

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : C. Sibbald (GUU), L. Howes (GUSA),
T. Gore (Past Pres.), K. Hill (QMU), S. Tuckwood,
A. Daly, T. Tiballi, F. Weber, C. Rusby, Y. Yousafzai,
L. Stockwell, J. Tracey

Attending : Helen Speirs (Advice Centre)

Chair: Iain Smith

1. Welcome

1.1 Apologies/Sederunt

1.2 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

A: Items for Discussion

2. Constitutional Changes

B. Hay discussed the minor constitutional amendments which had been circulated to Council two weeks previously. Council had already decided to consolidate Council back to one system and move away from the Council Committee/Full Council structure which had been in place for the past year. He explained that the purpose of the constitution was to aid the functioning of the organisation and the administrative changes being made ensured that this was being done in accordance with Council's wishes.

J. Helle noted that he felt the constitution needed updating and had noted some points. I. Smith appreciated that this may be the case, but additional changes could not be made this evening as Council required notice before changes could be made. J. Helle advised that there were some areas which were repeated and a range of punctuation errors. B. Hay Welcomed any stylistic or structural corrections.

I. Smith wanted to keep the focus on whether any changes were going to impact on how Council operates.

3. VP Learning and Development

3.1. Aldwych update

J. Harrison noted that the next Aldwych conference (student associations within the Russell Group) would be held in Glasgow in April.

3.2. Student Teaching Awards

Individual nominations were significantly up on last year.

3.2. MyCampus update

Specialist user groups had been arranged to examine the individual aspects which were piloted in mycampus. Students are represented on these groups through GUSRC. It was also noted that student registration numbers would be randomised, beginning next year. It was noted that, as some students had objected to the use of the term 'shopping cart', the University had offered students the opportunity to suggest alternatives. The clear favourite, judging by online polling, was 'knowledge trolley'.

3.3. Talis Aspire

J. Harrison updated on this software which was going through a pilot phase across Schools and Colleges.

4. VP Media and Communications

4.1. John McIntyre Building Refurbishment

I. Smith reported an update on the refurbishment of the John McIntyre Building. Meetings had been held with the University's outward-facing services, as the refurbished building would be catering to their stakeholders as well as students. There were still concerns that the reception area should be clearly branded SRC with a student facing focus and this has been made clear to the University. Things were progressing and it was hoped the space would still be on track to open in September 2012.

B Hay advised that no additional funding for running this space would be

sought through the block grant application process. It had been agreed with the University that this would be addressed through a separate process but the SRC would not be expected to bear the cost.

4.2. PG Social Space

I. Smith presented the current plans for the new PG Social Space.

It was still to be decided whether the space would be open to mature students.

H. Hussain asked who would manage the bar and what would be sold there. It was explained that it would be a 'short drink' bar, and prices and ranges had not been decided. It would be hospitality services who manage the bar.

E. Docherty asked a question on opening hours and whether non-academic staff would be permitted to use the space. The staff permitted to use the space had not been confirmed. Opening hours would be a morning service until 11pm. Weekend openings had not been decided. It was noted that additional funding had been secured for a Postgraduate Support Officer who would have a role in facilitating PG engagement with the PG Space..

N. Smith asked how access would be regulated and whether there would be computers available. There would be a swipe card access system and computers would not be available, though provisions would be made for laptop use.

J. Helle asked whether there would be ex-officio representatives on GUSRC Council. It was noted that the Council had five PG representatives who would be encouraged to work with the new PG Support Officer.

H. Hussain suggested that 'sky booths' would be more preferable than the current plans. I. Smith noted that the idea was to follow more of a 'coffee house' feel.

4.3. Media update

Glasgow Guardian and GUST had been heavily involved in the election and were commended for their work. GUM had released its second edition and had plans to release a third, which meant that they could now be

entered for the student press awards. Subcity was preparing plans for next year. I Smith would meet with the incoming VP Media and Communications, Craig Angus, to discuss the station. Handovers for new media heads would also be discussed.

5. Handover procedures

Now that the elections had concluded, J. Harrison asked that Council members take the time to meet with their successors and prepare a handover for them. They should also consider inviting them to any committees and working groups they sit on.

6. HE Governance Review

A. Johnson has a seat on a Court working group which is formulating the University's response to an upcoming consultation on the proposals for the HE Governance Review. I. Smith sits on a similar working group which is forming Senate's response. The SRC will also form a response when the consultation takes place. It was noted that the University and GUSRC had slightly different priorities in terms of recommendations, most notably the suggested presence of student representatives on remuneration panels. A meeting had taken place with the Rector and the other GU student bodies, which had been productive. All were happy for GUSRC to respond on behalf of all GU student bodies. It was noted that losing the position of Rector in its current form would be of great detriment to the University; the current proposals would impose impartiality on the chairing of Court meetings and remove the Rector's right to be critical of proceedings.

7. Campaigns and Causes

7.1. Islam Awareness Week This would be taking place across the following week with many events being hosted. Council were also invited to attend a reception, the details of which would be posted on Facebook. GUSRC would be promoting the week in newsletters and online.

7.2. 0% VAT on ebooks The Library had asked GUSRC to support this petition. I. Smith noted that it was not doing too well, with roughly 2,500 signatures. He urged Council to promote this.

8. VP Student Support

(I. Smith noted A. Johnson's agenda items in her absence)

8.1. VCS Awards

Nominations were significantly up on last year, partly due to the implementation of an online nominations process. The awards would take place on Tuesday 20 March.

8.2. RAG Week update

RAG Week was going well and had been notably more visible than in previous years. The total raised so far was over £3,000. Events were continuing throughout the week.

H. Hussain noted that she was participating in 'One Dress, One Month,' with C. Rushby, G. Hope and A. Johnson.

J. Harrison pointed out that he had dyed his hair purple for RAG Week.

J. Meaden had raised £30.00 (in one hour) offering hugs to strangers on campus.

N. Smith confirmed that all money raised was being divided between the three confirmed charities. Events where QMU were helping significantly would have money raised split four ways, as the QMU had a charity selected for the semester.

J. Helle noted that the groundwork had clearly been laid to look into reviving 'Charities Week' and hoped that this would happen in the coming years.

8.3. Finding Committees

A. Johnson sits on the finding committee tasked with selecting the new Clerk of Senate. This is currently ongoing.

9. Annual Report Presentation

I. Smith presented the fourth GUSRC Annual Report. It was noted that the Annual Report complemented the first Strategic Plan, which had recently reached its natural conclusion and had since been updated. The report focused specifically on GUSRC's three key aims; 'Representation and Engagement', 'Student Wellbeing and Equality' and 'Graduate Attributes'. Brief aspects of the report were summarised.

Representation and Engagement

Elections were particularly notable, given the record number of candidates

and turnout for spring 2011. The way that GUSRC engaged with students, through an increased online presence, was also noted. B. Hay noted that it was difficult to quantify representation and engagement without reporting back from every committee and working group on which GUSRC had a presence. There is a staff structure in place to support Council and Sabbatical Officers, who sit on over 50 University committees. The 600 Class Representatives who are trained every year all have an impact out in the field and it is difficult to record the impact of all of that. The Annual Report incorporates three objectives that all complement each other and all fit towards the representation agenda, feeding into it in different guises. Council was urged to familiarise themselves with the document.

Student Wellbeing

The report highlighted aspects of the Advice Centre, especially issues relating to the academic side of student of student life, which made up the majority of the Advice Centre's caseload. Numbers relating to successful academic appeals and financial successes were also highlighted in the report. It was noted that there had been a 60% increase in casework last year from the previous year. This would be used to strengthen GUSRC's case to the University with regard to developing an enhanced space for the Advice Centre, once the John McIntyre building is refurbished. The University's new Strategic Plan mentions the development of the SRC Advice Centre specifically. Savings to students through the bookshop and print services were also noted.

Volunteering Graduate Attributes

New projects such as girl-guiding were noted. 'Find a Solution' was also noted to have had a good year. The Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) was being implemented in the coming year and marked a shift in the importance of graduate attributes and employability and people's capacity to show employers that they are more than 'just a degree'.

Copies of the Annual Report would be circulated to Council shortly. I. Smith was thanked for his contribution to the document.

B: Items for Approval

10. The chair proposed a change to the Constitution as detailed in the

amendments document, subject to corrections in grammatical duplication and numbering and referencing errors which have been identified. The proposal was supported and passed.

C: For Information

11. Council Reports

D. Walker noted that the issue of lecture attendance being monitored via swipe card had been raised at a meeting and he requested clarification on GUSRC's stance. It was noted that this had been rejected strongly by GUSRC in the past.

12. AOCB

C. Day, Gen Rep, requested an update on the halls to campus minibus service regarding Garscube. **I. Smith** noted that this request, among others, had been discussed in a meeting with the Accommodation Office. As funding had not been as high as had been hoped, this service could not be implemented this year.

J. Meaden, Gen Rep, congratulated **J. Harrison** on being elected GUSRC president 2012/13.

H. Hussain, College Convenor, Social Sciences, noted that there were moves to expand career days, as the current fairs are heavily business and science/engineering focused. She was currently working on this with the University Employability Officer and would update at future meetings.

I. Smith noted that the UK government had launched its consultation on equal marriage this morning. He wanted Council's opinion on whether GUSRC should respond to this, as this would have no jurisdiction in Scotland. **D. Mackay** asked how similar the terms of reference were to the Scottish Government consultation and if it would be a case of just sending the previous response to the UK government. **K. Law** noted that the terms

of reference were very different; I. Smith noted that in this respect, a response would require significant time and effort and this would need to be considered.

I. Smith asked Council to thank I. Macdonald for his service to Council as this would be his last meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2045.