

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 17th January 2013 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : T Hull, J Fyfe, C Brookes, D Lockhart, Opeula Odedina, Mehran Nasralla, K Main, K Morrison

Attending : T. Killean (Advice Centre)

1. WELCOME

2. Minutes of the Last meeting

Minutes of the previous council meeting were approved by Council.

D Mackay asked for an update on problem with Social Sciences recruiting reps outwith the SRC and agreed University parameters. J Harrison responded that he had been in contact via email but that Social Sciences disagreed with GUSRC's view. J Harrison will be aiming to set up a meeting and has spoken with the Senate office who share GUSRC's perspective. J Harrison stated that GUSRC would be acting on this and hopes that the issue will be resolved during this semester, but if it persists GUSRC will have no option but to raise the issue at a higher level in the University. To prevent this kind of problem J Harrison has discussed setting up meetings with staff reps from all schools to ensure they understand how SRC Representation works.

JH to look into setting up meetings with staff reps

3. Reports and updates

3.1 SRC President J Harrison

H Sneddon asked when Student Voice would be available to reps. J Harrison responded that it would be available from the 17th January for reps and the 21st January for students.

L Palmer asked if there was any update on the Bulgarian and Romanian student work permit situation; which can leave students waiting for up to 9 months before obtaining a permit– J McGrellis responded that GUSRC had been approached to sign a petition regarding this issue; J Harrison asked council if they would support the signing of this petition .Following a

discussion it was agreed that GUSRC should sign and support the aims of the petition.

L Wallace asked J Harrison about the outcome of his meeting with S Tuckwood who is the student member of the nursing review panel. J Harrison responded that S Tuckwood was generally positive about the options being discussed. The report is not yet complete.

JH will
feedback any
progress re
nursing
review report

3.2 VP Learning and Development – Razvan Balaban

D Walker asked for an update regarding the graduate attributes video. R Balaban responded that filming of the video would be taking place the following day.

T Hokkanen asked about his meeting with J McLellan regarding the future changes to MyCampus. R Balaban informed council that one point that had been discussed was looking at reducing the number of mouse clicks students would need to make during the enrolment process. Looking at changing how PGR students are categorised on MyCampus to improve how they can enrol on courses was also discussed. J Harrison added that now the report for the second year of MyCampus is complete they would be meeting with the MyCampus team in future to continue to work toward improving the services to students.

N Mosson asked for clarification GUSRCs opposition to new regulation on late submission proposed by the Academic Regulation Sub-Committee which would mean that students would receive a credit refusal if they submitted work after their class had received feedback. R Balaban responded that he spoke against this at the last meeting of Academic Standards Committee and the Education Policy and Strategy Committee as he felt a set time was more relevant.

R Balaban asked for some council members to get involved on the panel for agreeing the winners in the STA awards.

R Balaban highlighted that the University's intentions to make PhD research the IP of the university rather than the student were discussed at the Deans of Graduates Standards Committee. He added that he opposes this move away from the current opt in system. J Harrison noted that the majority of Russell Group universities now have similar policies, but added that GUSRC would be aiming to discuss the issue with PGR students to get their opinion on this matter.

PGR students
to be asked
opinion on
proposed
rules on IP

3.3 VP Student Support – Jess McGrellis

J McGrellis highlighted to council the success improving accessible formatting with the Disability Equality Group agreeing that there would now be guidelines circulated to staff and students. GUSRC would like this to go further with minimum standards being set; however J McGrellis is happy that this proposal is a step in the right direction.

J McGrellis highlighted to council that SSDC had agreed to support more social networking guidelines to combat bullying and harassment on facebook and other social networking sites as a result of feedback from student reps.

J McGrellis updated council on plans for RAG week, and asked council to consider getting involved. J McGrellis added that 'one dress one month' would be taking place in February and again encouraged council to take part.

J McGrellis informed council that she would be meeting with F Bell and P Challinor about international women's day, 8th March and asked council to help promote and get involved in this campaign.

T Hokkanen asked when the itinerary would be available for RAG week. J McGrellis responded that it would be a couple of weeks but offered to contact him with some of the current ideas and asked council to suggest any ideas to her.

JM to contact
TH with RAG
week plans

3.4 VP Media and Communications – Craig Angus

C Angus clarified on the outcome of his having to stand in for Charles Kennedy at the Rector's surgery (a member of C Kennedy's staff had been present to take notes).

The Palestine Society who had attended to discuss C Kennedy's comments on Question Time were quite unhappy with his absence but have since had email contact with C Kennedy regarding their concerns.

C Angus highlighted his meeting with Glasgow Gen/Media heads where they had been considering ways to make the Glasgow brand more attractive to students.

C Angus has met with University IT about new apps that can aid students. C Angus will discuss further with SRC IT Support G Reynolds.

CA to
discuss
apps with
GR

3.5 J Kempe

J Kempe asked if not publishing admission tariffs was allowed.. It was presumed that entry tariffs must be made public at some stage so prospective students can know what grades they need to achieve to receive an offer. J Harrison suggested that she seeks clarification on the issue from the other staff.

D Walker mentioned that they had not been allowed to sit in on discussions on admission policy. J Harrison asked council to inform him if they were being excluded in this way.

3.5 Murano Street Services Building

J Harrison informed council that he had been in contact with Glasgow Student Village and highlighted the fact that the refurbishment of the services building was still under construction and asked for some kind of compensation to students for this inconvenience. Consequently it was agreed to offer free use of laundry facilities for a limited time.

3.6 Conflict free minerals update

J McGrellis informed council that they had discussed this issue with the Principal and Senior Vice Principal who supported the idea and agreed to pass it on to D Newall. They are looking into any potential legal ramifications and contractual commitments; so as not to agree to anything that they cannot achieve. J McGrellis will keep council updated on any further progress.

JM to keep council updated on progress

4. Amendment to Schedule – Sabbatical Review

J Harrison asked council if they had any questions regarding the proposed changes to the schedule following the independent sabbatical review.

N Mosson questioned whether the naming of the position of VP Student Support and VP Student Activities might confuse students to thinking they were the same position. J Harrison pointed out that the job descriptions would be well advertised and that GUSRC would put every effort into ensuring that students understood the different roles available.

D Walker asked the sabbatical officers how they felt about the proposed changes. They responded that they supported the changes.

L Wallace asked for clarification as to whether VP Student Activities would be the new VP Media & Communications. J Harrison pointed out that while some of the duties may be similar, they would be taking on a range of responsibilities currently sitting with other sabbatical posts. Some of the current Media and Communications responsibilities would be dispersed amongst GUSRC staff. Further the media often sought management support from the staff and working with them would not constitute a large part of the workload for the VP Student Activities.

A Deans asked how the amendment would be communicated to the student body if approved. J Harrison responded that a statement had been drafted and would be posted online if approved. He added that there would also be publicity and clear job descriptions available on each post once election nominations open.

D Mackay asked why the consultation did not involve speaking with the non executive council. J Harrison responded that as the change, in the main related the VP Media and Communications role which is not directly involved with the non executive council, and that the proposed change had been outlined in GUSRC's strategic plan.. C Angus added that logistically it would have been very difficult to talk to everyone and select who was going to be involved.

L Wallace commented that VP Student Activities could be particularly beneficial for the volunteering service.

D Walker asked when it would come into effect. J Harrison confirmed that it would be at the Spring 2013 elections.

L Palmer asked what the role of VP Student Support would involve when some of its tasks were being moved to VP Student Activities. J McGrellis pointed out that Student Support still had a busy role even after passing some tasks to Student Activities. J Harrison added that the new roles would be more balanced in terms of workload than they are currently.

B Hay added that despite the job titles, responsibilities would be shared.

D Walker asked if there was scope for the new role of Student Activities to join committees. J Harrison responded that there were committees that they would attend bringing a lot more representation to the role.

A vote was taken on the proposed changes. A unanimous majority voted in favour and the changes were passed.

5. Library Seating

J Harrison informed council that he had been emailed by the Library staff about a proposed campaign to shame students into not leaving their bags to keep study space reserved at the library. J Harrison asked Council's thoughts on the proposed campaign that would involve posters and leaflets with messages such as 'you're out of order', 'it is not okay', 'this is not your desk' etc.

Discussion followed and a number of points were raised regarding library workspace.

It was suggested that the automatic log out may have been reduced to 10 minutes which was considered to be too short.

It was pointed out that there was a lack of power points for laptops.

It was suggested that better advertisement of other computer clusters could alleviate the problem somewhat.

It was noted that in general there were less out of order computers than last year

It was suggested that better signposting to level 3 quick turnaround cluster could be helpful.

It was questioned why there were computer rooms in the library that were closed off to students and suggested that they be made available.

JH will investigate if automatic log out has been reduced to 10 mins

JH will suggest promotion of other computer clusters at next library committee

6. Achievements and Goals 2012/13

There was a short breakout session asking council to consider what council members/SRC has achieved in the last six months and what they wish to achieve in the next six months.

7. Media Week

C Angus reminded council that it was media week the following week and asked for help with promotions and putting up posters around campus and for help handing out the program of events on Monday.

8. Joint Boards – Election

Elections were held for council members to take GUSRC's place on the joint boards of institutions that have joint courses with the University of Glasgow. The places were on the joint boards for Christies Education, and the Scottish Agricultural College.

Christies education – Paul Challinor elected unopposed

Scottish Agricultural College – Ailsa Deans elected unopposed

JH will
forward SRC
email
contacts to
Senate Office

9. AOCB

Post 16 Response - J Harrison highlighted the draft copy of the Post 16 response that had been circulated to council and asked council if they were happy with the response. No objections were raised.

Change to Clubs and Socs Handbook - J McGrellis informed council that she intended to change the clubs and socs handbook to make it essential that all club committee members be registered students (with the exception of past president and honorary positions).

D Mackay asked if clubs that were affiliated to charities would be affected. J McGrellis responded that they would not as long as they were led by University of Glasgow students at club level.

N Mosson asked if any clubs had a majority of non student members. J McGrellis responded that all clubs must have 80% University of Glasgow membership.

L Wallace asked if students who dropped out or suspended studies would have to resign their position on the committee. J McGrellis responded that students who suspended their studies would still be considered students and would therefore not have to resign, but those that dropped out altogether probably would have to resign.

Council Hoodies - J Harrison reminded council that the council hoodies had arrived and could be collected at the end of the meeting.

Threatened Closure of Research Station at Millport - H Macfarlane informed council that the Millport research station, which was an invaluable resource of research for Marine and Fresh Water courses was under threat of closure. J Harrison informed council that he had spoken to the Principal

JM to keep
council
informed via
facebook

about this matter but as the station is not owned by the university it is not their responsibility. There are concerns in the university that the Scottish government could mandate that it be taken on by a Scottish institution but the university do not want to take on the expense would be too high. The Principal assured that alternative locations would be used if required. D Walker commented that there were no comparable locations that could provide the same research.

Campus Masterplan - J Harrison informed council that Ann Allen would attend the next meeting to update council on the campus masterplan.

Lack of Flexibility in PGT Courses - L Feng raised that PGT students were unable to switch courses when undergraduate students had flexibility to do so.

JH to ask why there is no flexibility in PGT courses.

Meeting concluded at 08:40