

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2007 AT 6.40 p.m.
IN ROOM 506, BOYD ORR BUILDING**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Gordon Ashenhurst, Kat Borrowdale, Gary Brown,
Nicola Chan, Daniel Gallagher, Akhtar Khan,
Anders Roberts, Veer Shah, Seumas Skinner,
Filippo Trevisan

Attending : Naseem Anwar

S Morrison welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.

**1 MINUTES OF THE 2nd COUNCIL MEETING
7 December 2006 – Factual Corrections**

**1.1 GUSTAR's Campaign on Asylum-Seekers' Access to HE
(Refer 12)**

J Wightwick should read 'J A Wightwick'.

2 MATTERS ARISING

**2.1 Convenors, Officers & Court Assessor's Reporting Template
(Refer 7)**

B Hay is preparing the template which will be circulated to Council shortly.

BH

2.2 Climate Change Motion (Refer 10)

S Morrison met with various members from the Sustainability Group to draft letters to government ministers and the Scottish Funding Council. She had also spoken to 'Stop Climate Chaos Scotland' and has accepted affiliation to it.

**2.3 GUSTAR's Campaign on Asylum-Seekers' Access to HE
(Refer 12)**

S Morrison met with members from GUSTAR Group to draft letters to various government ministers and departments. Papers have also gone to the Recruitment, Admissions & Participation Committee and the SSDC.

2.4 PDP Working Group (Refer 13)

M Wilson is waiting to hear from members regarding their availability for a suitable meeting date.

2.5 Website & E-mail Addresses (Refer 14)

D Lamb asked members to submit to him, by Wednesday, 24th January at 12 o'clock, their photograph and a short paragraph of their role on Council.

COUNCIL

S Morrison reminded everyone that as members can now access the

Council Members' Section of the Forum they should make more use of it. She has been putting notices on it and hopes it might lead to more discussions on the Forum, reducing the number at Council.

ACTION

2.6 Publicity Committee (Refer 15)

A meeting of this Committee will take place at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24 January in the SRC. If anyone else wants to attend they should let D Lamb know.

2.7 No Platform Policy Working Group (Refer 17.3)

This has been set up.

2.8 Strategic Planning Day (Refer 17.4)

On the Agenda under AOCB.

Minutes adopted by Council.

3 NASEEM ANWAR, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY DIRECTOR

S Morrison introduced to Council the new University Equality & Diversity Director, Naseem Anwar. It is hoped that over the new few months the SRC will work closely with him and build links.

N Anwar gave a brief outline of his remit and his extensive experience in the field of equal opportunities.

S Morrison suggested that it would be useful to have a meeting with the Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officers once Naseem has settled into his role. Any other members of Council would be welcome to attend too.

4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS

SHONA MORRISON, PRESIDENT

(Copy circulated)

One further item added.

4.1 The Library

Council noted that the Library had closed early on Monday due to staff shortages however it was now back to its normal 2 am closure. S Morrison agreed to clarify the current opening hours of the Round Reading Room as it appears that it has been closing at 6.30 pm since term restarted.

SM

4.2 Questions or Comments for the President

4.2.1 Senior Management Group

M Wilson asked if a letter had been written to the Principal requesting a place on the Senior Management Group. S Morrison had written but had not received any response. She informed Council she is meeting with the Principal shortly and will raise this with him. Council were unanimous in agreeing that it was important that the most senior student representative is able to participate at every level in the University's decision making structures.

SM

4.2.2 Williams Room

B Hay apologised for the delay with the refurbishment of the room but advised that this was due to factors outwith the SRC's control. He informed Council that the room is nearly finished and cabling for AV equipment has been installed in the hope that funding can be secured to purchase AV equipment at a later date. A bid will also be submitted to the University's Development Fund to purchase furniture, meanwhile some tables and chairs have been provided on a short term loan from the University.

5 DAVID LAMB, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS)
(Copy circulated)

One further item added.

5.1 Media Week

D Lamb is in the process of organising this event which takes place from Monday, 26 February – Friday, 2 March. Anyone with any suggestions of people they would like to see at Media Week should let David know asap.

5.2 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)**5.2.1 Website**

S Campbell pointed out that in the current students' page on the main University website there is no SRC click link anymore. D Lamb confirmed this was being addressed and will be updated shortly. It was also noted that the Welfare & Academic Support section on the University's site made no reference to the SRC Advice Centre.

6 MHAIRI WILSON, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)
(Copy circulated)

One further item added.

6.1 New Academic Year Structure

M Wilson had sent D Watt the draft report for the new academic year structure and he had responded to all the questions raised by Council. M Wilson will forward the response to Council and display it on the forum.

MW

6.2 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)

None.

7 KAT BORROWDALE, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)
(Copy circulated)

Apologies had been submitted. S Morrison answered questions raised.

7.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)**7.1.1 Masterpoint Contract**

S Campbell asked what was happening with this contract. D Lamb explained the contract had been received and is being examined. He will report back to next meeting.

DL

8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTSACTION**8.1 Jennifer Wightwick, Mature Students' Officer****8.1.1 Museums & Galleries Committee**

As this Committee is not meeting until March J R Wightwick and G Ironside had met with the Dean of the Arts Faculty and had brought up the subject of 'Millie the Dinosaur'. The Dean explained 'Millie' was never intended to be a permanent feature and also there were health and safety issues with regards to students climbing up on it.

8.1.2 Campaigns Committee

J R Wightwick had attended this meeting at the QM Union. She is investigating the possibility of running a campaign to try and reassure mature students that they are welcome at the Unions, as it had come to light that some part-time mature students felt they were not welcome. J R Wightwick is meeting with the President of the Mature Students' Association and will also speak to the GUU and Postgraduate Club.

8.2 Struan Campbell, General Representative**8.2.1 Estates & Buildings**

S Campbell reported that the Director of Estates & Buildings has been conducting a series of presentations on his 20-year plan for overhauling the campus. Council agreed it is important to have as much influence over this as possible and decided a meeting should be held to discuss it further. The following volunteered to attend the meeting – Jamie Wightwick, Jennifer Wightwick, Sarah Tomlinson, Gavin Lee, Howard Dickson, Sophie Ramsay, Abs Mannan, David Lamb, Mhairi Wilson. S Campbell will invite the Director of Estates & Buildings to attend and give his presentation and he will also ask the Unions along. S Campbell will follow this up, speak to the Unions and circulate the papers to Council. S Tomlinson will forward to S Campbell the information presented to Court last year.

SC
ST**8.3 Gavin Lee, LBSS Faculty Convenor**

G Lee met with the Undergraduate Committee and they presented proposals for Personal Development Planning that they are hoping to implement in the LBSS Faculty. G Lee advised that he will liaise with the SRC PDP Working Group in order to ensure the SRC's views are fed into the next meeting of the undergraduate Committee in February. The SRC PDP Working Group will also produce a written report.

PDPWGR

9 STUDENT FESTIVAL

Council noted that a vote will be taken on the charities that will receive any funds from the money raised at the Student Festival which starts on Monday, 5 February. Help will be required for a number of events. Any questions regarding the Student Festival should be directed to K Borrowdale.

10 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

The NSS for this year is now underway. S Morrison advised that the workload was considerable and recommended that the SRC review its position before taking on this burden in future years. This was agreed unanimously.

ACTION**11 KEYS FOR LOWER EXEC OFFICE**

This office is fully operational now and Exec members can sign out their own key for a deposit from Reception. Everyone else can obtain a key from Reception during the day or one from Security if it's after hours.

12 SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

G Ironside circulated a paper by Simon Varwell, Advice, Policy & Training Officer, on the Scottish Parliament Election Manifesto. The paper contained highlighted key policy areas which Council may wish to address and invited Council to prioritise the key policy areas and consider the preparation of an SRC 'Manifesto' for the forthcoming elections. Council was also asked to consider appropriate processes for input into the electoral campaigning process. The following suggestions/comments were made -

- Link up with other hustings that are taking place;
- Think about having hustings for education in conjunction with the University and invite people along at ministerial level;
- Use the development of the Manifesto as an engagement tool;
- This is a chance to take things nationally and to promote the SRC;
- Develop a leaflet that would engage with people; launch it at a national level.

After discussion Council agreed S Morrison would contact everyone at the beginning of next week and anyone interested could submit ideas and then Council will meet to discuss it further. S Tomlinson thanked S Varwell for producing the document and the Advice Team for offering further assistance.

SM

13 AOCB**13.1 Advisers of Studies**

M Wilson advised that, through the Advice Centre and students contacting her directly, there was anecdotal evidence of considerable inconsistency in the support provided by Advisers of Studies. M Wilson suggested that it may be useful to clarify if this was a significant issue through a survey of students. Council agreed that this was an important matter and should be progressed. M Wilson agreed to prepare a draft survey for circulation to Council before distribution. N Anwar suggested including the experiences of disabled students and there may also be gender issues too.

MW

13.2 Away Day/Strategic Planning

B Hay confirmed this event will take place on Friday, 2 February for all Council members. Times and venue will be confirmed and transport will be

BH

arranged. The idea of the event is for Council to have a major input into the future development of the SRC. A further day will be planned with Sabbatical Officers and Staff.

ACTION

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m. and members went to the QM Union for a drink.