

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies :

Attending : **Avril Conacher** – Advice Worker

1. WELCOME

T. Gore welcomed Council's return to the John McIntyre Building for the first meeting of the new session and thanked those who were able to attend the informal planning meeting in September.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

6 May 2010 – Factual Corrections

None. Minutes Agreed and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1. Glasgow Pride & Fair (Refer 3.11)

D. Davies expressed disappointment that nobody from council had attended this event.

3.2. G12 Theatre (Refer 3.10)

F. Weber asked for an update on the closure of G12 theatre. T. Gore agreed to pursue.

4. SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – July – September 2010

Council were invited to ask questions pertaining to each of the Sabbatical Officers' reports.

**Tommy Gore, PRESIDENT
(Copy of report circulated)**

4.1. Washing Machines at Murano Street

F. Weber raised the matter of charges for the use of washing machines at Murano Street. T. Gore summarised discussions with University Residential Services around the matter to date.

**5. Tuula Eriksson, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)
(Copy of report circulated)**

5.1 Bus Service During Freshers' Week

F. Weber suggested that timetables at minibus stops could have Freshers' Week nightbus timetables included during Freshers' Week next year. T. Eriksson acknowledged that there had been some slight confusion around with timetables. T Eriksson also praised the Freshers' Week drivers.

T. Gore

5.2. Freshers' Week 2010-10-19

T. Eriksson thanked all Freshers Helpers for their time during Freshers' Week.

6. Luke Winter, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS)

(Copy of report circulated)

6.1. Report noted

7. Fraser Sutherland, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)

(Copy of report circulated)

7.1. Tenancy Deposit Consultation Draft Response

The Scottish Government is attempting to implement changes to make it easier for tenants to claim back deposits from landlords. F. Sutherland advised this was a problem experienced by many students and one of the most frequent issues dealt with by the Advice Centre. In its formal response the SRC broadly welcomed the proposals. A full copy of the response could be downloaded from the SRC website

8. CONVENORS', OFFICERS' & COURT ASSESSORS' REPORTS

T. Gore stressed the importance of supplying reports to council. He welcomed suggestions for further improvement of the report template.

8.1. F. Weber, Arts Convenor

8.2. PR for 'Be Involved'

F. Weber highlighted the difficulties associated with publicity distribution at Murano Street. It was noted that PR should be avoided on weekends in future if possible.

8.3. S. Ritchie, LBSS Convenor

Noted

9. Constitution (circulated)

T Gore introduced the proposed revised constitution to be considered under the following;

Council resolves: "All clauses in the existing constitution and schedules be deleted in their entirety and replaced by the constitution and schedules in the form as presented before the 30th June 2011"

9.1 S. Ritchie suggested an alteration to 3.4. in the constitution which counts by-elections as 'the same election' thereby excluding candidates from standing for a different position in a by-election if unsuccessful in the Spring election. D. Davies noted that if 3.4. were changed, there would be nothing to stop people resigning from elected positions in order to stand for

an unattested, and paid, Sabbatical position. T. Gore concluded that 3.4. reflected the committed attitude towards individual council positions that nominees should observe and prevented an abuse of the council system.

9.2. D. Davies noted that, as the position of LGBT Officer was changing to 'Gender Officer', it appeared to be dropping transgender representation in the job description. He requested assurance that any future representatives were aware that transgender representation was still included in this role. T. Gore will ensure this is included in the job description.

T. Gore

9.3. I. Smith asked whether students were now represented by council members that they could not vote for as a consequence of the restructuring. T. Gore responded by saying that only students who had changed schools because of course choices would potentially be affected. He also noted that representation through Faculty Convenors (e.g. committee meetings) where there was now a cross-over of students being represented in the new college/school system had been foreseen and addressed. The example given was the Engineering Convenor and the Science Convenor being present at meetings concerning the new School of Science and Engineering.

9.4. F. Weber raised the issue of students studying joint degrees across different Schools being unable to vote in elections which concern them because of the College they are officially registered with. T. Gore acknowledged the system was not perfect, but the SRC could only work with the way that the university classified and coded its students. S. Ritchie also clarified that students from any course were always free to contact the relevant Convenor.

9.5. The resolution was agreed unanimously

10. NSS Report (circulated)

10.1. T. Gore noted that in terms of overall satisfaction, Glasgow was top in Scotland and third in the UK. It was also noted that there were poor results with regards to feedback in major subject areas, including Law and Medicine. T. Gore opened the floor to suggestions on how the SRC could work with the university to improve this.

10.2. C. Fundulea had spoken with class reps and other students from Engineering– the main problem apparent in this discipline is that assignments are often not returned with comments until after the class test and team projects were not approved until half way through the duration of the project, leaving only half of the time allocated to complete the project.

10.3. F Weber had dealt with student complaints in the Arts faculty regarding a lack of comments in some history and philosophy essays.

10.4. D. Davies suggested council members share personal examples of

good and bad feedback by comparing marked work at next council meeting. T. Gore supported this and asked that council members should send examples to T. Eriksson so they could be collated and presented at the next Learning and Teaching Committee.

Council

10.5. S. Ritchie also highlighted issues arising in LBSS, and suggested a standardized system for returning work, with a more coherent feedback sheet, would be welcomed.

10.6. HM Goodlad praised the feedback policy in Geography and Chemistry.

11. How to make Council more effective

11.1. T. Gore wants to see sabbatical officers make much greater use of council and encouraged all council members to contact sabbatical officers with any ideas or suggestions. Council members were encouraged to make use of computers and other facilities in the John McIntyre building.

11.2. T. Gore asked Officers and Convenors to set aside an hour or two each week for office hours in the Lower Exec Office. They should contact L. Winter with details so they can be published on the website.

Council

11.3. S. Ritchie requested office space for Council Members in the Lower Exec Office with access to filing cabinets and folders. T. Gore will accommodate this.

T. Gore

11.4. S. Ritchie suggested that each issue of the GU Guardian should publicise Welfare Officers and Academic Convenors i.e. contact details, office hours. L. Winter agreed and suggested a 'spotlight' on different council members in each issue. T. Gore and L Winter will discuss.

L Winter

12. Update on 'Be Involved Week'

12.1. F. Sutherland reported that 'Volunteering Clubs and Societies Week' was held last academic session in January but had been renamed and moved to coincide with the beginning of the new academic session to increase participation.

12.2. There was discussion around relatively low participation in some SRC Events compared with those organised by Clubs and Societies F. Weber suggested that this could be because SRC events were held during the day when many students had classes. T. Gore highlighted that the SRC shouldn't be competing with Clubs and Societies, and that there are many students living outside of Glasgow who may not be able to attend evening events.

12.3. D. Davies suggested that more emails should have been sent to students to remind them of 'Be Involved' events and that council members should especially be urged to attend such events and represent the SRC.

13. Health Week

F. Sutherland welcomed ideas and suggestions for events. D. Davies suggested more HIV/AIDS awareness and referred to negative attitudes which still exist at the university. J. Court suggested promoting STI checks. C. Fundulea suggested that trainers from the Stevenson building should be asked to present talks about healthy lifestyles.

14. Council Emails

T. Gore gave an update to the new email system.

15. John McIntyre Building – Update

T. Gore explained that there had been no clear information coming from Estates and Buildings concerning proposals to develop the downstairs area of the John McIntyre Building. He advised of his intentions to promote the concept of a social/study space similar to the level 3 annex in the library so that both the university and the SRC could benefit. S. Ritchie agreed and argued that the case must be strongly pushed by the SRC. No decision will be made until the December meeting of SMG.

16. AOCB

16.1 Remembrance Sunday – 14th November

T. Gore reminded those who wanted to attend to contact Iain or Tommy. F. Sutherland noted that the SRC was looking for volunteers to sell poppies around the university during the week before Sunday 14th.

16.2. Student Voice Website

Volunteers were requested to discuss ways to improve this to meet with L. Winter, T. Eriksson and T. Gore. F. Weber, M. Morrison, J. Court and HM. Goodlad agreed to take part.

16.3. Anti-Cuts Action Network

Anti-cuts marches will take place on 23 October in Edinburgh (organised by Scottish Trade Unions Congress) and 12 November in London (NUS and UCU). SRC would organise coaches and subsidies would be provided to ensure tickets were affordable. S. Ritchie supported the march on the premise that council was aware it was protesting cuts in education funding and not 'efficiency savings' made by the university.

16.4. University Fee Policy

T. Gore noted that the university had introduced a new fee policy, stating that self funding students withdrawing anytime within the first thirteen weeks of their course will have to pay sixty per cent of their yearly fees. It appeared to have been implemented without being presented at any university committee and T. Gore will raise the matter at Finance Committee.

16.5. Erasmus students accommodation

Some Erasmus students have not been offered accommodation by the university and appear to be seen as low priority. Short assured tenancy

T. Gore

agreements require a minimum period six month contract. It is therefore also difficult for students studying in Glasgow for less than six months to find privately rented accommodation. This means that students are faced with paying rent for a property after they have returned home.

16.6. University Converted Accommodation

Some large single rooms in University accommodation were converted into twin rooms to accommodate large student numbers. Now that those "sharing" students have accessed single rooms Their rent has increased considerably Students may have budgeted for the cheaper price and now find that their contract requires them to cover the cost of a large single room after a period. T. Gore urged council to contact him and/or F Sutherland with any suggestions as to how council should proceed with this.

Council

16.7. Council T shirts

F. Weber noted that council would need to agree to pay for t-shirts if they were to be available in time for upcoming demos. It was agreed that costs would be circulated to council.

17. Thanks

T. Gore thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.