

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 26th January 2012 AT 6.30pm  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

**Present** : As per sederunt sheets

**Apologies** : S. Tsolakidis, A. Dreszler, J. Fyfe, K. Hill,  
C. Shi, G. Hope, L. Howes, R. Simpson, M. Dockery

**Attending** : E. Russell (Advice Centre)

**Chair** : A. Johnson

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**1. WELCOME**

**1.1: Apologies/Sederunt**

**1.2. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.**

**1.3 Action Points**

- J. Harrison updated Council on the issue of recording lectures. There is no University wide policy at present but J. Harrison has been in touch with the Senate Office and they are considering the development of a University wide policy with reference to other universities' examples.
- A. Johnson updated Council on the F.O.I request regarding the lack of desk space for PG students. The University have responded with fairly positive details, with the exception of the College of Arts who do not have desk space.

**A. Johnson to look into this further with T. Tiballi**

**1.4 Reports**

I. Smith reminded Council that agenda items should not be raised as AOCB, but submitted to the Executive under items for discussion.

I. Smith informed Council that any contact with corporate communications should be discussed with him and agreed first.

I. Smith sought clarification from E. Docherty on the status of the 'Go Green Week' with regards the GUSRC. A. Johnson pointed out to E. Docherty that SRC sponsorship would only be considered if GUSRC had a role in developing the project and GUSRC branding was applied. If not a GUSRC

**A. Johnson and E. Docherty to meet and discuss**

event, funding should be sought through the Clubs and Societies Grants Scheme (if an affiliated society).

## **A: Items for Discussion**

### **2. VP Student Support**

#### **2.1 Senate Update / Revision week**

Regarding discussion at a previous council meeting about the proposed changes in the academic year. Three options were being discussed:

- A. Status Quo.
- B. Elongate first semester, summer holidays would start later.
- C. Elongate first semester, lose spring revision week.

GUSRC council had rejected option C, as losing the final revision week was seen as unacceptable.

At senate, it was evident that academics were very much against option B, whilst GUSRC, on behalf of students, maintained that C was unacceptable; it was agreed therefore to retain the status quo for the moment. A. Johnson expressed the view that the status quo it was still not ideal as the semester is very short. J. Harrison has been looking at alternative options for assessment, different to exams, which could be considered in conjunction with the Quality Assurance Agency's enhancement themes.

#### **2.2 Clerk of Senate finding committee**

A. Johnson informed Council that the Clerk of Senate, Graham Caie, is retiring and a finding committee will be set up to appoint a new candidate. It was agreed that A. Johnson would sit on the finding committee. J. Harrison commented that council would be kept up to date with who is considered to be the best candidate for GUSRC although it was pointed out that council members on senate could vote for whomever they chose.

**GUSRC to get  
a card for  
Graham Caie**

#### **2.3 Gender Neutral Toilets**

A. Johnson informed council that the QMU had passed the concept of gender neutral toilets at its latest board meeting. The next meeting of the Sexual Orientation Equality Group (SOEG) will likely approve the options thought to be on Level 2 of the Library, the Fraser Building and at the entrance of the Stevenson Building. It was stressed that only a small number of toilets would be designated gender neutral.

A. Daly raised concerns as to how and why this issue had been raised and progressed. Discussion followed.

**Q** - E. Halvarsson asked whether changes would be made when students apply for accommodation. A. Johnson noted that this would also be discussed at the SOEG and that it was hoped that the accommodation office would put a caveat on application forms.

**Q** – J. Meaden enquired as to the cost of the change. A. Johnson responded that the only cost would be changing the signs on the doors which will read 'Toilet'

**Q** – K. Law enquired as to why level 2 of the library had been chosen as he had understood that one on level 4 had been discussed. He was concerned that the level 2 toilet was hidden from view. A. Johnson responded that it had been chosen because it could be accessed without needing to go through the barriers. A. Johnson also pointed out that it was planned that a toilet on level 4 would be included as part of phase 2.

A. Daly raised concerns over the potential that those students using the toilets could become targets – discussion followed.

H. Hussain suggested that the signs read 'Unisex Toilet'. A. Johnson would suggest this to the committee.

**Q** – Y. Yousafzai asked whether religious groups such as GUMSA had been approached. A. Johnson confirmed that GUMSA had been consulted by the Equality and Diversity Unit and that they were satisfied providing there were plenty of same sex facilities available.

## **2.4 RAG week and International Women's Day**

A. Johnson confirmed to council that this would be on the 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> March. She noted that competition between the different cross campus groups could increase the funds raised. It is intended for there to be an online student vote, chosen from a shortlist, on which charities should benefit from RAG week. Council were asked to send suggestions of charities to A. Johnson. She stated that she will be setting up a working group and is looking for council to bring forward any money raising ideas and events.

One month one dress (to raise money for Women's Aid) will run in March and there will also be a Challenge Day and Council were asked to get

involved with this.

## **2.5 Health, Safety and Wellbeing committee papers**

A. Johnson and E. Docherty will suggest improved lighting and pavements on Kelvin Way.

E. Docherty suggested that some feedback and ideas from Council could be useful before the paper is drafted and A. Johnson asked that these be emailed to both herself and E. Docherty.

**Paper to be  
emailed to  
Council before it  
is taken to the  
committee**

## **3. VP Learning & Development**

### **3.1 Elections**

J. Harrison noted that the nominations for the elections would be opening soon and asked council members who did not intend to stand for re-election to try and ensure that someone will be standing for their position.

### **3.2 Library Provision and survey**

J. Harrison thanked those council members who had given feedback on the facebook page about library provision and resources. Further comments would be welcomed. He also asked that council take part in the library provision survey.

### **3.3 MyCampus update – GradeRoster and lessons learned review**

The Lessons Learned report has considered the issues associated with the introduction of MyCampus. Student Lifecycle Project (SLP) has created a timeline of how the problems are going to be fixed.

**Q** – S. Tuckwood asked if GUSRC was happy with the propositions that had been put forward for dealing with the problems. J. Harrison responded that increased resources and manpower are being allocated towards resolving the issue.

J. Harrison, A Johnson, J. Helle, H. Hussain, and H. Speirs (Advice Centre) attended a demonstration of the new GradeRoster system which is being used through MyCampus. The system emails exam results to students automatically so they no longer need to log in, this will save bandwidth and hopefully lessen the occurrence of the website crashing.

**Q** – A. Daly noted problems getting onto moodle and suggested more publicity on any changes to the system. Other council members commented that they had not experienced this. A. Johnson asked Council to keep J.

Harrison informed if there are any further problems on this issue.

### **3.4 CHESS update**

J. Harrison informed the council that CHESS (Coalition of Higher Education Students from Scotland) was an organization that had previously enabled Scottish student unions to work together for common interests. It had ceased to function in recent years but J. Harrison recently met with the Presidents and Vice Presidents of St Andrews and Dundee Universities to discuss reforming CHESS. J.Harrison added that they would be meeting again in the coming weeks and it was hoped to agree a joint way forward.

J. Harrison to  
contact Art  
School  
sabbatical  
officers

**Q** - S. Tuckwood asked if GUSRC were hoping to gain anything in particular through CHESS and J. Harrison responded that they were looking to have an opportunity to reflect the views, at national level, of the thousands of students in Scottish Universities not affiliated to NUS as there have been issues where the government have consulted with the NUS and where GUSRC have had no voice at all.

**Q** – D. Mackay asked for clarification on how much contact the sabbatical officers have with Robin Parker, NUS Scotland President. A. Johnson responded that they did not have a lot of contact but had some discourse regarding UK fees. B. Hay added that there are some government funded initiatives that the NUS have contracts to deliver (for example SPARQs) which GUSRC has access to.

### **3.5 UCAS Post-qualification admissions consultation response**

J. Harrison informed council that GUSRC have taken part in a Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) consultation regarding their proposals for post-qualification admissions. GUSRC disagreed with UCAS proposals which would involve moving the entire university term from September to January as this would create complications for international students. He noted that although GUSRC agreed in principle with places being awarded on the basis of results rather than predicted results, the practicalities of achieving this were not great. The proposals have also been opposed by the Aldwych Group. A. Johnson added that the proposals had been seen as putting poorer students at a disadvantage as they may not have access to the same support through the application process. J. Harrison advised that the consultation could be viewed on the website.

## **4. VP Media & Communications**

### **4.1 NSS**

I. Smith noted that the National Student Survey was underway. He added

that the responses are slightly behind due to technical difficulties.

J. Meaden commented on the difficulties encountered putting up posters around the University. I Smith responded that they are working with the senate office to put more pressure on some services to allow posters, such as the library, which can sometimes be difficult.

Jani Helle noted that there was no link to the NSS on the MyGlasgow page.

I. Smith to  
chase up NSS  
link on  
MyGlasgow

#### **4.2 Media Week [Verbal – Full Report to follow for 9<sup>th</sup> February]**

I. Smith informed council that there had been a total attendance of 703 across 24 events which was about 80 up on the previous year. He added that podcasts of 16 of the events are available online.

A. Johnson noted Council's thanks to I. Smith for putting on such a successful media week.

#### **4.3 Student Media Update**

Subcity – various positions available on the team at Subcity, details are available online.

Guardian – next issue has been pushed back and is due to go to print on the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

GUM – issue two is on the way.

GUST – Completed some work for media week which was appreciated.

#### **4.4 Publicity Update**

NSS, Burns Language Cafe and a Safety poster have all been recently completed.

Upcoming Publicity – Elections, RAG week and PRES

#### **4.5 Social Media and Elections**

I. Smith noted that following a meeting it had been decided that there was not much that could be done with regards legislating the use of social media in elections. The rules regarding university email lists will be clarified as will the subject of 'mobile polling stations' which are not allowed.

Q - J. Helle asked if the issue of students who moved schools being unable to vote for their new school rep in autumn elections has been resolved. I. Smith and B. Hay confirmed that it has.

Q – J. Helle asked about blue-prints for the PG study space. I. Smith agreed to forward.

I. Smith to  
send  
blueprints to  
J. Helle

## 5. Constitutional Amendment: Full Council

A. Johnson informed council that the executive had discussed consolidating all council meetings. This was to acknowledge the contribution of school reps. A formal proposal on this will be circulated to full council in due course.

A. Johnson added that this was part of a meeting held the previous week which had also looked at the sabbatical roles (in particular Media and Communications). Council will be kept informed of developments but this would not affect the next election.

J. Helle asked if it would be possible for the constitution to be changed to take account of the exceptional situations which occurred earlier in the year. A. Johnson responded that it was something that could be looked into.

J. Harrison asked council if they would be happy to carry on with only 'full' council meetings for the rest of the year. This would mean that school reps would be required to attend, submitting apologies if they were unable to do so. This was agreed unanimously.

## 6. Attendance

A. Johnson reminded council that they are required to send in apologies if they are going to be unable to attend any meeting they are scheduled to. This is particularly important where the meeting is with the University or another external party as council members are representing the SRC and should ensure a professional approach.

Council were also reminded that reports should be forwarded to [representation@src.gla.ac.uk](mailto:representation@src.gla.ac.uk) early in the week before the council meeting.

## 7. Organ Donation

I. Smith informed council of a campaign to introduce an opt-out organ donor scheme and hoped that council would approve of GUSRC supporting this. No objections were raised.

## **8. Equal Marriage**

A rally in favour of Equal marriage is taking place 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2.30pm at Hollyrood. GUSRC has submitted a response to the government consultation on equal marriage.

L. Dhillon asked if GUSRC would subsidise travel to Edinburgh. A. Johnson responded that this would be possible if there were enough students interested in attending.

## **9. AOCB**

### **L. Dhillon**

Requested that GUSRC lobby the university to have a printer reinstated in the Round Reading Room and also for the many computers that are out of order to be repaired/replaced.

J. Harrison and A. Johnson agreed that this would be investigated.

### **Y. Yousafzai**

Asked if GUSRC would support the request for an interfaith prayer room in the Graeme Davies Building. A. Johnson asked for details of the request to be forwarded to her.

### **J. Helle**

Asked if the cost of University gym membership was likely to increase. A. Johnson responded that this looked very likely and would keep Council informed of developments.

It was also raised that there was limited space for postering available to clubs and societies and that they found themselves competing for space with local businesses. It was asked if it would be possible for the GUSRC to have specific clubs and societies boards available on campus.

### **H. Hussain**

Suggested creating a webpage that listed what events different clubs and societies are promoting. A. Johnson commented that the administrative costs would be too great but would meet with H. Hussain look at other ways of achieving this.

### **A. Daly**

Has had a very positive response wearing the council hoodie and encouraged other council members to wear theirs.

**A. Johnson to put gym fees on the agenda for next council meeting**

**A. Johnson to discuss this with clubs and socs committee.**

**S.Tuckwood**

Raised that the possibility of asking PG students to pay deposits on courses had been discussed at a College-wide Learning and Teaching committee. The sabbatical officers explained that they had raised these concerns with A. Nolan. A. Johnson pointed out that this was not yet a university wide policy and that the overall cost of the course remained the same. J. Harrison pointed out that deposits were likely to be introduced for UG and PG courses and that there were concerns that this would damage the less popular courses. T. Tiballi noted that international students often have difficulty in establishing residency and opening bank accounts as each require proof of the other. The time it can take to resolve these problems left many students without their loans until October which would make putting down a deposit difficult.

J. Harrison to meet with T. Tiballi to discuss

**F. Weber**

Voiced concern over the current procedure on the timing of feedback on dissertations. In some cases, feedback is not received until after exams. There was also a brief discussion that clarified the disparity between different Schools on the availability of dissertation supervisors.

**D. McCusker**

Informed Council that there would be a hoisting of the rainbow flag at the front of the university to mark LGBT History Month and invited council to attend.

**J. Harrison**

Informed council that class rep training would run from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 27<sup>th</sup> February and reminded school reps to encourage the class reps to sign up.

**A. Johnson**

Informed council that there had been a recent spate of break ins on ground floor flats in certain student residences. An information campaign will be needed to encourage students to shut their windows and keep valuables out of sight.

**The meeting concluded at 8.30pm**

**The next meeting of Council will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> February.**