

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Richard Anderson, Kirsty Connell,
Matthew Davies, Karyn Devlin, Nicky Fair,
Victoria Jamieson

S Tomlinson welcomed new members to their first meeting of Council.

**1 MINUTES OF THE FOURTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL
19 January 2006 – Factual Corrections**

1.1 Arts Faculty Meeting (Refer 7.1.1)

K Borrowdale was referring to a questionnaire she had compiled on the Class Rep system.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Joint Student Bodies Liaison Committee Minutes (Refer 2.3)

Circulated.

2.2 Security on Kelvin Way (Refer 2.5)

This has been undertaken.

2.3 Report (Refer 6.1)

S Tomlinson's report was circulated with Council's papers.

2.4 National Student Survey (Refer 6.2)

S Tomlinson's report was circulated with Council's papers.

2.5 Masterpoint Phones (Refer 6.5.1)

The meeting with N Campbell was cancelled. A new date will be arranged shortly.

2.6 Arts Faculty Meeting (Refer 7.1.1)

The report on the Class Rep system is in progress and will be on the Agenda for the next Arts Faculty meeting.

2.7 Council Duty (Refer 12.4)

To encourage more involvement from Council members, notices will be available on the forum and e-mails circulated. S Tomlinson apologised to Council members who have not been receiving e-mails.

2.8 SRC Strategic Plan (Refer 12.8)

K Binnie volunteered to take part in the group discussion on the 14 February.

Minutes adopted by Council.

**3 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS
VP COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

3.1 Media Week

This takes place 6-10 February. Booklets and publicity have been produced detailing the programme of events.

3.2 Welcome

S Morrison welcomed new members to Council.

3.3 Questions or Comments for VP Communications

3.3.1 Election Publicity

A Roberts asked about posters and flyers. S Morrison will use the free postcards for a generic election flyer. She pointed out that flyering is not so essential with the Spring election because of each candidate's publicity but the postcards will be used for future elections.

3.3.2 Media Week

S Tomlinson thanked S Morrison for all her hard work in preparing for Media Week.

**4 VP EDUCATION REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

Anyone with any questions should e-mail M Davies directly.

**5 VP i/c WELFARE & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

5.1 Senate Briefing & Senate Meetings

S Tomlinson expressed her disappointment at the lack of members attending Senate. She reminded Council that members were in a very strong position having so many seats on Senate and urged them to attend. Members are always notified of meetings and briefings, and when to collect their papers.

5.2 Library Committee

S Tomlinson had circulated a paper on this and asked Council to take special note of the library opening hours. This will be discussed later under AOCB.

5.3 Environmental Officer

S Tomlinson met with the new Environmental Officer, Duncan MacKenzie.

5.4 Questions or Comments for VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities

5.4.1 Disability Plan

S Campbell asked if this was passed at Court. S Tomlinson confirmed it had, in its entirety.

ACTION

6 CONVENORS, OFFICERS' & ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

6.1 Kat Borrowdale, Arts Convenor

6.1.1 Class Rep Meeting

This had taken place and out of over 100 Class Reps invited, 15 had turned up. Despite this the meeting had gone really well and a few issues were raised. K Borrowdale has received a lot of questionnaires back from students and will compile a report then present it to the Arts Faculty. She also hopes to meet with as many Faculty Heads as possible and get some feedback from them. She will circulate a copy of her questionnaire to all the Convenors.

KB

6.1.2 Questions or Comments for the Arts Convenor

None

6.2 Struan Campbell, Students' with Disability Officer

6.2.1 Estates, Planning & Strategy Committee

S Campbell had attended this. It is hoped The Hub situation will be resolved in the next couple of years and the services opened as soon as possible.

6.2.2 Student Disability Provisional Steering Group

The Group is looking at Teach ability and the Teacher Excellence Awards. S Campbell has discussed this with M Davies and it has been agreed this will now be introduced into the Course Rep Training.

6.2.3 Position

S Campbell's position is now called 'Students' with Disability'. His e-mail address will be amended accordingly.

6.2.4 Plain Talking Leaflets

These have been ordered from Capability Scotland and S Campbell will circulate them to everyone. The leaflets describe terms to use with disabled students and trying to move away from special needs.

6.2.5 Departmental Student Involvement

S Campbell is preparing a report and presentation to the Student Disability Provisional Steering Group to discuss student involvement within the system of feedback. He asked Convenors to contact him if they have already talked to any staff about the involvement within departments. He will also be preparing a Motion to submit to Council to implement this.

6.2.6 Environmental Officer

S Campbell informed the Environmental Officer he would provide him with

briefings on a couple of meetings he had attended talking about strategic involvement with students and the new Casper programme, which involves all Universities looking at environmental improvements on campus. He pointed out that as a leading University we will have a role in advising students and other SRC's how to go about it.

6.2.7 Questions or Comments for the Students' with Disability Officer

None

6.3 Henk van Klaveren, Arts Faculty Ordinary Rep

6.3.1 Health, Safety & Environment Committee

One issue ongoing is in the Department of Immunology, Infection & Inflammation where last year the Health & Safety Inspectors visited the department and were unhappy with what they found. The lab was unsafe, unattended gas cylinders were lying around and generally the department was not complying with safety regulations. The Health & Safety Inspectors advised that the highlighted issues should be resolved forthwith or a future visit could result in punitive action being taken.

H van Klaveren then pointed out that parts of Immunology, Infection & Inflammation and other departments are moving into the new Biomedical Research Centre and he is concerned that the problems may recur due to some of the same personnel at senior level being involved.

Council noted that a safety policy has now been put in place and the Department of Immunology, Infection & Inflammation has finally improved their safety and taken certain materials out of the building.

6.3.2 Questions or Comments for Arts Faculty Ordinary Rep

6.3.2.1 Evacuation plans

S Campbell also pointed out there is a lack of generic evacuation plans within the University and personal evacuation plans cannot be carried out for people with disabilities.

6.3.2.2 Beatson Cancer Research Centre

It was noted there has also been some issues surrounding the safety of the glass in this Centre at the Vet School.

6.4 Kirsty Binnie, Arts Faculty Ordinary Rep

6.4.1 Glasgow University Academic Dress Appreciation Society

Their first meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7 February in the Reading Room of the GUU at 7.30 p.m. It will be a port and pudding night and academic scarfs are encouraged.

6.4.2 Questions or Comments for Arts Faculty Ordinary Rep

None.

7 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
12 January 2006 – Factual Corrections & Matters Arising
 None. Minutes adopted by Council.

8 MINUTES OF THE JOINT STUDENT BODIES LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 December 2005 – Factual Corrections & Matters Arising

8.1 Crichton Campus

H van Klaveren felt the statement “QM and GU have no responsibility to all students of GU only it’s members” was a bit harsh. S Tomlinson explained Crichton Campus has written a new Constitution and it states that the Joint Student Bodies here are key stakeholders. This is incorrect as it is the SRC that is directly involved and the Unions up here do not have any involvement with Crichton. There is no reason why the two Unions should provide funding.

9 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

B Kahn asked about this. S Tomlinson had produced a briefing paper on this which had been circulated to Council detailing the history and current situation. She encouraged students to complete it on-line. A joint e-mail from the Principal and S Tomlinson will be circulated to students explaining the NSS.

10 AMENDMENTS TO PRE-ENACTED CONSTITUTIONAL CLAUSES

A report from the Permanent Secretary (on behalf of the Executive) was circulated to Council.

The following amendments proposed by the Executive Committee were submitted which read:

Council accepts amendments as proposed below:

AMENDMENT 1: Amend Schedule 2 Clause 4.7

Draft

4.7 Where a candidate remains unopposed after the time period for nominations has closed, there will be a ballot offering the options of re-opening of nominations and election of the unopposed candidate.

Revised to read:

4.7 Where a candidate remains unopposed after the time period for nominations has closed, the Executive Committee may authorise, as it sees fit, one further ballot offering the options of re-opening of nominations or election of the unopposed candidate'.

S Morrison spoke on the amendment. An open period followed.

One amendment proposed by S Skinner was submitted which read:

Where a candidate remains unopposed after the time period for nominations has closed,

that candidate shall remain a voting member-elect until the next election, at which point there will be a ballot offering the options of re-opening of nominations or election of the unopposed candidate.

ACTION

S Skinner spoke on the amendment. This amendment was acceptable to the Proposer. A number of Council were unhappy with Amendment 1 altogether and it was agreed the Executive should discuss the amendment further and bring it back to the next meeting of Council.

AMENDMENT 2: Amend Schedule 2 Clause 7 (Delete reference to “online”)

Draft

- 7 Prior to each election the Executive Committee will appoint a Returning Officer who will be responsible for –
- The proper conduct of online Elections.

To be revised to read

- 7 Prior to each election the Executive Committee will appoint a Returning Officer who will be responsible for –
- The proper conduct of Elections.

No amendments. No direct negative. Amendment passed.

AMENDMENT 3: Amend Schedule 2 Clause 8 (add in “normally” before “online”)

Draft

8. All elections will be held by a secret online ballot and will be decided by the following single transferable voting system:

To be revised to read

8. All elections will normally be held by a secret online ballot and will be decided by the following single transferable voting system:

One amendment proposed by S Campbell was submitted which read:

All elections will be held by secret ballot which will normally be online and will be decided by the following single transferable voting system:

This amendment was acceptable to the Proposer. Amendment passed.

AMENDMENT 4: Amend Schedule 2 - Clause 9 (Sabbatical Constituency element)

Draft

9. Five members in the Sabbatical Constituency (subject to paragraph 12):
- President
 - Vice-President (Activities and Development)
 - Vice-President (Communications)
 - Vice President (Education)
 - Vice-President (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)

To be revised to read

9. Four members in the Sabbatical Constituency (subject to paragraph 12):
- President
 - Vice-President (Learning and Development)
 - Vice-President (Media and Communications)
 - Vice President (Student Support)

No amendments. No direct negative. Amendment passed.

One further amendment proposed by the Executive was submitted which read:

In light of the foregoing, numbers of Council and Executive members stipulated elsewhere in this Constitution should be adjusted accordingly.

No amendments. No direct negative. Amendment passed.

11 AOCB

11.1 Clubs & Societies Committee

The next meeting will take place on 8 February at 4.30 p.m. in the Upper Exec Office.

11.2 Welfare & Equal Opportunities Committee

The next meeting will take place on 13 February at 5.30 p.m. in the Williams Room. All Officers are expected to attend.

11.3 Departmental Review System

K Borrowdale had accompanied M Davies to a meeting with A Nash where they had discussed this. The departmental review system has been running for two years and is an intensive two day event. It goes on a seven year cycle and all departments are reviewed. K Borrowdale informed Council that discussions had been taking place as to whether students should be on the panel for this. If this did happen it was recommended that the Convenor for the faculty would choose the student who would take part. Incentives would be offered to anyone taking part. She asked for feedback from the Convenors. The general feeling of Council was that it was a great idea and K Borrowdale agreed she would report back to the Clerk of Senate.

KB

11.4 Library Committee – Library Opening Hours

S Tomlinson informed Council the SRC has been asked to produce evidence that there is a demand for extending the opening hours of the library at the weekend. Various options had been suggested by the University and S Tomlinson will arrange to have them displayed on the SRC website. She asked Council to try and encourage students to contact her with their comments and their options for opening hours.

ST

11.5 Academic Structures Working Group Briefing

M Davies had produced a briefing on this. This Group had been set up to deal with the current semesterisation and the problems it has caused. S Tomlinson asked Council to e-mail M Davies with their comments.

11.6 Freshers' Week Update

S Tomlinson reported that the University is merging Freshers' Week and Orientation Week this year. Meetings have taken place with the Joint Student Bodies and the Clerk of Senate but the decision has been made and S Tomlinson doubts it will be possible to negotiate it any further with the University. J McHale, QM Union President pointed out that because of this the Unions will have to change their programme to allow for induction registration that takes place. After discussion, S Tomlinson suggested that comments or opinions about this decision should be forwarded to her. All feedback will be given to the University as it was the general feeling that it would be worth protesting about being left out of the decision-making process in the first place.

11.7 First Semester Reports

These should have been submitted by 12 January. Anyone who has not submitted a report should do so asap.

11.8 Letter from the Permanent Secretary

Following the acceptance of the new Constitution B Hay had written to Academic Convenors and Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officers informing them all positions in these constituencies will be eligible for election in the Spring elections in March. This is normally when the Academic Convenors would be elected but in future the Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officers posts will be elected at that time too. This was noted by Council.

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.