

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18th April AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : M Nasralla, L Wallace, T Hull, F Grier, L Jamieson,
C Meehan, C Davies, M Poliacek, R Hirsch, K Morrison
G Tulloch

Attending : H T Chan, J Williamson, O Coombs, B O'Connor,
L. Graham, G Reynolds

1. WELCOME

J Harrison welcomed council to the last council meeting of the academic year.

2. Minutes of the Last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by council.

2.1 Matters Arising

J Harrison updated council on election nominations stating that he had contacted other student organisations in the Russell Group and that most of those who responded worked with a system of online forms and that some did not require sponsors. J Harrison suggested that it may be beneficial to develop a similar system in place for next year's Spring elections.

Regarding the heating in exam halls J Harrison advised he had not yet been in contact with Estates and Buildings. B O'Neill confirmed that it was the John McIntyre Hall which had caused complaints.

3. Reports and updates

3.1 SRC President J Harrison's Report

Regarding the IT Services Review and the development of apps; M Clark highlighted that, from taking part in the Oracle focus group, it seemed to him that the product being developed by the University essentially does the same thing as the Oracle product. M Clark was concerned as it appears that

**JH will
contact IT
services to
investigate**

The University are paying twice for the same thing.

J Harrison Highlighted to those members of council who have a place on Senate that attending the June meeting would be particularly important as a vote on the new structure of Senate would be taking place.

N Mosson asked if SRC members would have voting rights on this issue. J Harrison responded that he would need to clarify matters as there had been some ambiguity in the past.

D Mackay asked if J Harrison's meeting with J Aitken regarding student reps and reserved business had had an impact. J Harrison responded that J Aitken had raised it at Senate as a direct result of that meeting. J Aitken will be contacting all appropriate members of staff to remind them that student representatives are full members of committees, should be on the committees and should not be asked to leave for reserved business. He added that he had been sent a list with all the different college committees and noted that some did not have the student rep listed. This document is going to be edited and returned with the student reps added where appropriate.

D Walker commented on the misinformation that many staff members provide regarding class reps.

Q - J Kempe asked J Harrison why students who were members of two schools could not vote in both. J Harrison responded that each student could only have one vote for a school rep to ensure fairness.

3.2 SRC VP Student Support, J McGrellis' Report – No comments or Questions

3.3 SRC VP Learning and Development, R Balaban's Report

R Balaban highlighted his involvement in the Learning and Teaching Committee and a new policy on exam feedback currently under development

R Balaban informed council that he had had complaints from Bulgarian Students regarding the new policy on admissions which had significantly increased the level of qualifications needed for entry. R Balaban has met with R Gordon from RIO and it was agreed that the requirement would be reduced from a grade 6 to 5.8.

JH will investigate if GUSRC on senate have a vote on new structure

R Balaban will email council with details of policy

O Coombs asked if in terms of feedback it would still not be possible to get your exam mark. R Balaban confirmed that an exam grade would not be given.

3.4 SRC VP Media and Communications, C Angus' Report

C Angus highlighted the success of GUST at the NaSTA awards where they won Best Video-to-Music Award and were highly commended for the award of best broadcaster, with them being rated second in the UK.

There was a round of applause from Council on their success.

C Angus informed council that he had started looking at the branding for Freshers' Week 2013.

3.5 Update on John McIntyre Building

J Harrison informed council that the department of RIO would be moving into the John McIntyre Building downstairs (R 210). He added that this was temporary and had been approved by GUSRC. Any other changes would also need to be approved by GUSRC.

J Harrison advised that further talks had been held with E&B concerning GUSRC frontline services. Currently priority consideration was being given to relocation of SVSS downstairs.

3.6 Freshers Helper Applications

J Harrison informed council that Freshers Helper applications were now available and asked council members to get involved, especially if on council next year.

3.7 Scottish Water Update

J Harrison has heard back from Scottish Water who have confirmed that they are not going to be charging students but rather the businesses who run Halls of Residence. Scottish Water accept that students may end up paying more as a result of this. J Harrison does not think this is acceptable and is currently considering how to challenge this further.

Discussion followed.

3.8 Student Teaching Awards

R Balaban informed council that there had been a total of 764 nominations

(592 UG, 172 PG) but noted that the majority had been submitted in semester one. Going forward he suggested that there should be better promotion of the awards in semester 2.

Council applauded R Balaban on holding the STAs

3.9 Staff Changes

J Harrison advised that Neal Juster had been announced as the new Senior Vice Principal following Andrea Nolan's appointment as Principal of Edinburgh Napier University

Within the SRC J Harrison notified council that H Speirs would be covering M Taylor's maternity leave in the Equality and Diversity unit.

4. RAG Week

J McGrellis informed council that the grand total raised had been £4124.15.

5. Roles of Council Members

J McGrellis asked for feedback and comments on the document on the role of council members that she had produced.

D Mackay suggested that it would be beneficial to have the facebook page set up earlier in the year

HT Chan commented that better contact with newly elected representatives would be productive.

N Mosson suggested that it be compulsory that Council members be freshers helpers.

There were a range of views expressed. J Harrison concluded that having an opt out system would be the most sensible way forward although it would be impractical to introduce it until 2014. However J McGrellis agreed to contact newly elected Council members for 2013/14 to inform them about Freshers' Helping.

N Mosson asked J McGrellis for clarification of how many meetings were implied by 'meeting regularly with members of the Executive' J McGrellis responded that it was difficult to mandate that as it would depend upon the work being undertaken by the council members.

J Kempe suggested that there be a minimum number of meetings set. J Harrison responded that this may be too rigid an approach.

D Walker commented that it would be good to be able to contact council over Student Voice. J McGrellis agreed that this would be a matter for future discussion

There was agreement that members should be required to submit regular reports though the frequency was yet to be determined.

Discussion followed

7. AOCB

J Harrison reminded council that if they were contacted by student media that they contact the SRC President before commenting And all contact with non campus media should be by and through the President.

J Harrison informed council about the upcoming Annual Council Dinner.

L Johnstone asked council to take forward the idea of a puppy room during exam times. She had contacted guide dog training but had not response yet.

L Johnstone raised the idea of hot water fountains for making tea. J McGrellis was happy to take these suggestions into consideration for next year.

L Stockwell raised concerns about the poster advertising for Freshers' Helpers .Discussion followed. There was consensus to revise the design.

L Palmer – Conflict Minerals

L Palmer asked if there had been any progress on this issue.

D Mackay responded that it had been mentioned at court but he could not remember the details but no decision had been taken as yet. J Harrison added that the details of what was said would be within the court minute and that they would contact D Newall to remind him about the issue. J McGrellis added that they would be highlighting the issue on the campaigns page.

J McGrellis thanked James for all his hard work over the year.

L Johnstone thanked A Bankier for taking the minutes of all the council meetings over the year.

Meeting concluded at 8. 15pm