to bring their own tea and coffee to work, Fairtrade or not, and this was not covered by the policy.

c) Ethical water coolers

In Phil's absence, this issue was taken up by Mohamed, who raised his concerns that Glasgow University appeared to have a contract for supply of bottled water with [Eden Springs](#). Eden Springs is an Israeli company whose headquarters are in the Golan Heights. It was felt that this issue was worth considering. Mohamed agreed to look into this further and to liaise with Phil.

8. Sustainability Group resolution (Kat Borrowdale)

Kat proposed to amend the SRC resolution which currently lays down the rules about how the Group operates so that the Group's Convenor would have to be also a member of SRC Council. At present the Convenor can be any member of the Group, i.e. any student. There was a veritable rebellion at this suggestion, with members hurling rotten tomatoes, eggs and other assorted detritus. One member even threatened to declare war on something and deploy armed forces, but was dissuaded at the eleventh hour. Also, people wanted to go home. We **decided** that Kat, Duncan, Gavin and any other interested member would meet to negotiate an agreeable motion.

9. Any other competent business

Kat raised the question of sustainability in the curriculum: should there be a requirement to include sustainability in the curriculum, and how should it be implemented? Possibilities including action days and compulsory courses were discussed. We didn't come to any conclusion but Kat mentioned that Jean Barr, the Associate Dean of Education, was interested in involving the Sustainability Group in the faculties projects, so we expect to hear more.

10. Date of next meeting

We agreed to meet next on 23 November at 5pm.