

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : C Meehan, S Law, N Llamas-Gomez, G Tulloch,
K McEwan, S Liu, J Harrison, E Zilberter

Attending : R Balaban

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

Public Lectures - B O'Connor updated council on the public lectures informing council that the titles were not yet confirmed and adding that she would circulate the details when they are.

Grade Transfers - J McGrellis updated council on the issues associated with grade transfers in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences. The University calendar advised that the process should be agreed by the Learning and Teaching Committee. J McGrellis asked council members to notify her if they were aware of specific examples where problems had arisen.

Class Rep Lists - J McGrellis informed council that they should have all been contacted with the lists of relevant class reps.

Email Addresses - J McGrellis updated council on the progress and difficulties in setting up SRC email addresses for General and First Year reps.

Lecture Theatre - J McGrellis advised there was nothing confirmed for a new lecture theatre behind the library, but it has been identified as a potential position for the building of a new lecture theatre if required in the short term.

2. Reports

2.1 J McGrellis – SRC President

HT Chan commented experienced difficulties when trying to book a room through central timetabling. It appears this is due to the 'drop down' list of

clubs on the form not being updated.

J McGrellis confirmed that this was a known problem and that GUSRC Considered central timetabling to be providing a very poor level of service

H Gower asked if she could be updated regarding aspects of J McGrellis' meeting with the University on Outcome Agreements - particularly in relation to MD20/40 retention and nursing.

J McGrellis responded that this related to widening participation targets and Scottish Funding Council resource allocation. MD 20/40 students are those from deprived areas and the university has been successful in recruiting from these groups. However, there appears to be issues around retention associated with MD 20/40 students and the university is looking at how this can be improved.

The provision Nursng Programmes and the ongoing partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University remain as matters of ongoing consideration.

JM to meet with HG and OC in coming year

2.2 - Louise Graham VP Student Support

L Graham updated council on the Support for Carers Advisory Strategy Group. The University of Glasgow is the first UK institution to develop a carers policy; the policy itself was developed by the SRC. Consequently SRC reps had been invited to participate in this group which was in the process of finalising a national policy for FE Colleges. The intention was to launch the policy in late spring.

L Graham informed council that her meeting with corporate comms was positive and they had agreed to publicise events such as Welfare Week.

L Graham informed council that at the Personal Safety Coordination Group it had been revealed that housebreakings are down but there has been a tenfold increase in bicycle theft. Bike marking is going to be made available, and other preventative measures such as hologram stickers of eyes will be used.

HT Chan suggested that L Graham get in touch with the GU bike users group.

Discussion followed

M Harris commented that there had been a number of mobile phones stolen from Viper nightclub.

H Gower asked L Graham to explain more regarding the SALT meeting and Mental Health Policy.

L Graham responded that GUSRC have finally received guidelines from Counselling Service to augment the SRC developed policy. The policy and guidelines will be submitted to the Student Support Development Committee in January.

D Mackay asked if there had been a higher uptake on attack alarms following the rape in the woodlands area.

LG to tweet about alarms

L Graham responded that The Advice Centre had seen increased interest in the alarms.

2.3 Oli Coombs – VP Education

O Coombs thanked those members of council who attended committee meetings.

N McComb asked what librarygame is.

O Coombs responded that it is a game that aims to encourage engagement with the library amongst students. A soft launch of the game will be available to council members in January. Interested council members were encouraged to speak with Oli if they would like to see where the development is at present.

OC will arrange for the library to give a demonstration in January

Discussion followed.

V Shankar asked for further explanation on the abstract to LT Conference in April.

OC will circulate abstract to council

O Coombs will circulate the abstract to Council.

2.4 B O'Connor – VP Student Activities

B O'Connor updated council on GUSH, informing them that they had relocated around 50 metres down the street from where they had previously been located. The new location is still under review and they also hope to enlist police input regarding safety check on the new site.

B O'Connor informed council that there would be a survey on the needs and

problems of clubs and socs in regards to room bookings and equipment. It is hoped that this will be done by easter.

2.5 G Masiulyte – Charities Clubs and Socs Officer.

G Masiulyte highlighted the upcoming Stars and Stripes night that would take place the following Wednesday.

2.6 L King – Sexual Orientation Equality Officer

L King confirmed that it had been agreed that the south front of the university would be lit up in red on the 1st December and that a red ribbon open mic night would be held in the GUU on the 29th November and Stand Tall get Snapped should be confirmed soon.

B O'Connor added that she would be promoting the event on facebook and asked council members to get involved with fundraising on the night.

BO will promote on facebook

2.7 N Mosson – UG Arts Convenor

N Mosson highlighted changes in attendance requirements in Arts honours students. N Mosson would like to discuss with O Coombs and other college convenors.

N Mosson to forward minutes of meeting to OC

Discussion followed.

V Shankar asked for clarification on her MVLS Programme Approval Group meeting.

N Mosson responded that she sat on the MVLS programme approval group and new courses were approved, she clarified that you can't sit on PAG in your own college.

2.8 Amy Connor – School Rep Chemistry

Informed council that she had succeeded in having the staff student meeting moved forward to December from January.

A Connor highlighted problems with access to relevant computer clusters as the some essential software is only installed on six computers and the room where they are kept had been booked out.

AC to keep council updated on how this develops

2.9 F O'Donnell – School rep SMLC

F O'Donnell informed council that prohibiting the use of English language

dictionaries in exams for those students whose first language is not English was discussed. At present students are required to submit their dictionaries to the school 24 hours in advance of their exam and the lecturers are then required to carry the dictionaries to the exam halls. The situation as it stands is problematic for both staff and students.

OC will meet with FO to discuss taking to LTC

Discussion followed.

2.10 H Gower – School Rep Medicine

H Gower informed council that she had been asked to highlight to those council members who sit on Appeals Committee that the SoM UG degrees require 100% attendance as part of the professionalism requirement of the course.

H Gower asked for clarification on the Wednesday Sports that was approved by senate in light of 100% attendance requirement.

OC responded that Wednesday sports were a recommendation, but not a requirement.

2.11 H Roberts – School Rep Humanities

H Roberts informed council at the Hunterian Development Board improvement of student engagement and working with GUSRC to achieve this would be desirable.

JM and HR to arrange meeting with D Gaimster

Discussion followed.

2.12 S Farrer

With reference to O Coombs report from the LTC that noted that all surveys would be administered by the Planning Office, S Farrer highlighted that at a meeting with the school of law it had been discussed that participation in student survey's had been very low in 2012/13 and they were looking at ways of improving this. S Farrer asked if the change highlighted in O Coombs' report would affect this.

O Coombs did not think that this change would include school level surveys.

2.13 A Deery – General Representative

A Deery suggested a change of location for the STA stall in the Fraser Building.

JM will pass on the details of who to contact to

arrange relocation

2.14 A Xu – PG Social Science Convenor

A Xu informed council about problems voiced to her by students in the business school regarding the unavailability of essential textbooks.

AX to talk with MK about book availability

2.15 O Mooney – General Representative

O Mooney highlighted an issue with SAAS applications and joint Scottish and Irish nationals.

OC will contact SAAS

Discussion followed.

2.16 A Vincett – UG MVLS Convenor

A Vincett highlighted campaign against homophobia and asked if GUSRC were involved.

AV to speak with LG & LK

B O'Connor asked council members to put full names rather than just acronyms in their reports to ensure it was clear what was being talked about.

3 – Sabbatical Action Plans

The sabbatical officers delivered short presentations to council on their plans for the coming year and answered questions.

3.1 – O Coombs VP Education

O Coombs was asked how in depth the examination feedback would be.

O Coombs responded that this was the greatest challenge and the responsibility would be devolved to individual schools. Course handbooks should explain the kind of feedback that will be given on assignments.

V Shankar commented that she had not yet received the class rep list for pgts.

JM will check that list was sent to VS

V Shankar informed council that on one of the courses no students were

willing to take on the role of class rep (there are only four student on the course). The course administrator has stated that they are happy to fulfil the role and V Shankar asked if this was normal.

O Coombs responded that this was not appropriate as class representatives must be students.

OC to talk
with VS

3.2 – L Graham VP Student Support

H Gower asked if GUSRC would be trying to raise awareness of established support groups such as the Starfish Group during Welfare Week?

L Graham responded that they don't have any specific events planned with such groups in relation to Welfare Week. Adding that the focus of Welfare Week is mostly on stress and anxiety.

3.3 – B O'Connor – VP Student Activities

K Raison suggested circulating an email to all Clubs and Societies for RAG events.

B O'Connor responded that once the branding is completed she will be able to contact clubs to arrange for fundraising events to be branded as RAG events.

F O'Donnell suggested that it would be useful if B O'Connor liaised with the School of Modern Languages and Culture and Societies such as the Hispanic society regarding Culture Club events.

3.3 – J McGrellis – SRC President

O Mooney asked for details on the electoral nominations.

J McGrellis responded that nominations had to be submitted over one hour long period on the 21st January.

Nominations must be approved by 10 students and there must be a signed letter of consent from the nominee.

I Mitev suggested it might be useful to contact political societies and departments to raise interest.

N Mosson suggested speaking with the other student bodies to encourage

them to promote interest.

J McGrellis reminded council that GUSRC remained impartial in these elections, unlike the other student bodies who usually back a candidate.

N Mosson raised that she had some comments regarding elections and study abroad students.

J McGrellis was asked if she had an update on the council tax box visibility.

J McGrellis asked council to feedback on action plans

4. Physics and Astronomy Careers

B O'Connor updated council on the issue of careers talks in the School of Physics and Astronomy. B O'Connor had contacted the Careers Service and they have agreed to make changes and from next year will invite 3rd and 4th year students to attend the talks with a greater focus on inviting 3rd years going forward. This is only for the School of Physics and Astronomy at the moment.

B O'Connor asked council to get in touch if they hear of any similar situations in other schools.

Discussion followed.

5. Exam timetabling

O Coombs updated council on the paper he presented to SSDC and the working group that is being set up as a result. The aim is to create a policy that prevents students having to, for example, sit 3 exams in 2 days.

O Coombs commented that they are still looking for staff members from Arts and Science and Engineering to join the group and asked council to suggest suitable candidates.

O Coombs asked council to comment

H Gower asked if the policy would apply to all Schools. O Coombs responded that the medical school had not been factored in to the paper.

N Mosson suggested that section B part a) >50% be changed to $\geq 50\%$.

F O'Donnell asked if it would apply to honours exams that occur outwith the exam period. O Coombs responded that he expected it would apply to all exams.

NM will speak with JM

JM will check

BO to investigate if this would work for other schools

Discussion followed

O Coombs asked council for their opinion on Saturday exams.

Discussion followed and potential problems identified were –

- further problems with scheduling.
- other commitments at weekends over and above jobs.
- loss of money if working.

O Coombs asked council to consider the idea of allocating some exam halls on five one hour slots opposed to three three hour slots.

Discussion followed and potential problems identified were –

- Problems catering for students with special requirements in limited timeslot.
- More risk of concentration of exams in one day.

6. College and School Committees

O Coombs reminded college convenors and school representatives that they should be invited to sit on various committees such as LTCs and SSLCs and asked them to let him know if this is not happening.

O Coombs suggested council refer to the senate office guide to student representation as back up of their claim to sit on these committees.

F O'Donnell informed council that he had been contacted by a class representative who had been shouted at by a member of staff in a meeting.

O Coombs reminded council members to ensure they read the papers if they are going to attend a committee meeting.

6. Student Voice

O Coombs asked council for feedback on Student Voice ahead of a meeting with the Senate Office to feedback.

Discussion Followed with the following being suggested.

- Tutorials on how to use the site would be useful, both online and in person.
- PR on Student Voice is needed to students and class reps

OC to post
link on
facebook

FO will
contact OC
regarding
incident

- More more efficient flagging of messages.
- Easier to access different subjects within each school
- Better labelled links
- Messages going to src address rather than personal address

JM will pass on contact details to FO

F O'Donnell asked if there was a way to change his display name. J McGrellis responded that this can be changed.

7. 2nd Strike

J McGrellis informed council that there was a second day of strike action planned by the UCU for the 3rd December. J McGrellis has contacted the university about poor communications regarding the closure of the library and does not expect that would be repeated. J McGrellis highlighted that there were graduations scheduled for that day.

JM to ask that staff let students know if classes are to be cancelled

Discussion followed and concerns were raised over

- Rescheduling of classes in the run up to exams.
- Communication of disruption between staff and students.
- Loss of money from travelling in to find there are no classes on.

O Schafer commented that he believed that there were lab exams scheduled to take place on that day

JM will look into that

O Coombs asked council if they were still happy to support the strike if GUSRC requests better communication about disruption from both the university, and between staff and students, council did not object to this.

C Davies raised concerns over having contradictory statements pro and against in the statement.

N McComb reminded council that ultimately, disruption was a key driver of strike action.

J McGrellis will draft a statement to be posted on the facebook page for comment and approval of Council in light of the discussion prior to its release

8. Reminders

STAs - O Coombs thanked those council members who had helped with the

STA stall and asked council to promote them further with lecture shout outs. He informed council that the date of the awards had been changed to the 14th March.

Global Enterprise Week – B O'Connor asked council to continue to promote Global Enterprise Week which still had two remaining events.

Welfare Week – L Graham asked council to continue online promotion and to attend as many of the events that they can. She also asked for council members to help put together the stress packs on Monday.

Movember – B O'Connor asked council to keep 'liking' on facebook to help promote events.

9. AOCB

N Duffy-Welsh suggested council news bulletins could be posted on the SRC screens with subtitles after each meetings.

JM will look into this

I Mitev asked the First Year reps to further publicise his surgery amongst first years under 18.

M Harris asked how best to contact the study abroad team . J McGrellis suggested that if they were not responding to email that she should knock on their door.

H Gower informed council that she had been asked to sit on a consultation with Athena Swan and wanted some guidance from GUSRC.

HG to meet with LG

C Davies asked if it would be possible for there to be a council secret santa.

JM to arrange secret santa

Meeting concluded at 21.20