

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 6.30pm  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

**ACTION**

**Present:** As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies:** Louise Irving, Caragh Nimmo, Noreen Jennings

**1 WELCOME**

L Laws welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the ELIR presentation by Jack Aitken would be moved from Item (m) on the Agenda to Item (c). L Laws also advised that the Committee Elections would be moved from Item (g) on the Agenda to the end of the meeting.

**2 ELIR (Update from Jack Aitken)**

J Aitken talked everyone through the presentation (copy to follow). Questions were requested.

T Gore asked J Aitken if the ELIR review team were aware of the plans for the proposed re-structure of the University, and if so, if they were going to comment on the plans. J Aitken explained that the ELIR review team will not be considering the plans for restructure or commenting on them as the process was in its consultative stage. D Boyle asked if the ELIR review team will be making any recommendations in relation to funding for student bodies. J Aitken advised that the ELIR review team will only be making recommendations and commenting on matters of academic relevance.

**3 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING  
8 October 2009- Factual Corrections**

Minutes adopted by Council.

**Action Points**

**4.2. Glossary** L Laws explained that instead of having a glossary for the acronyms in member's reports the Saabs had decided to just write out the abbreviated words.

**7.2.1 Save the Lift Petition** T Gore advised that he had raised this at the Museum and Galleries Committee Meeting and had made the Committee aware of the issue. T Gore explained that the Director of the Hunterian was to take this matter forward.

**13 Feedback from Informal Council Meeting 24 Sept 09** L Laws explained that she had not yet completed this action point but would forward her notes to Council members as soon as she was able.

LL

**4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS- 6 October to 5 November 2009**

Council were invited to ask questions pertaining to each of the Sabbatical Officers' reports.

**LAURA LAWS, PRESIDENT**

**(Copy of report circulated)**

**4.1.1** A Cohen asked L Laws if any decisions had been made as to how the

SRC representation will work after restructure. L Laws advised that no formal decision will be taken until the new structure is finalised.

- 4.1.2 A Daly asked L Laws about sitting on the Estates and Buildings Committee. A Daly explained that he used to be a surveyor and feels he would be able to bring a degree of expertise to the issues discussed at this committee. L Law explained that only one Council member can sit on this committee, and it must be the President. A Daly advised L Laws that if she ever needs any advice in relation to this Committee, he will be happy to help. L Laws thanked A Daly for this.

**5 MORVEN BOYD, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)**  
**(Copy of report circulated)**

- 5.1.1 A Cohen asked M Boyd if there was any other student representative present at the Veterinary Medicine Faculty Committee Meeting. M Boyd advised that the President of GUVMA was present but she didn't get an opportunity to speak to him. M Boyd will continue to investigate solutions for SRC Vet representation.

- 5.1.2 U Malik asked if it was possible for council member's emails to be accessed through their student accounts. U Malik suggested that the webmail be POP3 as everyone can access this M Boyd thanked U Malik for this.

UM

- 5.1.3 M Ashraf asked M Boyd why she did not mention the Convenor for the Faculty of Education at a meeting she attended with Education students, as they were not aware of his role. M Boyd explained that her remit at that particular meeting was tightly defined and she did not have the opportunity to discuss the broader SRC representation system. Laura Laws advised M Ashraf to email the students introducing himself.

**6 SOPHIE HALL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)**  
**(Copy of report circulated)**

- 6.1.1 There were no questions from Council for S Hall.

**7 JIM WILSON, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS)**  
**(Copy of report circulated)**

There were no questions from Council for J Wilson.

**8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS**

L Laws advised that the reports were unable to be submitted due to staff absences. These will be circulated round Council by email. L Laws asked Council to respond by email with questions for council member's reports.

**9 A Silkoff, Minority Ethnic Officer**

**9.1.1 Scottish Defence League Protests**

A Silkoff explained that the Scottish Defence League is an anti Muslim movement which seeks to emulate the English Defence League. The English Defence League He explained that the Scottish Defence League had planned to hold a rally in Glasgow city centre on Saturday 14 November 2009 but their request to Glasgow City Council had been

denied. It appeared they were going to protest outside Glasgow Central Mosque on Saturday instead. A Silkoff explained that a Scotland United are holding counter protests at Glasgow Green on Saturday. A Silkoff advised he would like the SRC to give a supporting statement for Scotland United.

J Harrison advised he would be concerned about potential violence from splinter groups associating themselves with Scotland United. A Silkoff explained that there was always this danger but the official protest was non violent.

S Dunn advised that she has also received questions from students about whether the SRC were planning to protest against the Scottish Defence League.

L Laws advised that firstly, if Council wants the SRC to release an official statement, the earlier the Executive get the plans the better. A Silkoff explained that the matter was discussed at the most recent Race Equality Group and it was decided that the issue was to be discussed and decided upon by the SRC as a whole. A Silkoff advised that he had drafted a statement and read this out to Council.

*“Glasgow University SRC are proud of our diverse student body – made up of many cultures, faiths and traditions. We declare our unreserved opposition to the so-called ‘Scottish Defence League’, who seek to stir up racial and religious tension in our city.*

*We fully support the Scotland United initiative, which brings together faith groups, trade unions, community organisations and politicians to celebrate Scotland’s multiculturalism, and counter the anti-Muslim SDL.*

*The SRC stand alongside the Muslim community at this time, and are confident that Scotland will reject the Scottish Defence League’s message of hatred and division, in favour of the hope and diversity that make Scotland a welcoming home to so many”.*

S Hall commented that she agreed with the statement but thought it may be better to highlight the SRC’ support for Scotland United, rather than its’ opposition to the Scottish Defence League.

L Laws advised that the Executive will draft a statement and forward it to all members for their comments. She advised the statement would be out in time to make the early morning news on Saturday.

F Weber asked if it would be a good idea to ask the Guardian or GUM to go to Glasgow Green on Saturday and report. L Laws explained that she can advise the student media of the event, but cannot guarantee that they will cover this event.

## **10 REPORTS & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

- 10.1** Laura Laws advised that she would pass this item to Bob Hay to report back. Copies of the Accounts for 2008/09 were circulated

Some members commented that they had difficulty printing the emailed report. A Daly commented that he had managed to print the report but had to save it first.

A Daly congratulated B Hay on the quality of the report. A Daly also asked

if it could be circulated earlier in future years as members would have a greater chance to consider the contents. B Hay thanked him for his comments.

B Hay explained the structure of the accounts advising that the level of details was required because the relevant charity regulations require that the annual report and financial statements must relate costs to specific activities.

B Hay advised that, under the circumstances the SRC had performed well and outlined the situation as follows;

The deficit of £11,115 compares with a surplus of £17,091 reported in 2008.

The deficit was much smaller than originally forecast at the beginning of the year when the budgets had been prepared. The SRC has been committed throughout the year to minimising the deficit at the same time as upholding levels of service throughout the year

In general the deficit could be contributed to a fall of 4% in the SRC's overall income this year; this figure includes all Grant income from the University.

Ignoring the block grant; income from charitable activities has fallen by 11.5% during the year. This includes falls in the following areas:

- Bank Interest income of 44%,
- Media income of 12% (massive drop in the Guardian income; compensated for in part by Subcity revenue)
- SRC Guide Advertising income of 86%
- Advertising & marketing income fall by 25%
- The SRC also received no graduation photography income from the University this year for the first time.

Service Expenditure has risen by only 2% as SRC strive to make savings throughout the year. Less expenditure on repairs and replacements, staff costs & publicity expenses has allowed the SRC to keep expenditure at a minimum for the period, but this is something we could not maintain on a long term basis.

**10.2** The Council were invited to ask questions about the Report and Financial Statements.

**10.2.1** J Harrison asked B Hay what the SRC can do next year to avoid a deficit. B Hay advised that they would be concentrating on optimising income from marketing activities and working with the Guardian to raise revenue. B Hay also explained that staff received a higher than expected pay rise (in line with University staff). He was also considering how expenditure could be saved through alterations in staff structures

**10.2.2** D Bentley asked B Hay why what the SRC intended to spend the reserves on. B Hay explained that the reserves were to be

maintained at this level in order to ensure that the SRC could meet all its contractual obligations in the event of any winding up of the organisation. It was part of the overall approach to financial risk management

- 10.2.3** A Cohen commented that almost double was spent on Fresher's Fair this year compared to last year and asked why. B Hay explained that more wasn't actually spent; they lost slightly more compared to last year.
- 10.2.4** A Daly asked B Hay if it had not been for the credit crunch, if he thinks there would have been a deficit this year. B Hay responded no; if it had not been for the external economic factors it is unlikely there would have been a deficit this year.
- 10.2.5** D Boyle asked about the conference fees and asked B Hay whether private companies had been less willing to sponsor events this year. B Hay explained that this heading related to income distributed to the Unions and GUSA from the Freshers' Pass income
- 10.2.6** A Lynch asked about the Crichton Campus accounts on page 40. She asked whether the grant is allocated or applied for. B Hay explained that the SRC applied to the University for a grant 3 years ago to fund a staff member to support the development of student support on the Crichton Campus. They were awarded £32,000 over three years which covered a salary for an employee working part-time and £2,000 p/a for admin costs. The funding had run its course and was now being picked up by UWS. B Hay would remain as line manager for the post holder.
- 10.2.7** F Weber asked about the bus timetable which was covered by page 51 of the report. B Hay explained that bus journeys were greatly increased this year from 22,000 journeys the year before to 40,000 last year.

## **11 WELFARE WEEK REPORTS**

### **11.1 Health Week 2009, 12-16 October**

S Hall advised that she was pleased with how the week went. S Hall pointed out that this week was a move away from Mental Health Week and she felt that this increased the number of students coming through the door. S Hall thanked A Cohen and S Gordon for their support with the organisation of this week.

### **11.2 Green Day 2009, Wednesday 28 October**

S Hall advised that this event had been a bit quieter than last year. She explained there were two main events this year but that the turn out was not as good due to the event being cut from a week to a day this year. S Hall thanked T Gore, J Harrison, S Dunn and K Fraser for their support with the event.

**11.3** A Cohen asked if the SRC would be having condom fairies at SHAG week this year. L Laws explained that they are considering having a condom drop instead this year.

**11.4** F Weber asked about the progress of the Wednesday Afternoons Off campaign and commented that he still had several classes which ran on Wednesday

afternoons. This was noted by Council.

**11.5** F Weber also enquired about another blood drive this year. He advised that he is aware that many students did not make it to the QMU Blood Drive this year and would like another opportunity. F Weber suggested that ways could be thought up to encourage students to donate blood.

**11.6** J Harrison asked about the possibility of organising several Green Days throughout the year. S Hall advised that there are several clean-up in the community opportunities. She advised that she is in discussion with Alan Thompson from Glasgow City Council about partnership activities. L Laws asked J Harrison if he would be willing to take this on once a month and adopt certain areas to clean up. J Harrison advised that he would be willing to do this. L Laws suggested herself, J Harrison and T Gore organising this.

LL  
JH  
TG

## **12 STUDENT SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**12.1** M Boyd explained that at the last meeting she presented a paper on the success of student representation and 372 reps had been trained so far. She advised that there are still 5 more sessions and that around 550 students are expected to complete the training. She advised that they had also talked to staff about the importance of staff student liaison committees. L Laws asked Council about their relationships with student reps. S Rossi and R Balaban advised that they had not heard anything in this respect. A Cohen asked if she could have all trained reps' email addresses so she can contact them. M Boyd advised that this was not possible as they have to wait for rep names from the course coordinators. R Balaban commented that he had emailed the reps and some were just awaiting training. F Weber advised that he is a course rep himself and that he had already made contact with his group.

M Boyd advised that she and J Wilson have been looking into the idea of setting up a Facebook group for course reps. There was then discussion about whether the group should be private or public. M Boyd advised that the group would probably be made private but that she would keep members updated about this.

**12.2** S Rossi asked if it was possible for them to work with course reps to make sure they can put being an SRC Representative on their transcripts. G Lee explained that the University are currently implementing a system to record extra curricular activities for students. This will be called a Diploma Supplement.

**12.3** S Hall advised that a Carer's Policy had also been discussed at the meeting. This follows on from the Maternity policy last year. She explained that if they introduce this policy, Glasgow University will be pioneering the policy as no other universities have this.

**12.4** S Hall also discussed the possibility of the SRC hosting a Benefits Uptake Week for students. She advised that there would hopefully be a working group for both the benefits week and the carer's policy.

## **13 UNIVERSITY RESTRUCTURING PAPER EXERCISE**

The President explained that there would now be brief exercise to consider the restructuring paper previously circulated. Council would be split into groups and discussions facilitated by sabbaticals. The views expressed would be noted and feed into the overall feedback to the University. There also would be additional opportunities to comment on the proposed restructure through the student rep

consultative sessions organised over the next couple of weeks and council members were encouraged to register for these sessions and encourage student reps to sign up for them.

**14 LEARNING & TEACHING COMMITTEE AWAY DAY UPDATE**

L Laws outlined the points made by her and M Boyd in their presentation at the learning and teaching awayday. There was general agreement that all the points were valuable and would be taken forward over the next two to three years. There was a particular interest in the induction process and how it could be improved. L Laws advised that Learning and Teaching would be considering induction this year and the SRC would, in particular, be looking for the views and experience of first year reps to provide input into the induction process. It was agreed that M Boyd would liaise with convenors on this.

L Laws advised that there were also concerns amongst about the range of experience and opportunities available to them and this would be being addressed by the University this year.

**15 ASSESSMENT POLICY WORKING GROUP & FEEDBACK REPORT**

M Boyd advised that a report had been prepared for the Assessment Policy working group based upon input from the group exercises last council meeting as well as the NSS and example of good practise from other institutions. There as yet was to be another meeting but M Boyd would advise on progress

**16 COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

| <b>Committee</b>                                 | <b>Elected</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>Health Safety and Environment Committee</b>   | Katy Fraser  |
| <b>Museum and Galleries Committee</b>            | Scott Gordon   |
| <b>Library Committee</b>                         | Saskia Dunn  |
| <b>Student Support and Development Committee</b> | Tommy Gore   |
| <b>Senate</b>                                    | Katy Fraser<br>Ailsa Lynch<br>Morven Reid<br>Anthony Silkoff   |
| <b>Learning and Teaching Committee</b>           | Sabrina Rossi<br>Razvan Balaban<br>James Harrison  |
| <b>Senate Disciplinary Committee</b>             | Mathew Morrison<br>Ronan Radin<br>Vicky Strouvelle   |
| <b>Academic Dress Committee</b>                  | Ana Cohen  |
| <b>SRC Executive</b>                             | Dij Bentley<br>Scott Gordon<br>Gavin Carre<br>James Harrison<br>Flo Weber<br>Saski Dunn<br>Ronan Radin |
| <b>Court Assessor</b>                            | Tommy Gore   |