

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Stuart Duncan, Sophie Hall, Lucille Harvey,
David McGowran

1 WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS FREE FROM CLASSES

G Lee presented a booklet produced by the SRC and GUSA highlighting the benefits for both the University and its students, of having Wednesday afternoons focussed around extra curricular activities. This will be circulated around the University and if anyone has any thoughts or ideas on the subject G Lee would be happy to discuss them.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

22 January 2009 – Factual Corrections

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Student Rep Moodle (Refer 4.2)

Ongoing.

3.2 Convenors, Officers & Court Assessor's Reports (Refer 4.7)

Council noted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of reports being submitted so the consensus was that the report back template in its current format is satisfactory. G Lee expressed his hope that members will continue to submit completed forms for the meetings.

3.3 Freshers' Week Report (Refer 4.8)

Masters Students Freshers' Pack

J Wightwick has been in contact with the Postgraduate Research Strategy Administrator who will send the information in due course.

3.4 Education Faculty – Diploma in Education (Refer 4.9)

J Wightwick will raise the issue of the application process at the next meeting of the Education Faculty and report back to Council.

JW

**3.5 Health, Safety & Environment Committee – Health Service Issue
(Refer 9.3.2)**

The list of committee staff contacts had been circulated and G Lee was concerned at the lack of uptake of the support available for this committee. G Lee asked members to contact him if they wished further clarification on how the support process operates.

3.6 Reports from every member of Council (Refer 10)

The Sabbatical Officers had hoped to have facilitated meetings arranged

but due to recent events this had not been possible. This will be organised next week and N Jennings will send out availability forms.

ACTION
NJ

3.7 Attendance Monitoring (Refer 12)

J Wightwick informed Council this will be discussed at the next Learning & Teaching Committee meeting.

3.8 Website (Refer 14.1)

Z Grams confirmed that the Convenors and Officers list is now displayed on the SRC website and SRC face book.

3.9 Exam Results (Refer 14.2)

J Wightwick had not received any examples of exam results being delayed and not being issued until a similar time to last year (even though the exam diet had been moved forward to December). Council noted that S Ritchie had attended a departmental meeting recently where this issue had been raised; there had been suggestions from within that particular department that the new timeframe had not worked. G Lee asked for examples from other departments to find out if this is a wider problem and J Wightwick will raise the issue at the appropriate Committee.

JW

3.10 Sustainability Committee (Refer 14.4)

L Laws emailed members who had expressed an interest in establishing the Committee but no one had responded. G Lee urged members to contact L Laws with their availability.

3.11 Same Sex Marriage (Refer 14.8)

G Lee had circulated the email to Council members.

4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS - 16 Jan to 12 February 2009

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

GAVIN LEE, PRESIDENT (Copy of report circulated)

4.1 International Student Barometer

J Harrison asked about the findings in the latest international student barometer. G Lee informed him that out of a number of institutions around the world the SRC was rated the best student union in Scotland, 3rd in the Russell Group and 9th out the entire survey.

4.2 John McIntyre Redevelopments

S Ritchie asked for an update on the redevelopments of the John McIntyre Building. G Lee informed him the plans are currently being drawn up, but still no funding has been approved.

4.3 Meeting with Representatives from Al Mergib University, Libya

G Lee and B Hay had attending this meeting. The Libyan representative was interested in finding out what services and support the SRC provides.

They presented G Lee with an achievement award.

ACTION

4.4 Estates & Strategy Committee

Council noted that the purchase of Cooperage Place, mainly for postgraduate/international halls, is going ahead.

5 JAMIE WIGHTWICK, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT) (Copy of report circulated)

5.1 Library Level 3 Annexe Plans

At the last Council meeting members had given useful feedback on the refurbishment plans. J Wightwick had a meeting with the Library Committee and they will take all the comments into consideration.

5.2 Conversation Café

This had gone really well and everyone who had attended is keen to have another event. If anyone would like to get involved they should let J Wightwick know.

6 ZOE GRAMS, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)

6.1 Library Computers

G Webb highlighted problems with computers in the library and asked if anyone has communicated with the Computing Services Department about it. Z Grams was unaware of the problems and will inform Computing Services.

ZG

6.2 Negotiations with the Guardian

S Ritchie asked about this. Z Grams explained that last year Guardian generated significant advertising revenue but this year, due to the current economic climate they have had minimal advertising. After discussion with the Guardian Editors it was agreed to drop their final issue and reduce their print run by 1000. B Hay explained that at Christmas time all the budgets in student media are reviewed. Last year Guardian generated a net surplus of around £7/8,000 and this was used to buy capital equipment for other student media. Guardian is likely to make a loss of £6/7,000 this year; however it is hoped that a surplus from Subcity should go a considerable way to offsetting losses in the other media sections.

7 LAURA LAWS, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT) (Copy of report circulated)

7.1 Clubs & Societies Awards

L Laws reported that she and S Hall are in the process of planning a Clubs & Societies awards event on 20 May. Documents will be circulated in the next couple of weeks.

LL

7.2 Green Week

This will take place on the 23-27 March. Plans are now in progress. T

Eriksson, J Harrison, T Gore, K Law and Alex Thomson volunteered to assist.

ACTION

8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

8.1 K Law, LBSS Convenor

A copy was circulated to everyone for information. No questions.

8.2 S Rossi, Medicine Faculty Convenor

A copy was circulated to everyone for information. No questions.

8.3 A Cohen, Science Faculty Convenor

A copy was circulated to everyone for information. No questions.

8.4 I Macdonald, Postgraduate Convenor

A copy was circulated to everyone for information. No questions.

8.5 T Gore, General Rep

A copy was circulated to everyone for information. No questions.

8.6 Filippo Trevisan, Court Assessor/PG General Rep

A copy was circulated to everyone for information. No questions.

9 MEDIA WEEK REPORT

A copy of the report had been circulated to everyone for information. Z Grams thanked everyone who helped and attended events. The week had been a great success with 408 participants; an increase on turnout of 160% on last year.

G Lee thanked Z Grams for her report and for organising a great week.

10 CHESS 'the way forward'

Despite regular reminders and requests G Lee has still not received the minutes from the last CHESS meeting. This will be on the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

GL

11 National Postgraduate Committee

G Lee informed Council that the NPC is considering either a merger or other formal linkage with NUS. The SRC were keen that this should be through a service level agreement where the NPC contract with NUS would provide some structural support but with the NPC remaining an independent and separate organisation. This would allow the SRC to continue being a strong vocal part of NPC.

J Wightwick attended the meeting and informed Council that there were only 7 voting delegates represented at the OGM - 3 of whom had resolutions for disaffiliation to put to their next council meeting should the proposed merger not go ahead. There was very little discussion about alternative proposals from other institutions and no broad support for the service level agreement model proposed by Glasgow. The delegates

present expressed sympathy with the implications of a merger for non-NUS affiliates and asked that NPC explore the options for continuing provision to those affected in their talks with the NUS.

It appears highly likely that the merger will go ahead and NUS will take over NPC and establish a postgraduate forum. The SRC will be working with the PG reps over the next few months to see what options are available. Council will be kept updated of any developments.

12 AOCB

12.1 Signing up for Fund Raising

An appeal for the Disasters Emergencies Committee (DEC) and Save a Child's Heart will take place on Friday 20 February and G Lee asked members to come along and support it. T Gore, A Munro, J Harrison, J Harwood & H Dickson volunteered.

12.2 Staff Facilities

G Lee and B Hay had met with a University member of staff who wanted to highlight an idea that the University has about turning the Ferguson Room in 1A The Square into a staff only area. This would allow staff to take visiting guests or external examiners for lunch. He wanted to find out how students would feel about this proposal. G Lee and B Hay advised him that they did not perceive this as potentially problematic considering that the Fraser Building was now open. Council expressed agreement.

12.3 Lecture Call Outs

Z Grams informed everyone that with the upcoming elections there will be posters and messages to students. She also hopes that some members will speak in lectures and make everyone aware that the elections are happening. One restriction is that no candidate can take part in the lecture call out on behalf of the SRC.

12.4 Council Dinner

This will take place on Friday, 15 May in the Ferguson Room, 1A The Square. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

12.5 E.G.M.

A Cohen asked when this meeting would be taking place. G Lee informed her there has not been any call for an E.G.M. He understands a request will be coming in and as soon as it does a date will be set.

12.6 Elections

J Harrison asked for views on why there were so few candidates submitting nomination forms for the forthcoming elections. A discussion followed. Two Council members expressed dissatisfaction with the level of council members' involvement. Others members expressed the opposite view and there was a general discussion around council members' engagement. Some other members stated that they would have stood for another position but simply cannot afford the time to do the role justice. G Lee will

try and speak to some people who did fill out forms and did not submit them and try and ascertain the reason why. G Lee informed Council an Executive meeting will take place next week and decide a date for a by election. He was also disappointed to hear that some members felt they were not being heard on Council and would be happy to discuss it with them.

ACTION

It was suggested that it would be useful to have handover training to find out what members hope to achieve during their term of office and also more specialised training in relation to specific faculties. It was also felt that the University should actively engage the person elected during their term of office.

B Hay pointed out that Council meetings this year have been really well attended and all members have made significant and well informed contributions. He was disappointed that some members had not raised their concerns until now.

12.7 Racist Comments & Graffiti on Campus

H Dickson expressed his concern at the amount of graffiti and racist and homophobic comments on the walls around campus and in the library and asked if there was anything that could be done about it. After a short discussion it was agreed that members should notify L Laws of any areas where they have seen graffiti and she will arrange with Estates & Buildings to have it removed.

LL

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.