

**MINUTES OF THE 4th COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Kerry Anderson, Sam Beaton, Dave Calder,
Howard Dickson, Shona Morrison, Mark Scott,
Julie Sherry, Gareth Webb, Zhaofeng Zhou.

**1 MINUTES OF THE 3rd COUNCIL MEETING
17 January 2008 – Factual Corrections**

None.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Resignation

Council noted the resignation of the Education Faculty Convenor due to other commitments.

2.2 SALT Meetings (Support, Advice & Learning Team) (Refer 2.1)

Notes from the meetings were circulated to members.

2.3 The US Ambassador's Visit (Refer Refer 2.3)

The Principal's Office had received the letter from the President and is formulating a response.

2.4 Campus Services Meeting (Refer 8.2.1)

S Campbell hopes to have the paper on SRC access to halls completed and submitted to the Accommodation Office in April.

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2.5 Medicine Convenor's Report – Crèche Facilities (Refer 9.1)

This is ongoing. V Shah is seeking clarification as to the proposals in the estates plan for moving the nursery to larger premises.

vs

2.6 The Scottish Budget Announcement (Refer 11)

The letters which had been sent to MSPs had been put on the forum by M Wilson.

Minutes adopted by Council.

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 8 Jan to 6 Feb 2008

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

**MHAIRI WILSON, PRESIDENT
(Copy of report circulated)**

3.1 Questions or Comments for the President

3.1.1 Laptop Scheme Meeting

M Wilson was asked about this. She explained that the University has an agreement with Dell to sell compatible laptops to students - the objective is for most students therefore to have similar computers and therefore minimise any incompatibility issues. The scheme has been running for about 18 months but the number of sales has been lower than anticipated. There have also been some issues around ownership of this project within the University which has had an impact on the marketing. Council members shared the view that there may be other deals that students may prefer. Whilst the Dell proposal could represent good value to some students (e.g. 3 year warranty) there were many variables which meant that students might prefer options on offer from other suppliers.

3.1.2 The Rectorial Election

K Broad asked if the SRC would be running a campaign on the day of the election. M Wilson informed Council the SRC would be running a vote campaign and there will be fliers on the role of the Rector, the candidates' who are running and how to vote, but it is unlikely the SRC will be involved on the actual day as each campaign team will be out canvassing.

4 GAVIN LEE, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT) (Copy of report circulated)

4.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)

4.1.1 Sparqs Staff Workshop

G Lee had met with Sparqs representatives and staff from Glasgow, Stirling and Aberdeen Universities and they discussed how to encourage staff to get involved with Student Rep Training. Sparqs have now adopted a new presentation that G Lee had been involved in developing.

4.1.2 Senate Meeting

Council noted that the meeting on the 7 February had gone really well. The PDP policy was passed and received considerable positive feedback (especially regarding the SRC's involvement), from academics.

5 STRUAN CAMPBELL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT) (Copy of report circulated)

5.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)

5.1.1 Amina Muslim Helpline

J Wightwick asked about this. S Campbell explained that the helpline is a confidential telephone service for Muslim women which provides advice on a range of issues and is supported by the Scottish government. S Campbell and M Wilson had met with a member of The Muslim Women's Helpline and agreed to pass on the information to GUMSA.

5.1.2 Grant Management

S Tomlinson asked about this. S Campbell informed Council that relationships with Grant Management are going well this year and the SRC has received fewer complaints. They appear to have followed up on agreements with the SRC to tackle issues raised with them last year.

6 INTRODUCTION

M Wilson introduced Caroline Ingram one of the Advice, Policy & Training Officers to Council.

**7 FILIPPO TREVISAN, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS)
(Copy of report circulated)****7.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)****7.1.1 Media Week**

F Trevisan was delighted with the success of Media Week where around 300 people had attended. Those who attended were very interested and the speakers were more than happy to be there and very keen to return next year. A full report will be ready in due course.

M Wilson thanked F Trevisan for organising a very good week and congratulated him on its success.

8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

One report had been submitted from the Arts Faculty Convenor, J A Wightwick. He had nothing further to add.

9 HUB PRESENTATION

M Wilson presented some slides to Council showing the plans for the new Hub which is due to open in 2008/2009. The Hub is being redeveloped to house a central "One Stop Shop" pulling together a wide range of frontline student services.

The Hub will be over 4 levels:

1. Level 1: Bookshop, meeting room and pharmacy/GP surgery;
2. Level 2: Student Services (Registry, International & Postgraduate Service, Recruitment, Admissions & Participation Service and Careers Service);
3. Level 3: Catering;
4. Level 4: Staff meeting spaces.

The following comments were made. All the queries and comments will be taken back to the Hub Project Manager.

- Will catering prices be similar to current ones run by Hospitality Services? If so, it could be cheaper for students to eat in the Unions rather than The Hub.

- Is there a task group to choose different menus and different options?
- What size will the Pharmacy be?
- Council expressed concern that it will be very noisy on Level 2 with all the student services together in one area and it could be quite chaotic at times.
- The University will need to deal with these issues with staff management and training issues as it is essential to have the right queue management structure in place. It is important that the SRC monitors matters on an ongoing basis and feeds back any issues to the University.
- Is The Hub going to be energy efficient?
- Will there be policing of the 4 interactive student plasma screens? Can we ask them to rotate the information on them?
- Will it be possible to synchronise the information on the plasma screens with other buildings?
- Is there going to be a life span of posters in the frames on the stairwell?

M Wilson thanked everyone for their input and she will update members at the next meeting on any further developments.

10 GRADUATE ENDOWMENT UPDATE

A briefing paper written by M Wilson and G Lee on behalf of CHESS for the Future Thinking Taskforce that Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning has set up had been circulated for information. This will now be presented to the members of the Taskforce. Council noted that CHESS is the only student group who contributed to the consultation.

The Stage 3 debate of the Graduate Endowment will take place on 28 February and it is hoped a delegation will go along to the Scottish Parliament to support the abolition of the Graduate Endowment Tax. After discussion it was agreed this would be put on the Council forum, the SRC website and also advertised to students that it is happening. Any ideas for a slogan would be welcome.

11 STUDENT E-MAIL CONSULTATION

F Trevisan informed Council that Computing Services will be conducting a whole review process of the student messaging system because the current system is pretty obsolete and needs to be revamped. They have asked that the SRC be part of this consultation process. There was a general view that the current web mail is totally unreliable, sometimes students are unable to get on to the system and occasionally it appears in a foreign language. J A Wightwick, V Shah and G Brady will meet next

week to discuss this further.

ACTION

12 STRATEGIC PLAN

A copy of this document had been circulated to everyone for information and endorsement. B Hay explained that the document has been compiled with input from staff and students to reflect the wide ranging nature of the SRC's work and sets the future direction of the organisation whilst allowing for future campaigning priorities which may emerge. It also records some of the work undertaken over the last couple of years. It is hoped to update this document on a yearly basis, revising it completely every three years. A discussion followed and Council agreed that the plan was representative of previous input and was therefore unanimously endorsed.

It was further highlighted that the Plan would be a useful future training tool.

13 PDP GROUP & LIBRARY BOOKLET GROUP

G Lee envisages that the PDP Policy is likely to be implemented in September and one of the key aims is to have an electronic PDP tool. The University has been trying to use 'My Stuff' but this has not progressed in the last year so the Education Committee has decided to look at other possible methods. G Lee asked for volunteers to assist him in trying to establish other methods and obtain some feedback from students. S Cawley, K Broad, S Tomlinson and J A Wightwick volunteered to help.

Council also noted that K Broad and G Lee are writing a library booklet based on what the services in the library offer and how they can be utilised. S Cawley, K Broad, S Tomlinson and J A Wightwick will assist with this too.

14 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12 April & 10 December 2007 - Factual Corrections & Matters Arising
None. Minutes adopted by Council.

15 AOCB

15.1 Senate Guest Night

M Wilson reminded Senate members replies must be returned by 13 March for those attending Senate Guest Night. Members are allowed to invite a guest who they think would be interesting for Senate to be introduced to. Brian Taylor, BBC Scotland's political editor will be making a presentation.

15.2 Principal's Lodgings Reception

This will take place on 9 April and all members of the Executive Committee are invited to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.