

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

- Present** : As per sederunt sheets
- Apologies** : D. Adesina, L. Stockwell, T. Hull, H. Macfarlane,
L. Feng, M. Clark, F. Grier, J. Kempe
- Attending** : M.Taylor (Equality and Diversity Unit), A. Connacher
(Advice Centre), O. Coombs (VP Education elect),
L. Graham (VP Student Support elect), J. Williamson
(Science and Engineering Convenor elect)
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1. WELCOME

J Harrison welcomed O. Coombs, L. Graham, and J. Williamson who were sitting in on the meeting after being elected for Council 13/14.

2. Equality Outcomes – Mhairi Taylor, Equality and Diversity Unit

M Taylor gave a presentation to council on Public Sector Equality Duty and answered questions from Council.

J Harrison asked what role GUSRC could play in the outcomes and how council members might get involved. M Taylor responded that outwith the committees it would be also useful for council members to approach EDU with any issues that arise within their school/college relating to the equality outcomes.

L Wallace asked if the reason for the differences in the number of First Class degrees awarded between different disciplines had been identified. M Taylor responded that the potential reasons had not yet been explored.

F Bell asked if they would consider using the term 'gender' rather than 'sex' in the report. M Taylor responded that the term 'sex' was used as that is the term that is used in the legislation.

H Sneddon asked if the students surveyed were only those registered with the Disability service. M Taylor confirmed that at present that was the case but added that they were committed to look at results at other university wide surveys to ensure the views of disabled students who are not registered for help through the disability services are heard. She added that

M. Taylor will forward presentation to J Harrison who will then circulate to council.

the promotion of the Disability services was always ongoing to ensure that students are aware of what is available.

C Meehan asked about strategic objective 7.4 in the Public Sector Equality Duty Report relating to the voluntary work placement scheme for refugees, asylum seekers and disabled ex military personnel. M Taylor responded that the programme had been developed aimed at Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA). The volunteering program was to support refugee and asylum seeker academics in this country rather than students.

3. Glasgow University Union misogyny

J Harrison noted that following the GUU misogyny scandal GUSRC were keen to work with GUU to try and improve the culture there. GUSRC support the idea of having an independent person reviewing the practises to advise on what changes should be made. He added that he believed actions such the ending of LAMB dinners would show the GUU are taking the matter seriously.

3.1 Gavin Tulloch GUU president on GUU misogyny

G Tulloch explained to council how the GUU are reacting to this stating that they were firstly dealing with the incident and secondly the larger cultural issue.

He informed council that the incident was being dealt with within the disciplinary procedures of the GUU that are within the constitution. He added that personal apologies had already been issued to the students who were victims of the verbal abuse but pointed out that himself and I Dewar who had only taken office on Monday hoped to meet and apologise again.

Regarding the culture he commented that the incident had shown that a number of students have a problem with the GUU and the culture there and that this was something that they were committed to addressing.

G Tulloch informed council that a statement with all GUUs plans to address the problems would be released in the next few days.

J Harrison asked if there would be a wider consultation than just GUU members as there was an argument to be made that some students may choose not to become members because of the perception of existing culture at the GUU. G Tulloch agreed that this was something that needed to be done and that they were in contact with the university to establish how this can be achieved.

F Bell asked if there would be any independent persons involved in the GUU disciplinary panel. G Tulloch responded that the panel would consist of randomly selected members and the process has to follow that set out within the constitution.

F Bell asked if an EGM could be called to change some of the wording in the constitution. G Tulloch responded that they would be waiting to see what suggestions come from the consultation process before acting.

L Wallace asked how the GUU would combat the reluctance of debating teams from other universities to compete at the University of Glasgow in future. G Tulloch responded that they would be working with other universities on the debating circuit to change the wider culture and that they would be speaking with Cambridge who stated they would not compete at Glasgow in future.

G Hope asked if they had any plans on how they were going to tackle the wider culture in the GUU. G Tulloch responded that he did not want to go into details but that a statement from GUU would follow soon.

C Meehan commented that the GUU should consider implementing a regulation to ensure that disciplinary procedures would involve independent persons rather than members only. J McGrellis commented that students could still complain to the university if they didn't believe their complaints were dealt with impartially by the Unions. B Hay advised that council members can look up the Student Code of Conduct on the University website for information. J McGrellis added that GUSRC advice centre has leaflets that are more accessible.

Discussion followed

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Council.

3.1 Matters Arising

Meeting with Social Sciences - J Harrison informed council that the meeting with social sciences had not yet taken place.

Scottish Water – J Harrison informed council that a meeting is scheduled for later in the week and that he would keep them updated.

Graduate Attributes Video – R Balaban informed council that the video was not yet finished but was going well and he hoped to show it to Council at next meeting.

5. Reports and Updates

J McGrellis informed council that GUSRC are now a third party reporting centre and asked council to spread the word.

J McGrellis informed Council that for International Women's Day the production of The Vagina Monologues had raised £755.

J McGrellis reminded council that the VCS awards would be held next Tuesday and asked them to attend if available.

R Balaban reminded council that the Student Teaching Awards were being held on Friday and asked them to attend if they could.

R Balaban informed council that there would be an International Enhancement Themes Conference in Glasgow 11th -13th June 2013.

6. Media Week Report

C. Angus delivered a report on Media Week to Council. J Harrison thanked Craig for organising what was a great event.

7. RAG Week report

J McGrellis informed council that the running total for RAG week was currently £4100. She then delivered a verbal report with a written report to follow at the next council meeting.

J McGrellis commented that the change in the week this year may have been detrimental to involvement as it was so close to the elections.

J McGrellis noted that she had been disappointed that more council members did not get involved.

A Deans asked if five charities were perhaps too many. J McGrellis responded that she felt that it was important to provide variation as people have different priorities on what kind of charities they support.

Discussion followed

Council thanked J McGrellis for her hard work and she in turn thanked everyone who had helped in the running of RAG Week in particular L. Graham (VP Student Support elect).

8. Lecture overflow and videolinking

R Balaban asked council for feedback on their experience with video linked lectures.

Discussion followed.

The overall response to experiences of videolinking was negative although it was commented that had improved, perhaps due to smaller class sizes as degree progresses.

9 John Mac Developments

J Harrison Informed council that it was intended that SVSS would move to ground floor of the John McIntyre Building as the first stage of reorganisation. The next stage would involve the move of all Advice Staff downstairs but there were concerns that the space available could be limited so this may be reviewed. Discussions with Sub City were also to be held with a view to them possibly moving part or all of their space upstairs. J Harrison commented that GUSRC were very unhappy with what appeared to be moves to relocate RIO in SRC space and it appeared that there may have been misinformation circulated regarding space availability in the building James Harrison has been in contact with A Allen to voice GUSRC's concerns.

Discussion followed and there was a strong consensus that GUSRC should seek to retain it's existing space allocation and it was important that the John McIntyre Building was identified as the "home" of GUSRC

10. AOCB

N Mosson raised that students studying away for a year were unable to stand for elections due to the current system of submitting and verifying nominations.

C Davies informed council that he had had a meeting with a senior staff member at Murano Street who said that First Year Reps had never contacted them before. He is hoping to hold a surgery at Murano Street and asked if council members would be able to attend, in particular Welfare Officers. He added that it might be useful to add contacting halls to the remit of First Year Reps. J Harrison agreed that it could be added, but pointed out that not all first years were staying at halls and it was essential

J Harrison will consult with other unions to find out how they deal with this issue

to reachout to all first years.

Discussion followed.

C Davies asked if Freshers' week could hold events aimed at home and halls students.

J Harrison responded that they were working with those involved with retention at the university who are looking at bringing in more engaging events. J McGrellis added that they needed to establish the kind of events that were desired.

Discussion followed.

C Angus raised that he had been approached by a home student who felt that it was harder for them to collect the required number of signatures to stand for election.

Discussion followed with the general opinion being that home students had ample opportunity to collect signatures at classes.

B O'Neill informed council that she had received complaints about exam halls being too cold.

L Johnstone informed council about a software system for surveys that allowed paper surveys to be scanned and results recorded quickly. The proportion of responses to online compared to paper surveys handed out at class are 30% completing online but 95% completing paper surveys. L Johnstone asked Council what their opinion on this software was. Council suggested that she should suggest that they ensure that paper used is recycled to ensure it was more environmentally friendly.

K Morrison has received a lot of complaints about accommodation and asked council if the SLAP awards were happening this year. J McGrellis confirmed that they would be.

Meeting concluded at 20:45

J Harrison will
contact Estates
and Buildings
and R Balaban
will take to LTC