

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

- Present** : As per sederunt sheets
- Apologies** : C. Fraser, A. Adesina, M. Nasralla, M. Poliacek,
K. Main
- Attending** : S. Black (PG Development Officer),
H. Speirs (Advice Centre)
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1. WELCOME

Apologies/Sederunt

2. Council were asked to supply updated personal contact details.

3. Introduction to Council

3.1 Council Procedure

J Harrison outlined council procedures to council such as the submission of their reports and access to their emails and highlighted the facilities available to them in the council office.

3.2 Council Reports

J Harrison asked Council if there were any particular aspects of their reports that they wished to highlight. R. Balaban promoted an upcoming event being run with the careers service and asked council members to contact him if they wanted to get involved.

There were no questions from Council regarding any of the reports.

4. Presentation

H Speirs gave a presentation to council on who's who at Glasgow University and the SRC's role on committees.

Q - D. Mackay asked if the places of the unfilled PG College Convenors could be replaced with other council members on Senate. J Harrison responded that these seats on senate were reserved specifically for those

positions so could not be filled by anyone else.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the previous council meeting on 19th April were approved.

4.1 Matters Arising

MyCampus update – J Harrison has informed SLSD on the issues that were raised and they are looking into them but have yet to report back. J Harrison commented that the further development of MyCampus would be shaped by the consultation on year two which will be taking place in the near future.

Marches - J Harrison informed council that the deadline for responses was the 26th October.

5. Freshers' Week Report

R Balaban delivered his report on Freshers' Week 2012, and thanked the freshers' helpers for all their hard work and GUST for helping with technical difficulties. He highlighted the success of using room 201 for some of the events and noted that they had been well attended.

A difficulty on the first day of Freshers' Week was the very long queues to purchase photographs and R Balaban suggested that this is an issue that could be looked at in future.

Q - L Wallace asked if it would be possible for GUSRC to organise for photos to be taken and printed out for a small fee. J Harrison advised that this would be considered for next year

Q – O Stearn asked if there were any plans to review the costs of the Freshers' Passes as he understood that the price was quite high.

R. Balaban responded that as Freshers' week this was an issue that could be discussed at the next cross-campus meeting. B Hay added that the income was split with the SRC and GUSA both receiving 17% each and the two unions receiving 33% each and consequently any price change would have to be agreed by the cross-campus committee.

Q – Leo (Z Feng) asked if there were any questionnaire's for those students who attended freshers' week. R Balaban confirmed that there had been and that they had had the highest response from freshers' to date and that the

RB Freshers' Week questionnaire data to be analysed and reported back to Council.

data would be analysed and the reported back to council.

Leo commented that he felt that Freshers' week was lacking in events focused on postgraduate and international students. R Balaban commented that there were events that were targeted for international students and J Harrison added that they would hope to have more events focused on postgraduates in future, with The Gilchrist postgraduate club providing the venue.

C Angus agreed that more could be done and that he would raise this issue at the next cross-campus meeting.

Discussion followed on issues encountered by students staying at home and the high cost of Freshers' week, and difficulties encountered by students at Garscube in getting to the events.

M. Clark suggested that some kind of filter on events search would be useful for locating events that suit the individual. C Angus commented that it would be possible to implement this kind of thing in the new website.

6. Reports and Updates

6.1 Welfare Week – Jess McGrellis (VP Student Support)

J. McGrellis informed council that with the change of name from Positivity Week to Welfare week the remit had also changed slightly. The main themes are to be physical, mental and financial welfare. J McGrellis informed council of a variety of events and workshops that will be held throughout the week (12th -15th November) and asked council to sign up on a sheet that was circulated if they were interested in getting involved.

Q - L Wallace asked where the nightline stall would be set up. J McGrellis responded that the stalls would be set up in the Fraser Building with each day focusing on a different cause.

Q - J Kempe asked if there was a schedule available. J McGrellis responded that details would be sent out and posted on facebook.

J Harrison asked council if they were happy with the events proposed and to inform them of any issues they might have.

Q - M Clark asked if the healthy eating would only be offered in the Fraser Building. J McGrellis was not sure and would check but as far as she was aware it would be limited to the Fraser Building.

C Angus to raise at cross-campus that more effort should be made to cater for International and pg students.

JM will investigate if healthy eating menu restricted to Fraser Building.

Q - A. Dean raised that the sexualisation of breast cancer publicity is becoming an issue and one that could arise.

Q - O. Stearn asked if there were any discussions with the university about what they can do to promote welfare in the university.

J McGrellis responded that there was a new mental health working group that will be looking to create new mental health student guidelines and that that GUSRC also worked with the University on a broad range of Welfare associated initiatives.

6.2 Language Cafe – Jess McGrellis (VP Student Support)

J McGrellis informed council that I Macdonald (SVSS coordinator) is looking for volunteers for Language Cafe, and the Conversational English programme and asked council members to contact him if they are able to volunteer.

N. Mosson responded that she could try and publicise the opportunity within the School of Modern Languages and Culture as many in the school have experience in teaching english.

J McGrellis encouraged council to 'like' Language Cafe on facebook.

6.3 Nursing – James Harrison (SRC President)

J Harrison updated council on the Nursing review. The situation has changed with the Scottish government asking nursing schools at different institutions to collaborate more closely. The consultation has now closed and the University of Glasgow Nursing School will be in discussions with Caledonian University on ways that they can work together. What this will involve is unclear at present but they have been tasked to provide three options which will be taken to both court and senate for deliberation. As GUSRC have representatives on both court and senate, council will be kept up to date on the development of this. In the meantime J Harrison has been keeping in contact with M Sneddon (Head of the Nursing School).

D Walker asked for some clarification on whether working together with Caledonian would result in a cut in student numbers. L Wallace advised that she understands the University is perceived as producing too many nurses. J Harrison added that there had been a 10% cut in the number of government funded places for nursing at the University but the implications for Glasgow are not yet clear.

**N Mosson
will
publicise
within
School of
Mod.
Languages**

6.4 QMU Review – James Harrison (SRC President)

J Harrison informed council that the QMU's finances and operations are currently under review by the University. The university have halted the second instalment of their block grant, however it has not yet been made clear when this instalment will be paid.

6.5 Wednesday Afternoons

J Harrison updated council on the policy to keep Wednesday afternoons free from classes. This policy had been agreed in principle but is not being implemented in practice with a huge number of classes being scheduled for this time. J Harrison has submitted a paper to the next Student Support Development Committee (SSDC) asking for the university to act on making the policy more effective.

L Wallace asked if the scheduled classes included tutorials and seminars. J Harrison confirmed that it did.

Comments from Hollie Sneddon, Hayley Macfarlane and Calum Brookes highlighted the difficulty in implementing such a scheme within the science based subjects where they generally have a very full schedule of classes every day.

J McGrellis asked if it was the case that all science students in a class would be assigned classes on a Wednesday afternoon or if it was only some. The response indicated that there was no clear rationale for deciding who had classes on Wednesday afternoon and who didn't.

6.6 Student Teaching Awards – Razvan Balaban (VP Learning & Development)

R. Balaban explained the STAs to council and provided details of when the nominations for these awards open (19th November – 18th February). R Balaban asked council to get involved in the working group and circulated a signup sheet.

6.7 GU Confessions

J McGrellis informed council about facebook pages 'GU Confessions' that was using the university logo with often offensive messages posted. GUSRC have informed Corporate Communications and they are in the process of getting the pages taken down. Discussion followed with agreement that contacting the university and ensuring the pages were removed was a positive move.

7. Constitution

James outlined all the changes that were proposed for the constitution.

- Constitution will now allow for Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) rather than only Extraordinary Council Meetings (ECM).
- PG convenors will now only need six sponsors to stand for election rather than fifteen.
- Returning officer to be given final discretion in election matters.
- Campaigning with mobile polling stations is now explicitly prohibited in the constitution in addition to being in the election guidelines.
- Manifesto word limits have increased from 300 to 500 for sabbatical positions and from 150 to 200 for non-sabbatical positions.
- Autumn elections to have yes/no vote in uncontested positions.
- For sabbatical officer elections in spring there will be an option to re-open nominations even where the positions are contested.
- The Crichton University Campus Students Association (CUCSA) now have an ex-officio council seat and can attend meetings.
- The Gilchrist PG space has been added to the list of services provided by GUSRC.

Comments were invited from council by J Harrison.

C Meehan asked for clarification on the use of mobile devices for voting. J Harrison confirmed that students could vote from these devices but could not canvass for votes using them.

D Mackay asked if there was any alteration in the procedure in calling for emergency council meetings, commenting that the long notice was contradictory to there being an emergency. B Hay pointed out that a minimum of one week's notice would allow more council members to attend, preventing decisions being taken by a small group of council members at short notice.

L Wallace asked for clarification of the difference between an EGM and an ECM. J Harrison clarified that EGM would be open to all students to debate whereas an ECM would be open to Council for discussion.

A Westwell asked if the specific number of students required to call a EGM was stated within the constitution. J Harrison pointed out that the number could not be included as the number of students at the university was not static. B Hay advised that the last EGM had around 2300 signatures.

C Davies pointed out minor grammatical errors.

- Number mistake on page 8 where it goes from 14.12 to 14.7.
- Page 14 fullstop added after permitted and capital letter has been removed.

Council voted unanimously in favour of the constitutional changes.

8. Breakout Session – My Campus Year 2 Review

J Harrison asked council to split into groups to discuss one of six themes. J Harrison will circulate the results to council.

JH to circulate results of breakout session online.

9. The Gilchrist PG Club

S. Black updated council on the upcoming opening and events at The Gilchrist.

Leo asked if an email would be circulated to all PG students with all the information on the opening. S Black confirmed

H Macfarlane asked what the opening hours. S. Black confirmed it would be 10am – 11pm Mon-Sat and 12 – 11pm Sun

D Walker asked if alumni were going to be able to use the PG space. B Hay responded that alumni will not have access in general terms but they may have the opportunity to use the space for specific events.

L Wallace asked if clubs and societies would be able to use the space. S Black responded that the space would be limited for use by postgraduate students and would not be available for UG club use.

10. Committee Elections

The following council members were elected by a show of hands.

COMMITTEE	ELECTED
Academic Dress	Calum Brookes
Health Safety and Wellbeing	Frances Bell
Court	Donald Mackay
Senate	Natalie Mosson Donald Mackay Dave Walker

	Topi Hokkanen
Learning and Teaching	Laura Stockwell Hayley Macfarlane Lucy Johnstone
Senate Student Conduct	Cal Davies Kirsty Morrison Lynsey Wallace
Student Support Development Committee	Hollie Sneddon
Library	Lauren Jamieson
Hunterian Strategic Development Board	Fraser Grier
Religion and Belief Equality Group	Beth O'Neill
Research Development Committee	Zhu (Leo) Feng
Deans of Graduate Studies	Zhu (Leo) Feng

11. AOCB

- **G Hope** updated council on the poppy ragraid appeal (Edinburgh, 3rd November) and asked for council to volunteer or promote the opportunity to their friends to help raise funds and retain the trophy. J McGrellis added that she would also be looking for help with fundraising on campus.
G Hope also highlighted that she had been talking to Kirsteen Fraser who is raising money for cash for kids and the details are yet to be confirmed but help with ideas for this would also be appreciated.
- **J Harrison** informed Council about the Remembrance Day service on the 11th November where council members traditionally take part in the procession in their gowns. J Harrison will put a message out on Facebook with details and asked council members to confirm as soon as contacted to confirm numbers with the organisers.
- **B Hay** informed council that GUSRC reception would be moving downstairs and outlined the details of the expanded service that would be provided by GUSRC admin staff at the new Welcome Point. He added that during the move, the SRC reception would be closed for three days (31st Oct, 1st & 2nd November).
- **C Meehan** informed council about concerns over the renovation of George Square and that this would cause problems for marches due to the length of time it would be closed to the public. J McGrellis would investigate the matter. J Harrison asked that council members

**J McGrellis
to
investigate
the George
Square
renovations**

update on to provide further details on this issue.

- **D Mackay** informed council about reports he had received that some clubs had been getting into financial difficulties by signing sponsorship contracts with glasgow nightclubs where they have not been paid as agreed on fulfilling the contract. B Hay responded that they should contact the VP Student Support who could refer to The Advice Centre. The Advice Centre staff could assess whether the case could be taken to to the small claims court.
- **Z Feng (Leo)** informed council that the Alexander Stone building was no longer providing access to a microwave for postgraduate students and highlighted that the costs of food on campus were very high and that the facilities should be provided to enable postgraduates to make their own food.
- **C Angus** updated council on his plans for the website and asked council to send ideas to him if they had any suggestions on ways to improve the website
- **C Angus** reminded council about Movember and encouraged them to take part where they could.
- **L Johnstone** informed council that she would be looking into the issue of videoing lectures, and asked school reps to look into this. J Harrison encouraged school reps to raise this issue at committees if they felt it was important.
- **T Hokkanen** asked for clarification on the increase in the bus service. J Harrison responded that the increase in the service was already in place for this year and that there were no current plans to increase the service any further. . B Hay highlighted that there were some worries emerging that non University Halls students were using the bus. B Hay confirmed that the bus service did not run over Christmas and Summer holidays but did run over Easter.

DM to liase with JM on this and report back to council.

JH will email college and investigate.

Meeting concluded at 10.25pm