

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2009 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Chris Hall, Alice Munro, Sabrina Rossi, Alex Thomson,
Gareth Webb, Filippo Trevisan

**1 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING
19 February 2009 – Factual Corrections**

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Education Faculty – Diploma in Education (Refer 3.4)

J Wightwick had received some suggestions on how to improve the PGDE talks for next year. He contacted the person in charge of these events who is happy to organise it.

2.2 Facilitated Meetings (Refer 3.6)

All the meetings are now completed. The Sabbatical Officers are writing up their notes and the main issues raised will be addressed during future training. A Full Executive Committee meeting will be organised in the next couple of weeks to follow up other areas highlighted.

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2.3 Exam Results (Refer 3.9)

J Wightwick had referred to the Clerk of Senate, issues that had been raised concerning departmental exam results not coming back on time. As a result the Clerk of Senate has sent out a reminder email to heads of departments.

2.4 Library Computers (6.1)

Z Grams contacted IT services regarding the problems with the computers in the library. They were aware of some of the problems but not all of them. She is waiting to hear back from them and will update everyone at the next meeting. In the meantime council members were invited to feedback any other computer associated issues.

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2.5 Clubs & Societies Awards (Refer 7.1)

L Laws and S Hall have drafted a sponsorship document to send out to local businesses. The event will cost around £500. If anyone wants to get involved please let her know.

2.6 CHESS ‘the way forward’ (Refer 10)

G Lee apologised once again for the minutes not being available. The minutes will be circulated once received. This item will remain on the Agenda for the next meeting.

2.7 Racist Comments & Graffiti on Campus (Refer 12.7)

L Laws had not heard from anyone else regarding this matter but it was noted that G Lee has mentioned the problem to the Director of Estates & Buildings.

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS - 13 Feb to 18 March 2009

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

GAVIN LEE, PRESIDENT (Copy of report circulated)

3.1 Academic Structures Implementation Group

G Lee pointed out this should read 'Spring exam dates/times' and not as printed. K Law asked what the 'compromise' was. G Lee explained that currently all Honours exams are 'front loaded' i.e. held in the first two weeks of the exam diet to allow extra time for marking. This means that the hardest exams that count the most have the least time to study. It was agreed that in exceptional circumstances some exams will be front-loaded if approved by the Clerk of Senate.

3.2 John McIntyre Building Development

S Ritchie asked for an update. G Lee informed Council there were no further developments but he had met recently with the International Director and Head of Student Recruitment to discuss options incorporating international students downstairs. A Cohen asked what was happening to the space where services had now moved into the Fraser Building. G Lee explained that the areas were being renovated at the moment and will be used for decant space.

3.3 Options Appraisal

G Lee attended the Options Appraisal Steering Group recently where they agreed that the appraisal should be completed by the 30 April. Questionnaires have been circulated around campus and focus groups have taken place for various students and groups to get a broad representation of views. This will be reported back to the Steering Group in the next couple of weeks.

3.4 Late Submission Policy

A Cohen informed Council the current proposal for Late Submission Policy was raised at the Science Committee who is unhappy at being forced to amend their practice. They asked if it would be possible to survey students to find out if it is useful. J Wightwick reported that this went out for further consultation and as a result a 5 working day policy is preferred so at the moment it would appear that a compromise has been reached. G Lee pointed out that in conjunction with this; reasons why an extension can be granted are also being strengthened. G Lee will discuss the matter in more detail with A Cohen and establish who to discuss the matter with in the Science Faculty. J Harwood suggested getting in touch with the Archaeology Department who appear to have a good system in place of

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recognising who might need an extension and why. This will be explored further.

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

4.1 Academic Standards Committee

K Law referred to the charter of standard facilities and asked what this would include. J Wightwick informed him this would consist of a clock, chalk, coat stand and standardised pieces of teaching equipment.

4.2 Points Based Immigration Working Group

J Wightwick pointed out that since the meeting in February there had been positive developments. The 'sufficient funds' that students are required to provide evidence for had gone down (sufficient funds to fund 1 year of study, as opposed to entire length of study) and that visas will now be set for the length of a course and will be issued for the full period.

4.3 EdPSC

J Wightwick updated Council and explained that the first attendance monitoring policy recommendation was accepted. The second recommendation was that standardised equipment be installed in every lab or tutorial room to electronically monitor attendance. The third recommendation was whether or not standardised facilities should be provided in lectures. The University will now investigate what types of technology it would involve in installing this electronic equipment and the cost and upkeep.

4.4 Retention Working Group

I MacDonald asked for clarification on the note of the working group and reference to personality tests. J Wightwick explained that a pilot project to carry out a personality test on students has been proposed. S Ritchie mentioned that a system similar to this is already in place in some schools. J Wightwick pointed out that this is a piece of research and something students would be given a choice to take part in. J Wightwick will monitor this closely.

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

5.1 Website Blog

J Harrison asked about this. Z Grams explained that she would like the blog updated once a week by at least one of the Sabbatical Officers or the Executive. She feels that the website in its current form is not easy to engage with Council because it is mainly fact based so she would like the blog to be off the cuff, informal remarks. Anyone who wants to write a piece for the blog should send it to Z Grams.

5.2 TV Screens

J Harrison asked if the TV Screens had been expensive. Z Grams

informed him they were not overly expensive but the SRC had received money from the University a couple of years ago which was earmarked to implement the GUST network. She had a meeting with student media recently where they had discussed the different topics that could be advertised on them. If anyone else has any ideas on what types of things should be advertised on the TVs they should send them to Z Grams.

5.3 SRC Website

Z Grams is working on updating the website. If anyone is interested in websites and would like to get involved please let her know.

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

6.1 SLAP Awards

L Laws is working with the Advice Centre compiling the list of nominees who they think should receive an award. This will then be passed to the panel for selection. The main problems are flats not being repaired in good time, leaks not fixed for months and students being asked to leave property because HMO licences have been revoked. If anyone wants to accompany L Laws in delivering the SLAP award they should let her know.

6.2 European Regional Working Group

A Cohen asked about this. She pointed out that no single-semester Erasmus student could attend Glasgow University in Semester 2, as European Semester 1 will not have been completed. L Laws will find out more about this and pass that information on. She will also speak to Council at the next meeting about 'Europe Day' in September and how Council can get involved.

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6.3 Abbreviation List

S Ritchie thought the abbreviation list at the end of J Wightwick & L Laws reports was a great idea and very helpful.

6.4 Glasgow Student Village Group

L Laws and the Advice Centre met with the Glasgow Student Village Group, the Group who manage most of the student halls. They have made the information in their contracts a lot easier to read and will be putting it into different languages for everyone to understand.

7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

7.1 K Law, LBSS Convenor

A copy was circulated to everyone for information.

7.1.1 Sparqs Training

Z Grams asked K Law why he was disappointed with the Sparqs training and what he would like to see in the future. K Law felt it was not very productive and no one seemed to get much out of it. G Lee believes the core rep training could be useful for people when they first become student

reps but Sparqs advanced training may be more beneficial. This is being updated at the moment so once this is revised G Lee thinks it could be worth looking at for Council members.

ACTION

7.1.2 LBSS Information Sheet

J Harrison thanked K Law for producing an information sheet for him.

7.1.3 Handover

As it was clear that K Law was preparing a handover document for J Harrison, S Ritchie asked if this was something that could be promoted for the handover for next year and encourage everyone to do it. G Lee pointed out that this is something that members are asked to do but it doesn't always happen. A short discussion followed. It was agreed a handover document for predecessors would be useful and could be easily updated. G Lee hopes to have a meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss what to do.

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7.2 S Rossi, Medicine Faculty Convenor

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

7.3 I Macdonald, Postgraduate Convenor

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

7.4 T Eriksson, General Rep

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

7.5 J Harrison, General Rep

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

7.5.1 Green Week

L Laws thanked S Hall, J Harrison and T Eriksson for all their help during this week.

7.6 S Ritchie, General Rep

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

7.7 A Cohen, Science Faculty Convenor

A Cohen apologised for not submitting a report. She reported on the following item:

7.7.1 DPTLA

This was a very interesting process and A Cohen really enjoyed it. J Wightwick added that the feedback from staff had been very positive.

8 E.G.M.

Council noted that the E.G.M. minutes are being written and will be circulated at the beginning of next week to Council, the E.G.M. attendees and, as there was a high level of student interest in it, will be put on the website. G Lee reported that four motions had been presented for discussion at the meeting:

Motion 1

Was asking the SRC to lobby the University to fulfil its commitment to donate academic resources that are no longer used, e.g. text books, old computers. This motion was passed.

Motion 2

Was in relation to Scholarships and was asking the SRC to lobby the University to fulfil its commitment that if funds were donated for Scholarships for Palestinian students they would be set up, and they would raise awareness of scholarships in the middle east and actively seek donations to Scholarships for Palestinian students coming to Glasgow. This motion was passed.

Motion 3

Was in relation to restricting arms companies at recruitment fairs and being on campus. After further discussion the motion was amended for the SRC to lobby the University to ban companies that violated international law on campus. This motion was passed.

Motion 4

Ethical Investment – a review group has been set up to review the Ethical Investment Policy and the motion was for the SRC to lobby and vote either in favour of every policy which removed any companies that had any links to arms companies or vote against any policy which did not expressly remove any links to arms companies from the policy. This motion was not passed.

G Lee thanked members who had attended the meeting and those who engaged in the debate. A discussion followed.

A Cohen was disappointed with the information everyone had been given before the meeting and hadn't realised that voting would be taking place; she thought it would only be a discussion. G Lee explained that the motions had been handed in on Friday when he was off and they were looked into on the Monday when he returned. He pointed out that if the motions had not been accepted for the E.G.M. meeting they would then have had to be discussed at the meeting tonight. G Lee apologised for not giving members more notice. S Ritchie felt members had been put in quite a hostile environment and it was unfortunate that more members of Council had not attended. He suggested that if there is ever another E.G.M. like this one then voting should be done either by ballot or in private. A Cohen believed that members who had not attended would have made a bigger effort if they had been aware that voting on motions would be taking place. J Harwood pointed out that she would not have been prepared to attend two meetings like that in the one week and despite the fact there were a large number of people present she felt the most hostile comments came from a minority.

Z Grams added that she felt that Council members should come to meetings whether or not motions are to be passed and it was Council's role

to engage in the student community as much as possible. I MacDonald added that he did not feel in any way intimidated but agreed that a secret ballot would be better than a show of hands. He was pleased to be there and take part in the debate and thought the opposition that was there were extremely well organised and prepared. Some members did not know what a direct negative was and felt this would be useful to know for future meetings.

It was agreed that in future a pre meeting with Council should be held to brief members, discuss what format the meeting will take and agree on how voting will be conducted.

9 BY-ELECTION

This will take place on Wednesday, 6 May. Nominations will open on Monday, 23 March and close on Friday, 24 April. The Hustings will be held on Tuesday, 5 May at 6pm in the Williams Room.

Council also noted that the Returning Officer will be retiring so a replacement will have to be found.

10 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The following members offered to be part of a discussion group regarding changes to the Constitution: J Harwood, S Ritchie, S Hall, J Harrison & K Law.

11 MENTAL HEALTH WEEK REPORT

A copy of this report written by L Laws had been circulated to everyone for information.

12 SHAG WEEK REPORT

A copy of this report written by L Laws had been circulated to everyone for information.

L Laws felt that both weeks had been enjoyable and good contact was made with Clubs & Societies who got involved and ran events. She tried to arrange a variety of events during the week to get students involved but found it quite difficult to get Council members involved. She found that it was the usual members who have constantly helped out that turned up. She asked Council what she could have done to encourage more help. The following points were noted -

There appears to be a breakdown of communication when responding to emails;

Having specific jobs to do would be a better way of getting people involved because asking for volunteers doesn't always work;

Give more advance notice;

Designate certain jobs to members for a set time every week;

Include events in the SRC Diary and distribute a copy to Council members;

Sabbs should highlight events in Council minutes;

Re-introduce Council duty;

Sabbs should delegate a bit more and then members report back;
Sabbs should put the times they are available on the website so that members can come and speak to them.

As a result of the discussion everyone appeared to be pleased with the format and would be happy to be asked to be involved. L Laws thanked everyone for their support.

**13 MINUTES OF FULL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
3 December 2008**

Minutes circulated for information.

**14 MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
11 November 2008**

Minutes circulated for information.

15 AOCB

15.1 Learning & Teaching Conference

J Wightwick informed Council this will be held on Friday, 24 April 2009 in the Sir Charles Wilson Building & G12 of the University. This could be suitable for Convenors but General Reps and WEOPS might be interested in attending.

15.2 Applicants Visit Day

Z Grams reminded everyone this will take place on Tuesday, 31 March and asked for volunteers to help out at the stand. She hopes one Sabb and one Council member could spend some time on the stand chatting to students who have applied to Glasgow. If anyone is interested in helping please let her know by Friday afternoon.

15.3 Election Campaign Funding Limit

G Lee reported that it had been suggested that there should be a limit on funding for SRC election campaigns. A discussion followed. The following points were raised:

It could be very difficult to monitor;

It is up to each individual how much they spend;

There should not be a restriction on spending;

Setting an amount could also put some students off if they think it is too much;

Produce guidelines on how to spend money more effectively.

15.4 Agenda for Meeting

G Lee thanked the Exec for organising the Agenda for tonight's meeting, while he was on holiday.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.