

**MINUTES OF THE 6th COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 15 MAY 2008 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Kerry Anderson, Pete Ramand, Veer Shah,
Julie Sherry, Gareth Webb, Jennifer Wightwick

1 MINUTES OF THE 5th COUNCIL MEETING

17 April 2008 – Factual Corrections

Agreed as a correct minute. Minutes adopted by Council.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Crèche Facilities (Refer 2.2)

Ongoing. M Wilson reported that the new nursery relates to the Gender Equality duty which suggests that there is a general legal obligation on the University in this regard. M Wilson will continue to work on this before she finishes at the end of June.

MW

2.2 Hub Presentation (Refer 2.3)

M Wilson informed Council that the Hub Project Manager had conveyed her thanks to Council for their comments on The Hub development.

2.3 Student email Consultation (Refer 5.1)

F Trevisan reported that the new Student Messaging System is going ahead and it is hoped to have it in place by September.

M Wilson introduced to Council, Chris Buckland, SVSS Development Officer and Helen Speirs, Senior Advice, Policy & Training Officer.

2.4 Reply from Fiona Hyslop (Refer 6.3)

S Campbell informed Council the points had been clarified and a reply sent to F Hyslop. Council will be informed when a response is received. All of the letters and most recent responses are on the SRC website.

2.5 SAAS (Refer 6.4.1)

Covered in the VP Student Support's report.

2.6 Transition from School to University (Refer 7.3)

J A Wightwick was pleased to inform Council that his report to the Undergraduate Studies Committee had been well received. It is now being circulated to other Committees in the University.

2.7 Policy Document – Matters to be Revoked (Refer 10)

On the Agenda.

2.8 SPT Underground Price Increase (Refer 11)

It was noted that the Arts School President is keen to co-ordinate a Glasgow wide letter to SPT with all the Presidents signing it. S Beaton pointed out that the SPT is talking about stopping the night service too. M Wilson will ensure this information is taken into account when the letter is being written.

ACTION

MW

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 10 April – 7 May 2008

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

MHAIRI WILSON, PRESIDENT (Copy of report circulated)

3.1 The Rector

Council noted that Charles Kennedy's first Surgery had taken place on Friday, 25 April and had gone well. There had been a steady flow of students and the Surgery lasted 1½ hours. Once the dates of surgeries throughout the summer are known they will be displayed on the SRC website. The Rector also attended the Vet School Rodeo the following day.

3.2 Future Planning Meeting

M Wilson is currently preparing the first draft of an Annual Report which will highlight the work carried out this year. If anyone would like something in particular included in the Report they should advise her. Any help would be very much appreciated.

3.3 Student Organisations' Finance

A copy of the minute from the University Committee had been circulated to everyone for information. M Wilson had had an update from the GUU who are still experiencing problems but working to resolve them. Council noted the difficulties and GUU's attempts to resolve them. There was a general consensus that the SRC would continue to offer moral support to the GUU.

3.4 Questions or Comments for the President

None.

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

4.1 Employability Marketing

Ongoing. G Lee had attended another meeting where the group had suggested some ideas for marketing. He produced two signs and asked for Council's feedback – one sign said 'Live, Learn, Develop, Succeed'. The other said 'Life Works'. A short discussion followed and Council agreed that none of the signs were very appealing. G Lee will now report Council's comments back to the Committee,

GL

4.2 Clubs & Societies

The new system is now in place and the old information has now been

removed from the website. 80 Clubs & Societies have affiliated this year.

ACTION

4.3 Student Life Cycle Project

Council noted that the University is in the process of finding a suitable company who can look at ways in which staff and students will be able to engage with the University on an online fashion.

4.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)

4.4.1 The Hilton Meeting

S Tomlinson asked about this. G Lee informed her that The Hilton is trying to reach the student market by finding out where students go for graduation celebrations, where they hold local events etc. and so they had invited the Sabbatical Officers along for a discussion followed by a wine tasting event, which was also attended by some University services.

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

5.1 Student Media Heads

F Trevisan was pleased to announce that the following Media Heads had been selected for next year:

George Binning & James Porteous - Guardian Editors
Samantha Ferguson – Subcity Radio

F Trevisan wished them good luck for next year.

The GUM Editor will be decided shortly.

5.2 Planning Communications Strategy

F Trevisan informed Council that he will be working on an SRC Communications Strategy; a review of what has been going on this year and what the best practice is. He is hoping an external consultant will be recruited to assist. The document will feed into the Strategic Plan and benefit his successor.

5.3 Postgraduate Rates of Pay

F Trevisan has been looking into the rates of pay for marking essays and written work and involved H Speirs and G Lee in the consultation process. He is waiting for more rates from departments and will keep Council informed of any update.

5.4 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)

None.

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

6.1 Financial Changes for the coming session

A document produced by the Advice Centre had been circulated to everyone. The document illustrated changes that are likely to affect students in the next academic year. S Campbell highlighted some of the points, namely:

- Changes in Income Assessment regulations for student funding to start in 2008/09; SAAS will now use household income to assess a student's entitlement.
- Abolition of right of lone parents, with children under 16, to claim Income Support during the summer break; From November 2008 this will only be the case for lone parents of children under 12.
- Increase in Accommodation costs by 10%.
- Abolition of the part-time loan.
- Introduction of part-time fee grant.
- New Discretionary Hardship Fund specific to part-time students.

6.2 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)**6.2.1 SLAP Award - Cairn Properties**

S Campbell was asked about this. He informed Council he had telephoned Cairn Properties to advise them they would be receiving an award, without specifying the nature of the award and arrived at their offices to present it. Apparently they were very upset about it and S Campbell is meeting with them shortly to discuss it.

7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS**7.1 Sara Cawley, Science Convenor****7.1.1 Timetable Changes**

S Cawley was happy to report that this matter had now been resolved. In future a timetable will be sent out to everyone 2 or 3 weeks before every lab stating the expected time they will end.

8 COUNCIL POLICIES TO BE REVOKED

As S Campbell had not received any motions to retain any of the current policies, Council noted that these were now officially revoked.

9 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A copy of the Constitution with suggested amendments had been circulated to everyone for information. G Lee read over the amendments. Once the changes are made and further discussions have taken place the Constitution will be brought back to Council for approval then sent to the lawyers and the Office of Scottish Charity Regulators.

10 MOTION: STUDENT HARASSMENT POLICYACTION

The following motion proposed by S Campbell and seconded by G Lee was submitted which read:

Council Notes:

- That the SRC has raised concerns in the past at the lack of a policy clearly articulating a Student's right to be free from bullying and any form of harassment whilst attending the University of Glasgow, and offering a transparent process through which remedy may be sought.
- That the SRC Advice Centre has seen a number of cases involving Harassment and Bullying.
- That when a harassment policy for students was first proposed, the University of Glasgow Senate Office supported the proposal; as a holding measure reference to Student Harassment was incorporated within the complaints procedure to ensure it would be in the calendar in time for the new academic year.
- That at the University of Glasgow Student Support and Development Committee meeting in May 2007 the SRC argued that the practice of placing it in the complaints procedure made it unwieldy and did not match up to other institutions' practice of having a stand-alone policy.

Council Believes:

- That whilst a harassment policy for staff is laudable it could be argued that students are in even greater need of protection from harassment. Issues around bullying and harassment tend to relate to abuse of power in the relationship. Staff at the University have considerable power to make decisions which affect the course of a students' whole life. Further, students do not have anything resembling the protection from harassment afforded to staff through employment legislation.
- The University of Glasgow is explicit in describing itself as a *student-centred learning environment*. Surely one of the key ways of demonstrating this is to adopt a policy which clearly outlines students' rights to protection from harassment and bullying. The whole concept of being "*Student Centred*" is about focussing on the needs of the student; being a victim of bullying and/or harassment can be extremely emotionally difficult to deal with. At such a time it should be easy for a student to access a clear and unambiguous policy that sets out clearly what the correct processes are and how they can help.
- That bullying is an abuse of power. Bullying can, but does not always, involve physical violence. It may involve verbal intimidation, the undermining of the victims' professional work and the bully taking credit for other people's work. Harassment, on the other hand, appears... to be orientated at some personal characteristic of the victim... including the following non-exhaustive list of examples:
 1. Gender
 2. Disability,
 3. Race
 4. Religion.
 5. Age
 6. Sexual Orientation

Council resolves to:

- continue to work with the University to ensure that a stand-alone policy for students is developed.
- lobby for the provision of University-funded specialist harassment advisors to be made available to students.
- contribute to an awareness-raising campaign around campus to ensure students are aware of the resources available to them in the event that they are harassed or bullied on campus or in halls

ACTION

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

The first amendment proposed by S Beaton was submitted which read:

Under 'Council resolves to' amend to read:

- continue to work with the University and students to ensure that a stand-alone policy for students is developed.

This was acceptable to the Proposer.

The second amendment proposed by M Wilson was submitted which read:

Remove the ellipsis in point 3, last sentence in 'This Council Believes'

This was acceptable to the Proposer.

The third and fourth amendments proposed by S Morrison were submitted which read:

Under 'Council believes' point 1, first sentence, delete the following:

'it could be argued that'

Point 2, second sentence, delete the following:

'Surely....' and replace with 'The SRC thinks...'

These amendments were not acceptable to the Proposer.

No direct negative. Motion passed. Motion now reads:

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- That the SRC Advice Centre has seen a number of cases involving Harassment and Bullying.
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11 LATE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

At a recent meeting G Lee had attended a discussion had taken place regarding students handing in late assignments. He had asked what the University's policy was on this and was told there was no policy. After discussion Council agreed personal requests should be decided by

individual departments but there should be a University wide policy in place. G Lee will follow this up.

ACTION
GL

12 PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL INCOME TAX

A briefing paper had been circulated to everyone for information. Council noted that the Scottish Government is proposing to replace the current Council Tax. S Campbell gave an example of what this would actually mean to students and pointed out that the local income tax as proposed could add to student debt. Council also noted that at the moment students are exempt from water charges but if the proposal is adopted then many students may no longer be exempt. M Wilson advised that the consultation process is going to be quite wide ranging. She advised that NUS had not picked up on the water charges issue. The consultation process will be through CHES and NUS. The consultation period ends on the 18 July and after that it is hoped a meeting will take place with students. G Lee will organise this.

GL

13 SRC HOUSING POLICY

S Campbell informed Council that as part of the forward planning process it was decided a housing manifesto to serve as a basis on which to lobby legislators for change and improve student housing should be introduced. Council endorsed this and the creation of a Working Group to formulate the policy will include S Beaton and K Broad.

14 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

9 April 2008 – Factual Corrections & Matters Arising

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

15 AOCB

15.1 Thanks

J A Wightwick proposed a formal vote of thanks to M Wilson on an excellent job over the past year. Council acknowledged all the Sabbatical Officers with a round of applause.

15.2 Council Photograph

Council members attending the Annual Dinner on Friday, 16 May in One A The Square were asked to arrive by 7pm so that the Council photograph could be taken before the meal.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.