

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Kirsty Binnie, Struan Campbell, Gavin Lee,
Patrick McGlinchey, Seumas Skinner,
Kevin Sweeney, Sarah Tomlinson, Rebecca Volk

As VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities & Acting President was not present at the meeting, VP Education was in the Chair.

**1 MINUTES OF THE FIFTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL
2 February 2006 – Factual Corrections**

None

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Class Rep Meeting (Refer 6.1.1)

K Borrowdale will send a copy of the questionnaire to N Jennings who will forward it on to Convenors.

KB/NJ

2.2 Departmental Review System (Refer 11.3)

K Borrowdale will pass on times and dates to H van Klaveren to attend departmental reviews. It is likely that K Borrowdale, M Davies and H van Klaveren will take part in it this year as observers and they will produce a briefing paper which can be handed over to their successors next year. A Roberts expressed an interest in taking part too. Anyone else interested should let K Borrowdale know.

KB

2.3 Library Opening Hours (Refer 11.4)

After the enormous success of the bank charges survey it was the intention of the Exec to follow that up in a couple of weeks with a library opening hours and facilities survey. M Davies informed Council that an e-mail had just been sent out to all students by the Director of the Library concerning the library services. M Davies was disappointed this had not been done in consultation with the SRC. Council agreed M Davies should write to the Director pointing out to her that this should be a joint survey between the SRC and the University.

MD

Minutes adopted by Council.

3 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS

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

S Tomlinson had submitted her apologies. M Davies suggested that anyone with any questions should raise them at the meeting.

3.1 Hub Development

B Hay updated Council on this matter. Council noted that some frontline student services will be located in the Hub as well as a catering outlet. The John McIntyre Hall will be a temporary catering outlet for the next couple of years until the Hub is completed. As there is not enough space for all the student services in the Hub the University is submitting a questionnaire to all student services to find out of where there is a potential duplication. As far as the SRC is concerned a decision has been made that, for the time being, the SRC will remain in the John McIntyre Building with perhaps some additional space if some of the current services move out. Because student input is important the University has agreed that a couple of focus groups can be organised in order to get a perspective of what other services students would like in the Hub.

4 VP EDUCATION REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)
4.1 Masterpoint Internet Service

M Davies had attended an Accommodation meeting on behalf of S Tomlinson. As a result of some communication he had received recently from students in Kelvinhaugh Street, who were objecting to the cost and to the poor service of the Masterpoint Internet Service, he raised this matter at the meeting. The Accommodation Office is going to meet with some of the students who raised the issue. M Davies will contact the Accommodation Office with the names of the students who will be attending the meeting.

MD

4.2 Questions or Comments for VP Education

None

5 VP COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)
5.1 Sunday Times Article

It was noted that the Sunday Times will be writing an article shortly on students who are teetotal.

5.2 Elections

It is hoped an election pop-up will be set up on the computers when students sign in which should increase the election figures. The election will be open from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 March to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 March. The system will close for 1 hour from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning for maintenance.

5.3 Questions or Comments for VP Communications

None

6 CONVENORS, OFFICERS' & ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

6.1 Duncan MacKenzie, Environmental Officer (part-time)ACTION**6.1.1 Edinburgh Conferences**

D MacKenzie had attended two conferences in Edinburgh. One was on Sustainability and Environment, in relation to food in Scotland. He is happy to supply more details. The other conference was 'Citizens for the Future Sustainable Development Education', which is about educating school children about sustainable development and some ideas that might be applicable in the University.

6.1.2 Meetings

D MacKenzie met with the following people - S Campbell, Students with Disabilities Officer; Viola Retzlaff, Travel and Transport Co-ordinator, Estates & Buildings Office and Bert Young, the Energy Conservation Officer.

6.1.3 Environmental & Sustainability Policy

D MacKenzie is drafting this policy for the next meeting of Council. If anyone wants to see it before then they should contact him.

DMacK

6.1.4 People in Planet

D MacKenzie is cooperating with People in Planet in their 'Go Green' Campaign. More information on request.

6.1.5 Book Request

D MacKenzie has put in a book request to the library for 'Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change', published by the government.

6.1.6 Questions or Comments for the Environmental Officer (p/t)

None

6.2 Andrew MacDonald, Part Time Students' Officer**6.2.1 Development Strategy**

A MacDonald has been in consultation with a few part time students and heard some of their issues. He will be working on a development strategy over the next couple of weeks.

6.2.2 Questions or Comments for Part Time Students' Officer

None

6.3 Kat Borrowdale, Arts Convenor**6.3.1 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

K Borrowdale reported that the Department of Philosophy insists on a compulsory unit as part of their 3-year degree. The Department is currently pushing to be taken out of it so it wouldn't be a compulsory element but it would appear the reason they want to do this is because of funding. Whenever the department go to the Faculty and say they are understaffed and have the highest ratio of students to teaching staff in the

University, they are told the reason they do not have the budget is because they insist on the compulsory unit. After discussion it was agreed K Borrowdale should publicise this is happening. She will put it on the SRC forum and see if she gets any feedback.

ACTION

KB

6.3.2 Questions or Comments for the Arts Convenor

None

6.4 Henk van Klaveren, Arts Faculty Ordinary Rep

6.4.1 Health, Safety & Environment Committee

This meeting had been cancelled but H van Klaveren informed Council that the new Biomedical Research Centre now has a Health & Safety Policy for the building. Implementation of the Policy will be supervised by the Head of Immunology.

6.4.2 Senate Disciplinary Committee Meeting

H van Klaveren pointed out he is the only student member on this Committee now that the VP Activities & Development has resigned. M Davies agreed to elect someone to the Committee under AOCB.

6.4.3 Questions or Comments for Arts Faculty Ordinary Rep

None

7 EDUCATION PLANNING & STRATEGY COMMITTEE BRIEFING PAPER (copy attached for information)

7.1 Code of Assessment – Grade Capping

The new guidelines will come into effect from academic session 06-07.

7.2 Questions or Comments for VP Education

7.2.1 Exam Papers

K Borrowdale raised this point. The general understanding of University policy was believed to be that students can get back exam papers but a lot of departments are under the impression that they are not allowed to do this. K Borrowdale will e-mail M Davies regarding this and he will pursue matters. If necessary legal advice will be sought.

KB/MD

8 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

19 January 2006 – Factual Corrections & Matters Arising

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

9 AOCB

9.1 PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO SCHEDULE 2 OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION – ELECTIONS

The following adjustments were submitted by B Hay which read:

Point 3, Dates of elections.

Unless the retiring Council, with the written agreement of the University Court, directs otherwise, the election of the Sabbatical, Academic and Welfare and Equal Opportunities constituencies will be held in the Second Semester, not later than **four** weeks after, the end of the Spring break. **The Sabbatical constituency elections, at the discretion of the Executive, may be held on a separate date from the Academic and Welfare and Equal Opportunity Constituencies provided they are within the aforementioned timescale. When the elections are held on separate dates they shall not be deemed the "same election" as per 2.1 above.** Successful candidates will take up office on the first day of July in that same year. These elections are called the 'SRC Spring Elections'.

Point 4, Point 4.7, Nominations & Publicity

For the spring elections only: 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. **For the avoidance of doubt the terms of this clause shall only apply for the main spring elections and not for subsequent by-elections or autumn elections.**

Point 12, Sabbatical Constituency

The remit and number of Sabbatical Constituency posts may be altered or deleted by Executive Standing Order to come into effect in a following election year. **Subject to endorsement by a simple majority of Council and** the requirement of at least two Sabbatical Constituency posts, of which one will be known as the President. **The maximum number of sabbatical posts shall be five.**

B Hay spoke on the adjustments.

An open period followed.

One point raised was putting a cap on how much a candidate should be allowed to spend on their campaign. Council agreed.

B Hay proposed putting in a clause stating an amount should be specified and Council would review this each year. As the discussion over this continued B Hay suggested this particular issue should be debated at a later date.

No direct negative. Amendments passed.

9.2 ARTS CONVENOR'S CLASS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

K Borrowdale had produced a report on problems that exist in the current Class Rep system. Her findings were the result of an open meeting of all Class Reps in the Arts Faculty and also through a questionnaire she had compiled and circulated. Only 20 completed questionnaires were returned and 11 Class Reps attended the meeting. Findings included:

9.2.1 Current Methods

Generally students seemed quite happy with the system and the majority of them she got feedback from found it worthwhile. Unfortunately there are a number of students she had been unable to contact because she did not

have e-mail addresses for them so they have not been trained.

ACTION

9.2.2 Class Rep Training

80% who had attended training felt it was very worthwhile and helped clarify their responsibilities. It is important that in the future as many Reps as possible are made aware of training and this could be achieved by better communication between representatives of the SRC and Heads of Department.

9.2.3 SRC Moodle

Most Reps hadn't heard of moodle and only 50% of the people who had heard of it had registered. It was agreed some changes should be made to the site.

9.2.4 Incentives

The SRC and Clerk of Senate have been looking at giving Reps some kind of accreditation for their role on Degree Transcripts. The Dean of Arts has offered to help and in future departments will be notified of this much earlier in the term raising awareness of it.

M Davies thanked K Borrowdale for her work on this and all the work she has done over the year.

9.3 Library Issues

A MacDonald, Part Time Students' Officer informed Council that part time students had raised the subject of library opening hours and also short term loan books. He asked Council members to attempt to ascertain students' views concerning the short term loan system.

Standing Orders were suspended for the next item.

9.4 Schedule 7 of the new Constitution

A MacDonald raised this issue and pointed out that Chapter 5 in the old Constitution, now Schedule 7 of the new Constitution, outlined the conduct and procedure within a meeting. He expressed his concern that the new Constitution is not as prescriptive and the Chair had too much discretion.

He also pointed out that the procedure of dropping Standing Orders to allow non members of Council to speak is not followed.

Discussion followed.

The Permanent Secretary explained that an overtly prescriptive was deliberately avoided as there had been previous criticism of Council members focussing on the minutiae of Constitution nuances rather than on representing the interests of students.

It was agreed to introduce a Constitution that provided a broad governance framework, leaving a degree of discretion to the Chair. M Davies suggested A MacDonald draft some suggestions for guidelines for the

AMacD

Chair for the next meeting. It was also proposed that the process and procedures of meetings should be addressed more fully during Council Training.

ACTION

9.5 SRC Spring Elections

A MacDonald was concerned at the poor interest shown in the forthcoming election. Nominations close at 4 p.m. on Friday, 24 February.

9.6 Senate Disciplinary Committee

K Borrowdale was elected as a reserved member of the above Committee.

9.7 The Rector

M Davies reported that the CND will be taking part in a bike ride from Faslane to the Israeli Embassy in London and on the 9 April they will be in Glasgow. They would like a social event organised, related to the Rector, Mordechai Vanunu, to raise money for his trial. After discussion it was agreed M Davies will ascertain the exact political nature of this event and also clarify matters in respect of the Education Act. One concern mentioned was how any money raised would be administered. B Hay will clarify this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

MD/BH

9.8 AUT Lecturer's Strike

M Davies had received details concerning the planned strike of University lecturers and tutors on the 7 March 2006. Council discussed whether the SRC should form a view and issue a statement. It was agreed an open meeting should be arranged for Wednesday 1 March in Qudos at 12 o'clock and invite the President of the AUT to attend. M Davies will find out what other Universities are doing. He will also send an e-mail to all students and circulate it to Council first, explaining what the implications are and the suggested course of action.

MD

9.9 One Glasgow

The interest in this has been very disappointing. M Davies asked for volunteers to flier tomorrow morning for a free concert in Deep 6 in the GU Union in the afternoon. Four members volunteered.

9.10 Williams Room/Council Meeting

Members asked if the room could be heated for future meetings and also that sandwiches be provided. M Davies agreed this would be organised.

MD

Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.