

**MINUTES OF THE 5th COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2008 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Chris Birrell, Keiron Harris, Laura Laws,
Shona Morrison, Pete Ramand, George Twizell,
Zhaofeng Zhou.

1 MINUTES OF THE 4th COUNCIL MEETING

14 February 2008 – Factual Corrections

Agreed as a correct minute. Minutes adopted by Council.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Campus Services Meeting (Refer 2.4)

S Campbell informed Council that the paper on SRC access to halls is now complete and will be used as an internal guidance document.

2.2 Crèche Facilities (Refer 2.5)

As M Wilson is on the Nursery Committee she will seek clarification as to the proposals in the estates plan for moving the nursery to larger premises.

MW

2.3 Hub Presentation (Refer 9)

M Wilson had not yet met with the Project Manager but she will endeavour to relate the views of Council at the earliest opportunity.

MW

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 7 Feb – 9 April 2008

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

MHAIRI WILSON, PRESIDENT

(Copy of report circulated)

3.1 Vanunu Motion - Action

M Wilson informed Council that the SRC column in Guardian had been dedicated to Mordechai Vanunu. It was also noted that at the Rectorial Installation Ceremony for The Right Hon Charles Kennedy MP, Mr Vanunu and his plight had been highlighted in both the Rector and SRC President's speeches.

3.2 Graduate Endowment Update

A delegation from Glasgow University had travelled to the Scottish Parliament to support the abolition of the Graduate Endowment Tax. The lobbying had been well received and a considerable level of sympathetic media coverage attained. The "fun element"- relating value of endowment to equivalent in tins of beans, proved to be an excellent campaigning hook!

3.3 Recent Elections

M Wilson congratulated everyone who had been elected. There had been a good turnout and an increase on last year's voting figures. Council also noted that it was the most nomination forms submitted in a long time and the fullest Council in years.

3.4 Questions or Comments for the President

3.4.1 Guide for International Students

H Dickson asked how many copies of this would be printed and the cost. M Wilson explained it was being looked into at the moment but it was hoped that around 2,000 A5 copies could be printed, 8-12 pages in length. It would be along the same lines as the current 'Guide' but focussing on issues specifically relevant to international students. M Wilson is keen to get international students involved in writing it and, depending on the SRC's projected end of year figures, may approach the University for a funding contribution.

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

4.1 E-PDP

G Lee reported that a final decision had been made concerning the E-PDP portfolio. He thanked members who had assisted him in this. The University has chosen one that is simple to use and quite intuitive. It should be in place for staff to begin using by May and rolled out fully in September.

4.2 CHESS

G Lee attended a meeting in Aberdeen recently with M Wilson where the policy document was completed. The document was now with designers. Council was advised that currently work was underway to ensure an effective handover which would enable a continuation of the existing work being undertaken through CHESS.

4.3 Freshers' Week

Organisation with the implementation group and cross campus Freshers' Week group will be coming up in the next few weeks. Arrangements appear to be progressing positively.

4.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)

4.4.1 Election Regulations

S Beaton sought clarification with regard to proposed election regulation changes. G Lee informed him that changes being considered were relatively minor and focussed on clarifying the process and aiding operational effectiveness.

5 FILIPPO TREVISAN, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)

5.1 Student E-mail Consultation

Following discussions at the previous Council and discussions with IT Services F Trevisan prepared and circulated a consultation paper on proposals, from the University, on a new Student Messaging System. He will provide an update on progress at the next meeting of Council.

ACTION

FT

5.2 Website for Clubs & Societies and new Calendar

This should be live next week and will make a significant contribution to helping Clubs and Societies maintain and enhance their public profile. There shall be a requirement for the SRC to approve any content added to the relevant sections of the website.

5.3 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)**5.3.1 Web mail**

G Webb asked if Outlook will be compatible with software other than Microsoft. F Trevisan explained that Outlook is fully compatible and that all existing accounts will be transferred.

**6 STRUAN CAMPBELL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)
(Copy of report circulated)****6.1 RAG Week**

The administration for this is now complete and £3,445 has been raised for charities. Cheques will be sent off shortly. This is an increase on last year.

6.2 SLAP Awards

An independent panel of West End residents and students has decided that Cairn Properties should be given a SLAP award for its poor quality of service to students.

6.3 Reply from Fiona Hyslop

S Campbell had received a response from the Education Minister to the letter sent in February regarding students being estranged from their parents and applying for financial support. It would appear that SAAS will relax some of their criteria in order to consider each case on its merits. Some points still need to be clarified and S Campbell will follow this up.

sc

6.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)**6.4.1 SAAS**

S Cawley asked about changes in the regulations where lone parents who now have a partner, regardless whether they are married or not, have to state what their partner earns. S Campbell will investigate this further.

sc

6.4.2 Glasgow Student Forum

J A Wightwick asked about this. S Campbell reported that this had been organised by the newly elected NUS President and they had met with Councillors, MSPs and Superintendents. The Forum had not been what they had expected and ended up with the students' asking the panel

questions instead of the panel asking the students' questions.

ACTION

M Wilson introduced Lesley Walker, Advice, Policy & Training Officer to Council.

7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

7.1 Jennifer Wightwick, Court Assessor

J R Wightwick did not have anything to report but did inform Council that M Wilson had presented the SRC Strategic Plan to Court and received a very positive response.

7.2 Howard Dickson, Part Time Students' Officer

H Dickson is considering canvassing through the web or through the SRC forum to get some feedback from part time students as to what they think their priorities should be. One issue which arose this year in particular, related to specific elements of p/t student funding. H Dickson will work over the remainder of the session and during summer to try and gather as much information as possible.

7.3 Jamie Wightwick, Arts Convenor

J A Wightwick reported that he will be writing a paper for the Arts Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee on how to help students transition from school to University. If anyone has any suggestions they should pass them to him. As G Lee is on the Retention Working Group M Wilson suggested that J A Wightwick co-ordinate this with him.

JAW

8 MOTION

The following motion proposed by S Beaton and seconded by J Sherry was submitted which read:

SRC Council notes:

- That Scotland's highest profile civil liberties lawyer, Aamer Anwar, polled 1200 votes in the recent Rector elections.
- The election turnout was the highest for over a decade, and Aamer's vote represents a significant section of student opinion at Glasgow University.
- That Aamer Anwar faces charges of contempt of court following comments he made after the sentencing of his client, Mohammed Atif Siddique, for the crime of looking at web sites.

SRC Council believes:

- That lawyers should be given the same freedom of speech as every other citizen and not be constrained from speaking out against injustice.
- That Aamer Anwar's trial is an attack on the independence of the judiciary in Scotland.
- That Aamer Anwar's conviction will have a detrimental impact on the legal profession, including law students, as well as affecting freedom of speech for all students.

SRC Council resolves:

- To send a statement of support to Aamer
- To make students aware, through the SRC website and the SRC's column in the Glasgow University Guardian, of the upcoming solidarity demonstration outside Edinburgh High Court on the 29th & 30th April.

- To encourage students, SRC Council members, staff, and sabbaticals to sign the open letter of support for Aamer at www.sacc.org.uk

ACTION

S Beaton spoke on the motion. An open period followed.

S Beaton summed up.

F Trevisan proposed a direct negative. J Sherry raised a point of order. A vote was taken. 6 voted in favour of the direct negative, 5 voted against, 3 abstained. Motion fell.

9 MEDIA WEEK REPORT

This had been circulated to everyone for information. F Trevisan spoke on it explaining the breakdown of activities and a summary of the budget. He will be compiling a more detailed version for the SRC records. M Wilson thanked F Trevisan for his hard work in organising Media Week.

10 POLICY DOCUMENT – MATTERS TO BE REVOKED

A copy of the current policies due to expire soon or have already lapsed had been circulated. S Campbell will send a website link round Council and if any members feel some of the motions are still relevant a motion to retain them can be proposed at the next meeting.

sc

11 SPT UNDERGROUND PRICE INCREASE

S Campbell had received a complaint from a student regarding SPT's decision to axe the 28 day journey ticket. Travelling on the subway for the same number of days will now cost at least £40, an increase of over 20 times the current rate of inflation. The student intends to write to both SPT and Glasgow City Council's current representatives on SPT, which includes one of the Hillhead Councillors, and the Scottish Parliament Committee for Transport Infrastructure and Climate Change making them aware of this and the disappointment of this increase. The student will also be making them aware of the bus price increase of First Bus and the level of service and asking them to look into the regulations of the bus service. After a short discussion it was agreed a request for a student concessionary fare should be put forward and also to look into SPT's service regulations. Council will be kept up to date on this.

sc

12 THE RECTOR

M Wilson congratulated members who had been involved in any of the election campaigns. There was a very good turnout with over 5,000 votes, 26% of students voting. M Wilson believes the reason there was a high number of votes was due to the fact the campaigns had been well run and well publicised. The installation ceremony had gone really well and the Rector attended his first Court meeting on 16 April. His first surgery will take place on Friday, 25 April at 12 o'clock in the Advice Centre.

13 INFORMATION ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF STUDENT BODIES

M Wilson had been unable to send round papers regarding this because of

the nature of the business but she was able to provide a brief summary of the current situation. Council noted that the GUU is in some financial difficulty and have asked the University for additional financial support. In the past 3 weeks there have been talks with the student bodies and Council will be able to see the minutes of these meetings in due course. M Wilson advised that she has maintained a consistent line throughout discussions on this matter. In particular M Wilson had been keen to stress that SRC resources and services should not be depleted or affected by any decision to transfer any additional resource to GUU. However she did confirm that the SRC was continuing to work to support the GUU in resolving current difficulties.

14 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

21 January 2008 – Factual Corrections & Matters Arising

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

14.1 14 February 2008 – Factual Corrections & Matters Arising

14.1.1 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting (Refer 2)

This should read 21 January 2008 and not as printed.

14.1.2 Clubs & Societies (Refer 7)

Fifth bullet point – please note GUVMA was awarded £307.56, and not as printed.

Minutes adopted by Council.

M Wilson stated she was delighted with the way the Executive Committee was going and it is used to set the Agenda for Council.

15 AOCB

15.1 Council Dinner

This takes place on Friday, 16 May in One A The Square. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

15.2 The Botanic Gardens Development

S Campbell was delighted to inform Council there would be no further movement in the proposed Botanic Gardens development. The plans for a nightclub have now been dropped and the Council will retain the park.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.