

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 AT 6:30 pm  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

**Present** : As per sederunt sheets

**Apologies** : L. Howes, S. Tuckwood, R. Simpson, T. Tiballi,  
N. Smith, M. Dockery, L. Stockwell, T. Gore, I. Albrecht

**Attending** : G. Thompson (Advice Centre) D. Mackenzie, M. Arthur  
(Student Lifecycle Project)

**Chair** : Amy Johnson

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**1. WELCOME**

**1.1: Apologies/Sederunt**

**1.2. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.**

**1.3 MyCampus Update**

M. Arthur and D. Mackenzie gave a presentation illustrating revisions to the system. The class enrolment procedure was demonstrated by D Mackenzie. Questions on these improvements were taken from Council.

**Q** E. Docherty asked what the timings of registration would be. D. Mackenzie pointed out that these were not set by SLP but that it looked like it would be generally available from the 1<sup>st</sup> August but pointed out that this would depend upon what school students were enrolling with.

**Q** I. Smith asked whether the system would encounter slow down during heavy use. M. Arthur responded that there had been testing and that they had increased the capacity. He also noted that problems were sometimes stemming from low spec PCs.

**Q** J. Helle asked if it would work on cell phones. D. Mackenzie answered that it would not perform well on these devices yet but they would be investigating the potential of using apps in the future.

**Q** J. Helle asked if students who successfully completed the enrolment

process would be sent confirmation notification. D. Mackenzie responded that notifying students who had not successfully completed the enrolment would be easy to do.

**Q** E. Docherty asked if the oracle bundles could be customised on an ongoing basis and would SLP continue to consult with GUSRC. D. Mackenzie confirmed that bundles could be customised as there are functionality forms online. She also commented that student reps would be the best avenue to report any issues encountered. A Johnson recommended reporting issues to either School Representatives or College Convenors.

### **A: Items for Discussion**

## **2. VP Learning and Development**

### **2.1 Student Teaching Awards**

J. Harrison thanked all those who were involved. A. Johnson congratulated J. Harrison on the STAs success.

### **2.2 University Review**

J. Harrison informed Council that issues of efficiencies within the university (courses that run at a loss) was raised at the Learning and Teaching committee. J. Harrison raised his concerns with the Vice Principal (Learning and Teaching) and received clarification that there were no plans for mass course closures although the value of some PGT courses with low uptakes might be reviewed. J. Harrison stated that GUSRC supported the retention of the range of learning opportunities provided by the University.

J. Harrison has been assured that GUSRC would be advised of and consulted on any proposed changes at the Learning and Teaching committee. J. Harrison advised such proposals would be reported to Council.

J. Helle asked if there had been any specifics mentioned. J. Harrison responded that there had not.

### **2.3 Programme Approval Groups**

J. Harrison informed Council that student reps had taken part in program approval groups this year on a trial basis. These groups look at and approve the new courses that are being added to the curriculum. Three

student reps sat on these committees and the University was very happy with the outcome and consequently this will now be adopted on a permanent basis.

## **2.4 Graduations**

Students have contacted J. Harrison with concerns over being unable to enrol for graduations as early as they would have been last year. SLP informed J. Harrison that graduation enrolment should begin at the end of the week.

J. Harrison informed Council that new guidelines on registration and enrolment were being posted on the University website and that any feedback would be welcome.

E. Halversson asked that J. Harrison push for earlier graduation enrolment to allow for proper planning as some families would have to book flights etc to be able to attend. J. Harrison agreed that this matter should be addressed and noted that the delay was a product of the problems MyCampus encountered this year.

## **2.5 Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)**

J. Harrison informed Council that it was now possible to have various activities recorded on their university transcripts (volunteering, Council Membership, Clubs and Socs office bearers). J. Harrison encouraged Council to apply for this.

K. Law asked if only GUSRC could sign off on (non sports) Clubs and Societies office bearers for HEAR. J. Helle asked whether clubs that were not affiliated with GUSRC could have their office bearer status recognized.

J. Harrison stated that at present clubs did have to be SRC affiliated to qualify.

A. Johnson noted that this basic regulatory mechanism was not untypical; e.g. only clubs affiliated with GUSRC could book rooms through Central Room Bookings.

D. Lockhart noted that the GUU had to have HEAR applications verified by a member of staff and asked J. Harrison if he knew why that was. J. Harrison responded that HEAR verification involved access to all of MyCampus and it was considered impractical to allow that level of access to students. D. Lockhart asked if this is something which might be rectified in the future, allowing union Presidents access to verify HEAR while restricting the wider

access to MyCampus. J. Harrison commented that it might be but pointed out that GUSRC HEAR applications were passed on to staff for administrative verification on MyCampus. I Smith added that having this information verified by staff members reduced the administration of having to change the account access every year.

Exec to put a statement on both facebook and SRC website providing information on HEAR and how to apply.

## **2.6 Freshers Helpers**

J. Harrison informed council that fresher's helper applications were now open with applications available on the website from tomorrow and on Facebook. He also asked council members with experience to consider being team leaders this year.

## **3. VP Student Support**

### **3.1 RAG week**

A. Johnson updated Council on RAG week stating that the total raised between GUSRC, GUU, QMU, and GUSA was over £8,700. This money will be divided amongst the three charities that were chosen by the students.

### **3.2 Court update**

A. Johnson informed Council that at a pre-court meeting GUSRC had presented the annual report to the court members which had been well received.

Issues arising from court included

- Review of higher education governance with Court and Senate united in putting in a university wide response to the consultation As yet there is no agreement regarding the role of the Rector. A. Johnson commented that it would be important for GUSRC to submit their own response to this consultation, possibly in conjunction with CHESS.
- Management and organisational change was a concern which suggested accounts receivable regarding student debt would be moved to the finance office from registry. A. Johnson was concerned about accessibility and support for students and has been assured by D. Newall that an equitable level of student support would be maintained and that there would be a report to Court in June on this issue.
- A. Johnson noted that concerns raised by E. Docherty at the Health Safety and Wellbeing committee regarding the safety in Kelvin Way had been highlighted to, and well received by, Court.
- Report from the Rector highlighted concerns around Wednesday afternoons being free of classes throughout the university. Also

highlighted concerns around GUSRC space downstairs in John McIntyre Building.

### **3.3 Disability special arrangements**

A. Johnson noted that there had been a lot of feedback on issues surrounding special arrangements for disabled students around exams. Problems reported have involved lack of tact from invigilators (announcing disabilities in front of everyone), or not being fully aware of their role in providing adequate space and ensuring the correct software is available. A. Johnson has been compiling this information to feedback to F. Coton's Disability Equality Group.

### **3.4 Travel Expenses**

A. Johnson updated Council on the scrapping of travel expenses by SAAS. J. Harrison has been working with various MVLS reps to try and contact Mike Russell (Education Secretary). A. Johnson has spoken with the Principal and he has agreed to look at university funding as costs for medical students can be very high.

### **3.5 Consultation on premiums in private rented sector**

A. Johnson summarised the nature of the Scottish Governments consultation on Premiums (e.g. holding fees and admin fees). There is some concern as premiums are already illegal, it is just that this illegality is ignored by letting agencies and landlords, therefore this consultation could result in a lessening of tenants and future tenants rights.

The three suggested options in the consultation are

- Clarification of the term 'premium' through consumer focused communications exercise.
- Allow some premiums but put a cap on them.
- Allow premiums.

GUSRC will fill in a consultation strongly supporting the first option asking for more emphasis on enforcement to be added. A. Johnson sought approval from Council, no objections were raised.

### **3.6 Council Dinner**

A. Johnson informed Council of the Annual Council Dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and advised that formal invitations would be sent out soon.

## 4. VP Media and Communications

### 4.1 Final PG/John Mac Updates from Iain

I. Smith updated Council that there had been no progress on the John McIntyre refurbishment. J. Helle asked if it would be completed by September, I Smith responded that it should be. E. Docherty suggested that Gavin Slater (Principal Officer, Carbon Management, Glasgow City Council) could advise on making the refurbishment environmentally sustainable. I. Smith suggested it would probably be inappropriate for GUSRC to push an agenda onto Estates and Buildings but he will consider the issue.

I. Smith updated Council on the PG space which now may be delayed. He advised that GUSRC will be seeking confirmation from Estates and Buildings that the space will be ready for the start of September. Failure to be ready by the time International Orientation Week commences could have a serious impact on future usage of the space as potential users find alternative venues.

J. Helle asked who would get the profits from the PG space. I Smith responded that it was unclear if this would be fed back into the space, or if it would go to hospitality. B. Hay clarified that hospitality losses from other areas would have to be taken into account. Research suggested that hospitality would lose around £40,000 - £50,000 from other areas.

A. Daly asked how hospitality calculated the potential loss of profit. B. Hay responded that this estimate was given by an independent company involved in the development of the business plan and these losses (termed as cannibalisation) relate to transfer of customers from one outlet to another.

J. Helle asked if SRC council members who were undergraduates would have access to the space. A. Johnson responded that they would only have access if invited by a PG student.

### 4.2 Student Media Update

I. Smith informed council that The Herald would not be running any press awards this year. GUM still plan to enter 'The Guardian' awards, but Guardian may not be entering.

Applications for GUM Editor close tomorrow, whilst Guardian applications open tomorrow.

Subcity – I. Smith has met with Subcity and the head of security to discuss concerns around smoking in the building by contributors. Subcity have

IS will investigate what kind of environmental assessment was being used by Estates and Buildings with regards the John McIntyre refurbishment

agreed to resolve this matter

GUST – Have a new head, Lisa Hogg.

#### **4.3 Final 10 weeks plans**

I. Smith informed council that he would be continuing to work with B. Hay on the PG Space and John McIntyre refurbishment until the handover at the end of June

#### **5. AOCB**

D. Walker is looking at accessible formats, in particular green laser pointers which cause serious difficulties for those with certain types of colour blindness. A. Johnson asked Council to contact D. Walker or J. Harrison if they would like to take this on in their school or if they have any other feedback.

H. Hussain suggested that it would be a good idea to circulate an email to University staff with information on what the SRC have achieved over the year. A. Johnson agreed, and stated she would be happy to do this and asked council members who were interested in having an input in this to contact her.

H. Hussain raised the issue that, due to staff departures, the Business School does not have a Business Incubator The careers service has taken it on business development but do not have the expertise required. H. Hussain is trying to establish a business incubator at the business school and will keep Council informed of her progress.

J. Helle thanked the executive and wished everyone the best of luck in the future.

J. Meaden asked if the minibus service would run over the summer. A. Johnson responded that the service only ran during term time.

J. Meaden raised that he had been unable to get access to the computers on the Crichton campus, his guid did not work. J. Harrison will investigate and respond

J. Meaden passed on his best wishes to council.

A. Johnson thanked Council.

**AJ and HH will look at putting together an email that could be sent round university staff**

**JH will investigate this problem and report back to Council.**

F. Weber presented A. Johnson, I. Smith and J. Harrison with gifts from the Council to thank them for their support.

**6. Video of International Womens Day**

H. Hussains video of International Women's Day was shown to Council.

**The meeting concluded at 8.30pm**

Appendix  
RESULTS of post-it note exercise

What was good	What could be improved	Ideas for next year
RAG Week	Meetings too long	ISO on ISG – International student officer would benefit greatly by sitting on internationalization steering group, at least by being allowed to listen in.
Health week	More PR getting SRC name around uni. Making SRC seem as cool as it is	Promotion of information on website of environmental advice etc.
Media week	Write up agenda earlier	New website
Being kept in the loop regarding university projects at planning stage and getting opinions heard	Clearer system for approving decisions on agenda items. Voting?	Drop in session with council members
Love how everyone was made to feel welcome and part of the team	Transparency	Meetings could be shortened/condensed
SRC support of environmentalists	Sometimes a little slow at getting information out	SRC advertisement in more videos
Cross campus relations	Cherry picking on disciplinary committee hearing	Translation service for books/journals etc (possibly too expensive)
Facebook interaction good for keeping us up to date	More help in the start with committees and getting most of class reps	College wide code of good practice or guidelines for dissertations
Friendly atmosphere	Earlier action taking in regards to policies	PR ourselves better
Campaigns to Edinburgh	Regular updates on MyCampus	More and better communication from the sabbs down
Good reactions on campus to SRC		President lasts all year
Intercollege and council communication		Review of sabb remits
Council in general		Student achievement page at the SRC to recognize students who've done something different
Paid work		SRC Council customizable profile pages linked to college school sites
Extracurricular activities such as PSRs and working groups		Podcast Policy
Support from VPs		More high energy interaction at meetings
How the VPs coped with the extra workload this year		Would have been good to have all the college convener positions filled
Council involvement with and support for the Exec		Council talent evening next year
		Fresher's Week! Hope that the next will be as creative an innovative