

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2009 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

**Present** : As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies** : Razvan Balaban, Stephen Flavahan, Bob Hay

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**1 WELCOME**

L Laws welcomed to the meeting Erin Russell, Advice, Policy & Training Officer and Gina Connor, Senior Office & Finance Administrator.

**2 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING  
12 November 2009 – Factual Corrections**

**2.1 Estates & Buildings Committee (Refer 4.1.2)**

This should read – “A Daly explained that he is still a practicing Chartered Surveyor.....” and not as printed.

Minutes adopted by Council.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

**3.1 Feedback from Informal Council Meeting on 24/9/09 (Refer 13)**

L Laws confirmed that the notes from this meeting will be circulated to Council shortly.

LL

**3.2 POP3 Webmail (Refer 5.1.2)**

The suggestion by U Malik that Council member’s webmail is POP3 will be followed up with IT Services.

SABBS

**3.3 Scottish Defence League Protests (Refer 9.1.1)**

Council noted that a supporting statement agreed at the last Council meeting had been circulated with the late papers. The statement had been forwarded to the media and Guardian had published an article on the matter.

**3.4 Green Days (Refer 11.6)**

It was noted that S Hall, J Harrison and T Gore had volunteered to be involved and a meeting will take place very shortly with Glasgow City Council and the head of GOW (Gibson Street, Otago Street and Westbank Quadrant community).

**4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS’ REPORTS – 13 November to 26 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 John McIntyre Building Renovations**

J Harrison asked for an update. L Laws informed Council that a series of meetings will take place in the new year to decide the future of the building and who will occupy it. The SRC has been advised by the University that they do envisage the SRC as one of the occupants in the refurbished building. The possibility of the SRC fulfilling the reception requirements of all occupants has also been discussed. The SRC will continue to work with the University to ensure that SRC services are more accessible and visible than they are currently; this would include bringing all services downstairs. It is likely that staff and services will be disrupted for a year or two, with the possibility of a decant from the building, while the renovations take place.

**4.2 Student Lifecycle Project Board Meeting**

L Laws advised that she had voiced some concerns at the last SLP Board meeting. She explained that a Business Committee, made up of 4 people, meets before the Project Board meetings and a lot of policy decisions are made which she believes should go through University Committee structures; decisions about finance and debt collection. She believes that decisions regarding finance should go through the Finance Committee. Another proposal which came to the Lifecycle Project Board meeting was regarding a Cashless card system which L Laws felt was not within the remit of the SLP Board.

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

There were no questions from Council for M Boyd.

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

**6.1 SRC Website**

S Dunn asked if the election website was now updated. J Wilson will attend to it.

JW

**6.2 Moodle for Student Reps**

F Weber pointed out that the Moodle service is not working. M Boyd will investigate.

MB

**7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS**  
**from November 2009**

**7.1 R Balaban, Arts Convenor**

R Balaban had submitted his apologies. There were no questions from Council.

**7.2 G Carre, Engineering Convenor**

There were no questions from Council for G Carre.

### **7.3 J Harrison, LBSS Convenor**

#### **7.3.1 Facebook**

J Wilson asked J Harrison how this was going. J Harrison advised that there is very little activity but he intends to send out more emails from it. He had mentioned on Facebook that student reps could get Committee papers printed by the SRC. L Laws pointed out that only Council members and Sabbatical Officers' papers are printed by the SRC. Student reps should contact the Faculty and ask for hard copies to be sent to them.

### **7.4 A Cohen, Science Convenor**

There were no questions from Council for A Cohen.

### **7.5 A Silkoff, Minority Ethnic Officer**

There were no questions from Council for A Silkoff.

### **7.6 T Gore, Clubs & Societies Officer**

There were no questions from Council for T Gore.

### **7.7 L Armstrong, General Rep**

There were no questions from Council for L Armstrong.

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

### **8.1 Apologies**

S Hall apologised for her report being quite short but she had been off ill for a few days and, for the moment, was working less hours.

### **8.2 Sexual Health At Glasgow Week**

Plan for this are going well. S Hall hopes that as many people as possible will be able to help with the 'Condom Drop' at the GUU. She looks forward to seeing Council members and their friends attend the film show on Friday, 4 December in the Boyd Orr Building, Lecture Theatre 2.

## **9 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS December 2009**

### **9.1 G Carre, Engineering Faculty Convenor**

#### **9.1.1 Appeals Protocol**

G Carre is investigating the appeals situation. There are serious concerns around the wording of the letter that comes to students explaining what actions students should take prior to considering an appeal. The current letter deviates considerably from University policy and time limits are inconsistent. G Carre is currently gathering more information to use as evidence. G Carre and M Wilson are putting together a package of what the ideal outcome of a change to the policy would be and the type of letter they would wish to be sent out.

### **9.1.2 Military Education Committee**

It was noted that G Carre had been approached to join this Committee. Council approved.

### **9.2 J Harrison, LBSS Faculty Convenor**

There were no questions from Council for J Harrison.

### **9.3 A Cohen, Science Faculty Convenor**

#### **9.3.1 Proposal for Colleges**

A Cohen had been shown the following proposal for the two colleges, by the FBLS Faculty and Physical Sciences Faculty:

“Biomedicine” – Biological Sciences, Medicine, Vet Med (and perhaps Dentistry) (Psychology and Neuroscience?) + Grad School

“Engineering and Physical Sciences” – Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Geography and Earth Sciences, Maths and Stats, Physics and Astronomy (Psychology?) + Grad School

It would appear that there had been a lot of discussion about where Psychology should fit in and A Cohen suggested that an email be sent out to Psychology Honours students asking them to recognise which college they identify themselves with.

#### **9.3.2 Biology Level 2**

A Cohen highlighted that Biology level 2 has now found a way to make it easier for students to choose what they want to study in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. There are 4 groups and for each of the 4 groups there is the same pre requisite. If a student wants to study in a particular group they don't have to decide which one, they can have up to 3 groups open as an option.

#### **9.3.3 FBLS Faculty**

A Cohen was pleased to hear that the Faculty is aware they are having a DPTLA next session and are pushing for more students on Committees. A Cohen will be meeting with the Director of the Undergraduate School to co-ordinate meetings with him and the student reps.

### **9.4 V Strouvelle, International Students' Officer**

There were no questions from Council for V Strouvelle.

### **9.5 L Irving, Students with Disabilities Officer**

There were no questions from Council for L Irving.

### **9.6 T Gore, Clubs & Societies Officer**

There were no questions from Council for T Gore.

## **10 MEDIA WEEK REPORT**

J Wilson had circulated a copy of his report to members for information. L Laws congratulated him on a very successful week and J Wilson thanked everyone who had attended events. Council noted that the Media Week

budget report will be presented at the next Council meeting. D Bentley asked if out of date Media Week and election posters around University Gardens, the Adam Smith and Fraser Buildings would now be removed. J Wilson will take this up with the Publicity team.

**ACTION**

JW

### **11 SUBMISSION ON RESTRUCTURING PAPER**

L Laws had compiled the basic points taken from the two consultation sessions. She asked for feedback before Monday, especially on how students think the University should interact with them. The report will be circulated back to Council before a final paper is submitted to the University.

### **12 WINTER INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Council noted that it is normal practice for the SRC and International Office to provide website information on events and services available during the festive season, for international students who are staying in Glasgow over this period. S Hall asked members to send her two pieces of information by Tuesday, 8 December, which she could include in this.

### **13 AOCB**

#### **13.1 Mature Students' Officer Posters**

D Bentley congratulated A Daly on his publicity posters displayed in various buildings on campus. A Daly explained that he wanted to promote himself and had targeted places where he thought most students would spend time in. As a result students have contacted him and he has been able to resolve a couple of issues.

#### **13.2 Glasgow University Students Living in Caledonian University Accommodation**

F Weber raised this subject. Council noted that about 80 students living in Caledonian University accommodation because the University's is full, are feeling isolated. They pay up to £1,000 more for accommodation, they cannot use the night bus service because there are no buses running from the SRC and they are given bus tickets for 10 weeks when Semesters run for more than that.

L Laws explained that anyone applying late for accommodation will be put into spaces that are left therefore it is unlikely anything can be done about it but she did agree that a 10 week bus pass ticket for an 11 week term is not acceptable. The Accommodation Office will be asked to give students another bus ticket.

LL

Regarding the bus service, G Connor explained that the SRC was not informed that the Accommodation Office would be using other accommodation. If the SRC had known then the service could perhaps have been examined to take that into account but it is not something that can be undertaken now as timetables have been printed and it would mean reducing the level of service that the other halls receive. It was suggested that the students continue to use the bus tickets this year and a meeting

will be set up with the Accommodation Office to discuss it for next year.

**ACTION**

Another point was raised by S Rossi and the timings of the bus service to Wolfson Hall. G Connor confirmed that the bus time had been brought forward but she asked if Wolfson Hall had moved their dinner time. She explained that if the bus timetable was altered it would mean the service at the end of the night would have to be reduced as the drivers can only drive for a limited time each night. She suggested the students speak to their Hall Committee to see if the dinner time can be changed.

### **13.3 Uganda Petition**

D Bentley brought to Council's attention an email he had received from the Equality & Diversity Unit highlighting a proposal in Uganda to execute anyone who is homosexual and has HIV. He will forward the link and website articles to N Jennings for circulation, so that any Council member who wishes to sign the petition can do so.

NJ

### **13.4 Rag Week**

L Laws informed Council that as part of Rag Week in March 2010 it had been suggested that the girls wear the same dress for one month. A short discussion followed and it was agreed that part of the challenge could be to accessorise the dress so that it would not look as if it was the same one that was being worn.

### **13.5 Movember**

J Wilson was pleased to report that between the GUU, QMU and SRC around £2,000 was raised for the Prostate Cancer Charity. He thanked everyone who had sponsored them.

### **13.6 International Students**

A Cohen reported that one of her friends, an international student and studying Medicine, had informed her that a new law has been passed where overseas students cannot be here for more than 7 years. This means that students can finish their core medicine course but will not have enough time to finish their specialisation. Her friend has been told she has to do conversion exams so that she can transfer when she finishes her 5 years. This could lead to a reduction in the number of international students wanting to study here. A Cohen and V Strouvelle will find out more about this and report back to M Boyd.

AC/VS

### **13.7 Faculty Emails**

J Harrison informed Council that LBSS student reps had recently received committee papers 40 minutes before a meeting they were attending. He asked if there was anything the SRC could do about it. L Laws suggested he speak to the Faculty Secretary.

JH

### **13.8 Restructuring**

J Harrison asked how this will affect the SRC and if there is a timetable for deciding what is going to happen. L Laws informed him that this will be looked at in the new year. Further discussions will take place but until it

has been passed at Court on 16 December it is not clear what the structure is going to be.

ACTION

**14 “FOUR MONTHS IN” EVALUATION**

A 10-minute exercise took place where L Laws asked members to write down two things they think they or Council have done since they were elected, two of which have been done well and two that could be improved on. The notes would be written up and circulated at the next meeting of council.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.