

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW



15 February 2011

Dear Council Member,

Council Meeting

In accordance with the Constitution I hereby give notice that a meeting of council will take place on **Thursday 17 February** at **6.30 p.m.** in the **Williams Room**.

I would remind you that you are obliged to attend all meetings of council. **If you are unable to attend please send your apologies in writing to me, or the PA to the Permanent Secretary, before midday on Thursday 17 February 2011.**

The Agenda for the meeting will be as follows:

- a) Welcome
- b) Sederunt and apologies
- c) Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
- d) Sabbatical Officers Reports (included)
- e) Council Members Reports (included)
- f) Cost Reduction Plan/Court Meeting of Wednesday 16th February
- g) Media Week
- h) RAG Week
- i) PETs
- j) SSLC Discussion Form
- k) 125th Anniversary
- l) UCU Strike
- m) Wimba
- n) AOCB

Yours faithfully

Tommy Gore
President

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 20 January 2010 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present :As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies :Laura Laws, Hannah Mary Goodlad,
Alan Tinning, GUSA.

Attending :Helen Speirs – **Advice Centre**

1. WELCOME

T. Gore welcomed members to Council and announced that Alan Tinning (PG Gen Rep) had tendered his resignation. T. Gore thanked Alan Tinning for his contribution to Council.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (January 20 2011)

2.1 Factual Corrections:

8.9.K. Law (Gen Rep) mistakenly noted as LBSS
Convenor.

16.5. A Cohen wished to clarify that only *continuing Glasgow University students* who undertake a Masters at the University of Glasgow are eligible for a 10% discount in fees.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1. Council Hours

T. Gore again reminded Council Members to contact L. Winter with details of their availability during the week.

Council

3.2. Psychology SSLC (Staff Student Liaison Committee) (Refer 3.5.)

T. Eriksson and T. Gore were awaiting a response from Wendy Muir in the Senate Office with regards as to why HM Goodlad, as Science Convenor, was not being allowed to attend the Psychology SSLC. F. Weber was also seeking permission to attend a Psychology SSLC in his capacity as Periodic Subject Review Student Member for Psychology.

T.Gore
T. Eriksson

3.3 Class Rep Feedback Form (Refer 3.7.)

S Ritchie hoped to meet with other Convenors in the near future to take this forward, with the intention of submitting a proposal to the next Council meeting.

S. Ritchie

3.4. College of Arts Degree Fair (Refer 8.8.)

F. Weber had been asked by the Arts College Council to contact the Careers Service in order to learn more about whether a Degree Fair could be organised for the College of Arts. This matter is ongoing.

F. Weber

3.5. Increase in PhD fees (Refer 8.10)

T. Eriksson noted that the new Executive Assistant to the Vice Principal for Research and Development, Sylvia M_ had been assigned to look into how the £200 increase in fees would be used to benefit PhD students. It was agreed that this situation would be monitored.

T. Eriksson
M. Comerford

3.6. Student Protests (Refer 11.4.)

T. Gore advised that, he intended that, Council members would be more fully involved in shaping Council policy.

T. Gore

3.7. 125th Anniversary (Refer 14.)

T. Gore advised that positive progress was being made on the SRC 125th Anniversary celebrations. Correspondence with Alumni and the Alumni Office was ongoing. L. Winter noted that discussions were ongoing with regards to an event to close off the celebrations.

T. Gore
L. Winter

3.8. John McIntyre Building use (Refer 15.)

T. Gore reported that he had spoken with Steve Sutton, Assistant Director Estates and Buildings for Estate Development at the latest Estates Committee (10/01/11). It was noted that there were no confirmed plans for the downstairs area of the John McIntyre Building for the moment. T. Gore advised that the SRC could still lobby its own case for building use.

T. Gore

3.9. Council Board Photographs

L. Winter would endeavour to put up new photographs before the next Council meeting.

L. Winter

4. SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – November – December 2010

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

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

4.1 Glasgow Student Village Meeting, 14/12/10, raised by S. Ritchie

It was explained that much of the meeting was spent discussing heating and boiler problems in University residences in the run up to the holidays. The main points discussed were issues of boiler parts repeatedly breaking, the time taken for repairs, and the lack of spare parts immediately available at various Halls of Residence. It was clarified that Glasgow Student Village

was a private company which was responsible for the running of Murano Street and Queen Margaret Halls. S. Ritchie also raised the issue of student laundry services at halls of residence. T. Gore explained that the change in this service had been decided at a Glasgow Student Village meeting prior to the sabbatical officers for 2010/11 taking office, and that the matter had been concluded.

4.2. Estates Committee, 10/01/11, raised by S. Ritchie

It was reported that plans were being implemented to reallocate the Hetherington Research Club's building for Arts College teaching space.

T. Gore stated that while it was preferable that the building not go unused, it was his personal opinion that the University must provide social space for postgraduate students if it continues to place an emphasis on attracting them to study and undertake research at Glasgow. This had been made clear to the Principal and the Estates Committee, and was something T. Gore was keen to pursue.

4.3. Estates Committee contd. (Hetherington Research Club), raised by M. Comerford

M. Comerford agreed that the building should be used for teaching as opposed to being left unused; he questioned where the University was going to find £500,000 in building repair and refurbishment costs; he reported that the interim Hetherington Club Committee had received a report which stated the building was in extremely poor repair and would need extensive refurbishment. He also supported T. Gore's intent to pursue the issue of postgraduate social space, citing the International Student Barometer received at the latest Learning and Teaching Committee (19/01/11) which clearly demonstrates that, under social facilities, PGR, PGT and International student satisfaction levels are noticeably lower than Undergraduates.

T. Gore

4.4. SLP (Student Lifecycle Project) Board meeting, 7/12/10, raised by M. Comerford

M. Comerford highlighted that the cost of the SLP could be translated as £650 per student at the University or 30 hours of contact time with a GTA (Graduate Teaching Assistant) on a GTA pay rate. He sought a clear SRC position on SLP, as he considered it to be a potential misallocation of University funds, and could provide an excuse to cut staff numbers at the University. M. Comerford agreed that SRC's engagement with the project should be constructive, but urged that T. Gore could both be a member of the SLP board and represent any SRC misgivings about the project. B. Hay cautioned that potential negative impacts could not be known until the project was implemented, and that to oppose unreservedly a measure which was already in place would isolate the SRC from engagement in the decision-making process. He emphasised that the SRC should voice legitimate concern but also think strategically and politically by working positively within University committees and boards for the benefit of students. M. Comerford agreed with B. Hay's points, but argued that there was legitimate anger to be expressed at a managerial level.

T. Gore
M. Comerford

4.5. National Student Survey, 7/12/11, raised by J. Henfrey

T. Gore reminded Council to take part in the NSS after a question regarding the progress of this year's survey.

4.6. Green Paper Consultation Event, Herriot Watt, 18/01/11

T. Gore explained that this was the first in a series of events on the future direction of HE in Scotland, all of which the SRC hoped to attend. He added that the SRC hopes to host its own student consultation on campus, with Council forming a key part of that. T. Gore wished Council to consider their views regarding education fees and any other issues which they wished to discuss. Consultation would be organised in the run up to the end of formal consultation, towards the end of February. A date for this would be forthcoming.

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

5.1 Protest Against Tuition Fees, 8/12/11, raised by F. Weber

T. Gore explained the situation behind the occupation of the Gilmorehill Theatre. He advised that the occupation had been a prelude to a larger demonstration in the city centre; the participants therefore limited the occupation to 20 hours.

T. Gore

5.2. SALT Meeting, 13/01/11, raised by J. Henfrey

T. Eriksson updated Council on the issues pertaining to this meeting, including the issues regarding contracts for student accommodation.

5.3. Postgraduate Event, 19/01/11, raised by A. Cohen

T. Eriksson explained that 'Strategies for a Successful Start' was a PDP (Personal Development Planning) feedback event run by the Research Development Officer with Research and Enterprise, Elizabeth Adams. T. Eriksson felt that a PG Officer would have been better placed to attend the event.

5.4 Meeting with the Head of sparqs, 14/01/11, raised by N. Tomaszek

N. Tomaszek reported that students had approached her with concerns regarding quality of training for the class representatives. It was also noted that the feedback forms did not make appropriate provision for negative feedback. She also felt that there wasn't enough emphasis on the relationship between the SRC and Class Representation in sparqs Class Representative training sessions. T. Eriksson explained that this matter was ongoing, and acknowledged that outside Trainers could be unfamiliar with the specific University of Glasgow set-up. B. Hay noted that Trainers were supplied with an introductory script pertaining to GUSRC, and that it was unfortunate that this was sometimes 'glossed over'. Talks were ongoing re: SRC providing its own Class Rep training, but there were concerns as to whether the University would regard the SRC training with the same level of legitimacy as it would change from a government funded and endorsed bodies such as sparqs. It could be worthwhile for the SRC to

T. Gore
T. Eriksson

draw up its own sparqs evaluation questionnaire to distribute to Class Representatives.

**6. Fraser Sutherland, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)
(Copy of report circulated)**

6.1. Language Café Burns Night (26 January)

F. Sutherland invited everybody to attend this event. As an enticement, there would be free, though limited, malt whisky. Members were reminded to drink responsibly.

**7. Luke Winter, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS)
(Copy of report circulated)**

7.1. Media Week

L. Winter reminded Council of upcoming Media Week events, and reported that numbers appeared strong so far.

8. CONVENORS', OFFICERS' & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

8.1. A. Cohen, PG Convenor(Copy of report circulated)

8.1.1 GU Postgraduate Society Pub Night, 17/12/10, raised by F. Weber

F. Weber suggested that prospective PG students would be happy to hear from PG Council Reps at College meetings. A. Cohen asked any College/Faculty Convenors who attend, or are invited to attend PG meetings to liaise with her.

Academic
Convenors

8.2. F. Weber, Arts Convenor(Copy of report circulated)

8.2.1. WIMBA Presentation, 10/12/10

F. Weber circulated a report on this issue to Council. It was decided that this issue could be discussed at the February meeting of Council, so members could have time to examine the issue. K. Law sought clarification on what WIMBA was: F. Weber explained that it was an online project mostly developed for distance learning.

Council to
email F.
Weber with
questions

8.3. M. Morrison, Clubs and Societies Officer(Copy of report circulated)

8.3.1 Role of Court Assessor, raised by M. Comerford

M. Comerford sought clarification as to the regularity of Council attendance at Court. T. Gore explained that there was one meeting of Court each year before Council elected the new Court Assessor, and that the President traditionally attended this meeting alone.

8.4. K. Law, General Representative(Copy of report circulated)

Report noted.

8.5. G. Masiulyte, Gen Rep First Year(Copy of report circulated)

8.5.1 GU East and Central European Studies Exhibition

G. Masiulyte wished to draw attention to this exhibition and urged Council members to attend.

8.6. Morven Dockery, Medical Convenor (Copy of report circulated)

Report noted.

8.7. Stuart Ritchie, LBSS Convenor(Copy of report circulated)

8.7.1. Student Development Committee, 14/01/11

S. Ritchie reported that a Carers Policy has been agreed at this committee. He commended the work from all staff and Council members who had worked on this over the years.

8.7.2. Tutorial Contact Time, raised by M. Comerford

M. Comerford raised the issue of tutorial contact time being cut by half in Central East European Studies. S. Ritchie suggested that a liaison with M. Comerford would be beneficial.

S. Ritchie
M.Comerford

8.8. Dij Davies, Welfare Officer for LGBT Students

8.8.1. LGBT Hate Crimes Posters

D. Davies reported on his attempts to raise awareness of this issue around campus through posters and leafleting.

8.8.2. Queer Studies Course for English Literature

D. Davies reported that he had contacted Dr.Shuttleton in English Literature regarding the introduction of a course for Honours. It is something that could be looked into for next year, but it highlighted that many Schools are open to discussing suggestions from students.

8.8.3. LGBT History Month Launch, 31/01/11

Council was reminded of this event, and D. Davies reiterated that it was important for Council members to show commitment to such issues.

9. RAG (Raising And Giving) Week 7/02/11 to 11/02/11

9.1. RAG Week 2011 Charities

F. Sutherland had been liaising with Charities Officer, E. Grant on

arrangements for RAG week. It was decided that this year would focus on local charities to improve the general student population's relationship with the wider community. It was decided to include: 'The Maggie Centre', 'Glasgow Old People's Welfare Association', 'Glasgow Women's Aid' and 'The Simon Community' and 'Young Carers' run by 'The Glasgow Association on Mental Health'.

9.2. Enterprise Club 07/02/11 – 09/02/11

Teams of between three and five people were being invited to take part in an investment competition to raise money for charity.

9.3. RAG Week Mascot

F. Sutherland introduced Council to 'Raggy' the Tiger. Any suggestions to change the name of the mascot should be submitted to F. Sutherland or E. Grant.

9.4. Raising Awareness of RAG Week, raised by K. Law

It was noted that RAG Week was not as much of an event as it was in other Universities, notably Aberdeen. B. Hay noted that Aberdeen and other institutions regularly dwarfed the amounts raised at Glasgow and that until all student associations at the University worked together, to achieve something, it was unlikely that Glasgow would do something comparable. A. Cohen suggested that Student Unions could donate all or part of their admission fees for a Friday night event to RAG Week. I. Smith noted that, financially, this was unfeasible. F. Sutherland added that 'bucketing' events at unions was often very profitable. L. Winter suggested a 'RAG Cheesy Pop' or a 'RAG Hive' night. M. Dockery suggested that ticket sales for union events could be increased by £1 for one Friday night, with £1 from each ticket then going to RAG Week. I. Smith raised concerns that this could dissuade some people from attending such events at all.

10. PETS (Prize for Excellent Teachers)

T. Eriksson gave a short presentation on the upcoming PETs Awards. It was noted that nominations would open on 7 February. Council members were passed a sign-up sheet to help with publicity. The Selection Panel would consist of the Exec and the Academic Convenors.

T. Eriksson

11. Learning and Teaching Conference Video

T. Eriksson reported that Cut! Filmmaking was on board to develop a five-minute film in conjunction with GUSRC about student life at Glasgow.

T. Gore
T. Eriksson

H. Speirs left the meeting.

12. Strategic Plan Consultation (Question sheets circulated)

Council was broken up into four different groups in order to discuss the formulation of the new Strategic Plan 2011-2014.

13. 125th Anniversary

T. Gore referred members to earlier matters arising for information. The exact date of the Anniversary is Friday 11 March 2011.

14. Any Other Competent Business

14.1. SRC Spring Elections

T. Gore urged Council members to stand in the upcoming spring elections and to contact any current Sabbatical Officers occupying a position for which they wish to stand. A. Cohen stressed the need to highly publicise the elections in terms of the new positions.

T. Gore
L. Winter

14.2. Council Minutes on www.glasgowstudent.net, raised by J. Henfrey

J. Henfrey noted that previous minutes were not available to view on the SRC website. L. Winter confirmed that this would be done as soon as possible.

L. Winter

14.3. Student Accommodation, raised by J. Henfrey

J. Henfrey noted that students were required to pay £400 pre-payment costs – up by £100 from 2009/10. N. Tomaszek noted that the amount paid was essentially still the same, but problems could arise when people wanted to change accommodation. F. Sutherland commented on the point that this pre-payment was eventually deducted from overall accommodation costs, and was therefore fairer than a deposit system. It was clarified that if a student agrees to take accommodation and changes their mind, they will lose the £400 pre-payment. M. Comerford noted that if the University was increasing the amount they were keeping in this context, then there was a noticeable problem. It was noted that this matter needed further investigation. J. Henfrey also questioned the fairness of the position that 20% of current University accommodation is reserved for continuing students when there are many first year students requiring accommodation. It was suggested that accommodation should be prioritised for first years.

T. Gore
F. Sutherland
J. Henfrey

14.4. Council T-Shirts, raised by F. Weber

F. Weber again raised the issue of Council t-shirts and sought an update on this matter. It was suggested that F. Weber should pursue this matter and report back with costing.

F. Weber

The meeting was concluded at 20:40.