

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 16th February 2012 AT 6.30pm
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : L. Howes, N. Smith, S. Tuckwood, S. Tsolakidis, C. Day
C. Shi, L. Dalglish, A Daly, A. Dressler, L. Dhillon

Attending : T. Killean (Advice Centre)

Chair : J. Harrison

1. WELCOME

1.1: Apologies/Sederunt

1.2. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

A: Items for Discussion

2. VP Student Support

2.1 HE Governance Review

A. Johnson presented an outline of the HE Governance Review with a brief powerpoint presentation outlining those aspects that were of particular relevance to the GUSRC response. Council were informed that they could get full printed copies of the review from the SRC general office on request.

Of particular concern to GUSRC were the recommendations relating to the membership of governing bodies and the potential loss of the role of Rector.

A. Johnson aims to give feedback on her progress with GUSRCs response to the review. It is hoped that the response will be submitted through CHESS.

Q – J. Helle asked if GUSRC would lose seats on senate under the recommendations. A. Johnson responded that it was likely that they would but that the GUSRC's own response would argue against this and support

retention of the current number of seats.

Q – D. McCusker asked what the timeframe would be for these changes if they come into effect. A. Johnson responded that she would clarify.

Q – H. Hussain asked A. Johnson what benefits students get from having a Rector, noting that she had never had any response from attending Rector's Surgery in four years. A. Johnson advised that there are a range of benefits which vary depending on the nature of the rector's workload

Q – E. Docherty asked if this process would standardise Universities and whether the University could lose some of its identity as a result. A. Johnson responded that it would not lose any of its prestige. I. Smith commented that some of the University's traditions could be lost.

2.2 Stevie and the GUU

A. Johnson reassured Council that the Guardian article that suggested there would be no sports provision during the development of the Stevenson Building and the GUU was incorrect. D. Newall has assured GUSRC that sport provision will be maintained throughout the building works.

Q – J. Helle asked what would happen to sports provision when the Kelvin Hall is no longer available. I. Smith responded that they hoped to extend the contract for one year after it expires in 2012, after which alternative provision will be found in the city.

2.3 Safety Issues on Campus

A. Johnson advised council that University security have reported further incidents on campus and encouraged everyone to keep to main roads when out at night. GUSRC will be starting another safety campaign and A. Johnson will report back to council when campus security has decided the best way to proceed. There have also been further robberies on ground floor flats in student halls.

Postcards are to be left on unattended items and in open windows to raise awareness amongst students of potential thefts. Campus security in conjunction with security at the halls of residence will be planting thorn bushes to try and deter burglars from targeting vulnerable residences.

A. Johnson raised the issue of the "Gumtree scam" where bogus landlords advertise and obtain deposits for flats that do not exist. A. Johnson asked Council to try and raise awareness of this problem.

2.4 Peer to Peer

A. Johnson met with the head of Counselling, and a member of the Psychology School to discuss an initiative that would provide peer support. This is still in its early stages but would provide volunteering opportunities. A. Johnson will keep council informed.

2.5 RAG Week

I. Smith showed council some proposed logos for RAG week.

A. Johnson informed council that cross campus competition seemed to be working well.

There has been a positive response from clubs and societies and A. Johnson asked council members who were involved with a club to remind them that there will be a prize for the club or society which raises the most money. A. Johnson thanked Council for their input and informed them that she will be putting together a working group soon.

Q – J. Meaden asked if there would be an SRC jailbreak event. A. Johnson explained that there wouldn't be. Council members were encouraged to enter a team into the QMU jailbreak if they were interested.

I. Smith explained that although GUSRC, QMU, GUU & GUSA would all be coordinating their own events, they are all RAG Week events and will be branded as such.

A. Johnson highlighted other events; Challenge Tuesday, and One Month one Dress and asked Council members to get involved.

3 Lads Mags (raised from item 6 in the agenda)

E. Halvarsson and F. Bell (Feminist Society) requested backing from GUSRC to the campaign to stop the sale of 'lads mags' on campus. QMU have agreed to this request but the GUU have not.

Discussion followed

There was no consensus reached. While there was no support for the sale of lads mags, there were concerns over whether lobbying the GUU was an appropriate role for GUSRC to take and whether banning these magazines amounted to censorship.

It was agreed that GUSRC should approach the GUU informally, rather than releasing a statement which could be inflammatory and counterproductive..

4. VP Learning and Development

4.1 CHESS Update

J. Harrison informed Council that a meeting had taken place with representatives from St Andrews, Dundee, and Glasgow School of Art. They looked at issues where there was common ground and have set up facebook and twitter accounts. Further meetings are expected to take place soon.

4.2 Narrowing of discretionary bands

J. Harrison informed Council that the narrowing of discretionary bands is no longer going ahead.

4.3 Lecture recording draft policy

J. Harrison showed Council the draft policy on lecture recording (powerpoint) which aims to allow recording of lectures while ensuring protection of intellectual property. Discussion followed.

J. Harrison will circulate the draft policy to Council for comment.

4.4 Student Teaching Awards update

J. Harrison informed council that nominations were considerably up on the previous year to around 360 from 170. J. Harrison will be sending emails regarding the selection panel soon.

5 VP Media and Communications

5.1 John Mac refurbishment

I. Smith informed Council that there was still no movement on this issue. Communication difficulties with Estates and Buildings have prevented discussion on a solution thus far.

5.2 PG Social Space

I. Smith updated Council that there had been a meeting with Estates and Buildings and the architect. The business case will be presented next week to representatives from Finance and Hospitality ahead of the Capital Expenditure meeting at the end of the month.

5.3 Election pack/rules

I. Smith informed Council of the changes to the pack. The guidelines and constitution have now been merged together. These changes will come before Council, probably at the next meeting. The most notable change is the introduction of a rule prohibiting mobile polling stations..

5.4 Student media and publicity update

Subcity – Have an event at Stereo tonight.

Guardian – Preparing the next issue.

GUM – Second issue on the way.

GUST – New video out , also filmed love equally march and speed dating

Publicity for VCS awards, RAG week and elections all completed.

I. Smith informed council of the Ernst and Young competition which could win £10,000 for the SRC. Council was asked to encourage clubs and societies to get involved with the competition. If GUSRC win, the club or society with the most members taking part will receive a prize.

6 Postgraduate library space

J. Harrison informed Council that the level 5 annex is to be turned into a PG study space. It is not yet known if access will be restricted by means of branding or if swipe card entry will be installed. J. Harrison asked Council to comment on the issue of access. Discussion followed.

Q. R. Simpson asked if the materials within the level 5 annex would still be available. J. Harrison will seek clarification on this.

Q. J. Helle asked if there would be out-of-hours access as was available in the previous space. J. Harrison thought it unlikely but will raise this issue.

7 Campaigns and Causes

7.1 Opt for life campaign

I. Smith thanked Council for getting involved in a photo shoot as part of the campaign and asked for volunteers to help collect signatures for the petition next week.

7.2 Not another lost generation

A. Johnson informed Council that this was another anti-cuts march (29th February, Edinburgh) and asked if they were happy for GUSRC to back this. Council supported this. A bus will be organised to enable students to attend.

7.3 Library materials and VAT

J. Harrison informed Council of the costs of e-books and the costs incurred by the University due to their not being exempt from VAT. A petition has been started to lobby the government on this matter. A link to this will be emailed to Council and J. Harrison asked that they support this. A Johnson noted that the University and Senate are behind this campaign.

7.4 Entertainment licensing

I. Smith noted that Glasgow City Council has withdrawn the proposal that would have required entertainment licences for free events.

C : For Information

8. Council Reports

A. Johnson requested that Council email her with potential charities that could be supported as part of RAG Week. She also encouraged council members to get involved with RAG Week generally.

I. Smith thanked A. Johnson for organisation of the flag-raising and Love Equally march.

J. Meaden asked F. Weber if date, venue and theme of the College of Arts ball had been decided. F. Weber responded that it was a ceilidh, planned for the end of the semester before exam time, and hoped that they could use 1A the Square or the Bute Hall.

J. Harrison asked L. Stockwell to pass on information regarding graduation timetabling.

9. AOCB

E. Docherty noted that she was approached by the Glasgow University Environmental Stability Team regarding the Food Co-op which has asked for some storage space within the John McIntyre building. She requested an

update on this. A. Johnson responded that they had regular contact with the Food Co-op and that GUSRC are considering various options to try and assist.

D. McCusker advised that he was asked to request that GUSRC help promote an online petition for the pardoning of Alan Turing. D. McCusker does not wish GUSRC to support this as he felt that the 2009 apology from government was enough and that a pardon gives the wrong message implying that Alan Turing had done anything wrong in the first place.

I. Smith asked for D. McCusker to put the information on Facebook and suggested that this be discussed at the next meeting.

J. Meaden informed Council of an event in the University Chapel on the 28th February where Arch Bishop Mario Conti will give a choral mass. J. Harrison and I. Smith pointed out that given that GUSRC have publicly condemned Arch Bishop Conti's honorary degree, attending this within the role of an SRC representative would be inappropriate. It was added that they were free to attend on a personal capacity.

A. Johnson reminded Council that the VCS awards are happening soon and asked them to help publicise this amongst Clubs and Societies.

A. Johnson thanked Julia Tracey for organising the Clubs and Societies speed dating event.

J. Harrison updated the issue of computers being booked at the library when students attempt to log in. The library has responded that this is a fault and students who encounter this problem should report it to the library IT Desk.

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm

The next meeting of Council will take place on 16th March.