

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd COUNCIL Meeting
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th December 2012 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : L Stockwell, L Wallace, J Fyfe, D Adesina, G Hope, F. Bell, L Jamieson, J Kempe, D Mackay, B O'Neill, D. Lockhart (GUU), R. Sorrie, B Hay

Attending : G. Thompson (Advice Centre)

1. WELCOME

1.1 – Resignation – J Harrison informed council that Shi En Lum had resigned from his position as School Representative for engineering as he is no longer a student at the university. He added that both Ross Greenshields (Age Equality Officer) and Tushar Jagota (Business School Rep) will be considered to have resigned their positions if they fail to attend the current meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by council

2.1 Matters Arising

Hospitality Services and Welfare week J McGrellis updated council on Hospitality Services and Welfare Week informing them that she will ensure to recommend her successor that when working with hospitality services on similar events that the menu is seen in advance to avoid a repeat of the problems encountered.

George Square Renovations J McGrellis updated council on the George Square renovations informing them that she has spoken with councillor Jim Coleman regarding this issue and had been reassured that the council would not have the power to prevent static demonstrations occurring in George Square. Regarding marches she had been assured that the council would aim to facilitate requests for marches.

Clubs and Societies Sponsorship Money J McGrellis informed council that she had contacted all clubs and societies to try and establish if other clubs

had experienced any difficulties in claiming sponsorship money that was owed to them. She has had no response from any of the clubs and assumes that this indicates this problem is not widespread.

Class Rep Meetings, School of Humanities J Harrison informed council that an email had been drafted and sent to R. O Maolalaigh, Head of the School of Humanities, regarding concerns of a move to whole of school class rep meetings rather than subject specific ones. The response reassured that they were still committed to subject specific meetings in addition to whole of school. It was agreed that council were happy with this result.

Vet Med Elections Following a meeting with GUVMA and T Hull, there was agreement to work more closely in future, and coordinate publicity in March to help ensure that GUVMA were involved in the SRC spring elections process.

Conflict Minerals J McGrellis contacted the Amnesty International Society to investigate how the university might support this campaign. She informed council that Amnesty informed her that, at present, this would involve the university declaring a commitment to human rights and giving priority to companies that source their minerals from outside of conflict areas. They would also request that the university formally contact electronics firms to ask where they were sourcing their minerals from. J McGrellis added that St Andrews University, who already support the campaign, had informed her that their aim was to show commitment to this campaign going forward.

JH and JM will approach The university and suggest they act on conflict minerals

Room Bookings J Harrison informed council that he had met with Ann Allen and informed her of the reported problems and added that this was also an issue that had been raised at Senate and a timetable and working group had been set up to try and resolve the issue. F Coton, Vice Principal Learning and Teaching was optimistic that the problems would be reduced in semester 2.

Contacting EDU regarding Fire Safety The proposed email has not yet been sent but J McGrellis informed council that this issue already has the attention of the EDU following a recent incident where a person with a disability was unable to evacuate a building. This has gone to the Equality Diversity Strategy Committee and there is a commitment for this to be resolved urgently.

Double Sided Printing Costs J Harrison informed council that the lower double sided printing costs would be restored from the end of the semester. The Library were asked if they would be able to donate the 3p surplus that had been charged to the universities carbon management fund. The library has agreed to investigate whether this would be possible.

3 – Reports and Updates

3.1 SRC President James Harrison

L Johnstone asked for if there was a reason why there had been no change in the QMUs situation. J Harrison clarified that they had not yet been informed when in the review process they would receive their block grant. J Harrison has not yet been informed if the QMU have this information yet.

Social Sciences contacted students asking for reps to get involved in college committees, ignoring the SRC rep system. J Harrison emailed his concerns. The College have apologised and will be meeting with J Harrison to ensure they understand how the SRC rep system works.

J Harrison informed council that GUSRC have some concerns over the Post 16 education bill drafted by the education secretary Mike Russell. The main concern is the involvement of government in universities and the impact this could have on the student voice. J Harrison has met with the Advice Centre and will be, along with R Balaban, drafting a response to the consultation and will keep council informed.

JH will post a link to the plans on the facebook group

J Harrison raised that he had witnessed wolf whistling from workmen on campus and reported it. He asked council to report any such incidents to council who would contact estates and buildings.

J Harrison informed council that the university library will have a sign at the top of the tower which will be lit up and improve visibility. The lighting will be low energy LED.

3.2 VP Media & Communications Craig Angus

C Angus informed council that he had met with D Mcconnell from IT Services and following that would be attending a committee in the new year to look at new technology and apps for students. His aim will be to focus on technology which is practical.

C. Angus reminded council that Media Week would be taking place 21st – 25th January and informed them that he was currently working towards getting a number of speakers to take part and that this was going well.

3.3 VP Learning and Development Razvan Balaban

R. Balaban updated council on the progress of the Student Teaching Awards nominations, informing them that numbers were up on the previous

year with a total of 393 nominations so far.

He asked for members of council to volunteer to help with the processing of the nominations. He added that the award ceremony would be taking place on the 15th March in the Randolph Hall.

Graduate attributes - R Balaban informed council that he attended a meeting with the presidents of other student bodies along with F Coton G Lee, and J Wightwick . They are aiming to produce a video about graduate attributes, and council were asked to get involved.

NSS Question 24 – The SRC will be publicising this question with posters to emphasise that the question refers to all the student bodies

R Balaban reported that he had delivered a 30 minute presentation on exam feedback and that it had been well received with F Coton asking to take it back to the Learning and Teaching Committee. It is hoped that an Exam feedback policy will be in place by the end of the year.

R Balaban updated council on the progress of the policy for lecture recording and advised he is optimistic that this will be passed by the Learning and Teaching Committee. Ideally the final aim for this policy would be for the university to record all lectures and post them on moodle.

A Westwell pointed out that the Classics department had been unable to record lectures as they were interactive and recording students voices is not allowed without consent.

J Harrison added that for lectures to be universally recorded and posted on moodle, the problem of student consent would have to be addressed.

3.4 Student Support Development Committee Update

J Harrison highlighted some changes that have occurred as a result of GUSRC involvement.

Student absence policy has been altered to require a note of absence from a 'responsible' person rather than an 'independent' person.

Success in securing PhD council tax exemption.

It was agreed at SSSDC to take Wednesday Afternoons to Senate again.

4 Amendment to Schedule

An amendment to the schedule to allow for the implementation of the sabb review in 2013 was approved by council.

5 Welfare Week Report

J McGrellis reported to council on Welfare Week highlighting the successes and problems encountered. J Harrison thanked J McGrellis for organising the week which he considered to be a great success.

6 First Year Surgery

C Davies informed council on the surgery they held. Around 12 students attended the surgery and it is hoped that further surgeries will be held in future. He suggested that holding a surgery in the halls could be a good way to engage more students.

T Hokkanen commented that in future they could improve on the advertising. Some discussion followed.

7. Page 3 Petition

C Meehan updated council that a stall promoting the petition had quite a lot of student support, and that the campaign had also received much support from students online.

L Johnstone asked for clarification on the subject of the vote. J Harrison responded that the vote was to decide whether GUSRC would sign the petition asking The Sun to drop topless models page 3.

The vote was 20 – 5 in favour of signing the petition.

8. Council Hoodies

J Harrison asked council to sign a list if they wished a council hoodie, the cost would be £8 each.

9. NSS prize discussion.

Council were asked if they thought that £3 printer credits for participants in the survey would be preferable to the cash prizes.

Council voted 19 – 6 in favour of print credits

JH will pass the results to the senate office and report back if this will be possible

10. AOCB

J Harrison informed council on behalf of **J Fyfe** that there was excel and word training available via moodle and suggested that it could be highlighted more to students. Discussion followed.

J McGrellis informed council of an opportunity for one of them to go on a university trip to Vancouver on the in May as part of the Student Learning Experience. Those attending must not be in their final year.

L Johnstone voiced her concerns over difficulties she encountered in making progress and connections with her college in her role as convenor and asked council to think about how this could be improved for semester 2 over the Christmas period. Discussion followed.

11. Stonewall Video

Council Watched the Stonewall video.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 pm.

JM will confirm that GUSRC will attend this event and will circulate more details to council.

JH will include a breakout session in January meeting to take stock of progress so far and plans for the rest of the term

JH will forward code of practice to academic reps