

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2006 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

**Present** : As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies** : Julia Braun, Sonia Campbell, Malcolm Cheyne,  
David Ellis, Nicky Fair, Mairi Kellock,  
Andrew MacDonald, Henk van Klaveren

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**1 MINUTES OF THE SIXTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
23 February 2006 – Factual Corrections**

**1.1 People In Planet (Refer 6.1.4)**

This should read "People & Planet" and not as printed.

**2 MATTERS ARISING**

**2.1 Arts Convenor's Class Rep Report (Refer 9.2)**

The findings on a questionnaire K Borrowdale had compiled and circulated to Class Reps in the Arts Faculty were included in the minutes.

**2.2 Departmental Review System (Refer 2.2)**

K Borrowdale had passed on dates and times of the departmental reviews.

**2.3 Library Opening Hours & Facilities Survey (Refer 2.3)**

M Davies has a meeting with the Library on Monday, 13 March to discuss the survey.

**2.4 Masterpoint Internet Service (Refer 4.1)**

M Davies will e-mail L MacInnes at the Accommodation Office regarding this. He had raised the matter at a meeting and had passed on the names of the students who expressed their concerns. She will communicate with them directly. Council will be kept up-to-date.

MD

**2.5 Undergraduate Studies Committee (Refer 6.3.1)**

K Borrowdale is intending to publicise the fact that the Department of Philosophy wants to remove the compulsory unit as part of their 3-year degree.

KB

**2.6 Exam Papers (Refer 7.2.1)**

M Davies e-mailed the Clerk of Senate seeking clarification regarding University policy on returning exam papers to students.

**2.7 Council Meeting Guidelines for the Chair (Refer 9.4)**

A MacDonald had not provided draft guidelines for the Chair of Council as agreed at the previous meeting. It is hoped these will be presented at the next meeting.

AMacD

**2.8 Social Event for The Rector (Refer 9.7)**

Council noted that the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign is arranging direct contact with Mordechai Vanunu to ensure any money raised will be sent directly to him. Until the link is established no further arrangements can be made.

ACTION

**2.9 One Glasgow (Refer 9.9)**

M Davies thanked Council members who had handed out fliers for the free concert in Deep 6 in the GU Union.

**2.10 Williams Room/Council Meeting (Refer 9.10)**

As agreed, M Davies had organised some snacks for members. Unfortunately he had been unable to purchase any sandwiches.

Minutes adopted by Council.

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

**3.1 Exam Timetable**

As a result of complaints received from students regarding the exam timetable being released only a month in advance of the exams starting, S Morrison asked Council for some ideas on how this could be addressed for the future. B Hay suggested e-mailing round the RAWS Group explaining the problem and finding out what other institutions do. M Davies and S Tomlinson will compile the e-mail.

MD/ST

**3.2 University Talent Show**

S Morrison had met with Henry Filloux-Bennett to discuss this. He has been involved in bringing Universities together in front of talent spotters and agents, to help people get into comedy, music, dance etc. and he is keen for Glasgow University to be involved, along with Edinburgh and St Andrews. It should bring money into the University. After discussion it was agreed that this be placed on the SRC forum for feedback.

SM

**3.3 Posters Around Campus**

S Morrison referred to malicious posters that had appeared around campus referring to the forthcoming Presidential election between S Morrison and S Tomlinson. As both candidates did not wish to overshadow the election the matter will be addressed after the election has taken place.

**3.4 Questions or Comments for VP Communications**

**3.4.1 Presentation from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

It was noted that this should read Columbia Solidarity Campaign and not as printed.

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

**4.1 Peer Led Course Rep Training Briefing**

M Davies had discussed this with the Permanent Secretary and the Advice Centre Team and it is hoped to pilot the scheme here. A draft paper has been produced by one of the Advice, Training & Policy Officer's and once this has been reviewed it will be circulated to Council.

**4.2 GU Tigers American Football Team**

Council expressed their condolences to M Davies on his team's recent defeat to the Newcastle Raiders.

**4.3 Questions or Comments for VP Education**

None.

**5 VP i/c WELFARE & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES REPORT  
(Copy of report circulated to Council)****5.1 University Finance Committee**

The University is in the process of overhauling its budgeting system. This will be an ongoing process over the next few months.

**5.2 Senate Meeting****5.2.1 AUT**

At the Senate Meeting the Principal had commented he was optimistic that negotiations would resume sooner rather than later.

**5.2.2 RAE**

A full mock RAE will not be carried out this year. Instead territorial exercises will continue. This is to assess how much Research is carried out and its quality, before it is evaluated nationally in 2008.

**5.2.3 Appointment of Deans**

It was agreed that future positions should now be open to internal and external candidates.

**5.2.4 Strategic Plan**

A presentation was given on the University's Strategic Plan for the next 10-15 years. This was created through widespread consultation with all key stakeholders both externally and internally. People were consulted at different levels and their input considered. S Tomlinson will find out if there is a link to this document and e-mail it to Council members.

ST

**5.2.5 The Hub**

The total investment in the Hub is intended to be around £8million. The completion date is February 2008. B Hay informed Council that at a recent meeting he had attended regarding The Hub, he had suggested a group of students be asked to do a one off focus group feedback session to get their thoughts on what the issues are around access and service. An e-mail will be sent out and B Hay hopes a few Council members will

BH

volunteer to take part for a couple of hours.

ACTION

### **5.3 Senate Meetings**

S Tomlinson was disappointed at the very poor turnout of Council Senate Members. She reminded members that it is compulsory to attend meetings and also the pre-Senate Meeting held the day before.

### **5.4 Thanks**

S Tomlinson thanked S Morrison and M Davies for dealing with matters while she was in Brazil.

### **5.5 Questions or Comments for VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities**

None.

## **6 CONVENORS, OFFICERS' & ASSESSOR'S REPORTS**

### **6.1 Struan Campbell, Students with Disabilities Officer (Copy of report circulated to Council)**

#### **6.1.1 Hillhead Halls of Residence**

It was noted that the Amenities Sub-Committee had accepted S Campbell's recommendations that the Hillhead Halls of Residence should have telephones. As this Committee only deals with campus based issues this will only apply to the telephones inside the red phone boxes beside the Main Gate.

#### **6.1.2 Estates & Buildings Travel Plan**

The travel plan will allow students who cycle to University to have a shower on campus. There will be more safety and security on campus.

#### **6.1.3 Questions or Comments for the Students with Disabilities Officer**

##### **6.1.3.1 Queen Margaret Union**

The President of the QM pointed out that the Union is hoping to renew their current toilet and shower facilities and would be able to provide this service to students too. S Campbell will pass this information on to Estates & Buildings.

SC

### **6.2 Duncan MacKenzie, Environmental Officer (part-time)**

#### **6.2.1 Happy Sustainable Love Day e-mail**

It was noted that, from the number of students who had responded to D MacKenzie's e-mail, the majority wanted more recycling bins on campus. S Tomlinson will pass on the information she already has on recycling bins to D MacKenzie.

ST

#### **6.2.2 Questions or Comments for the Environmental Officer (p/t)**

None.

### 6.3 Kat Borrowdale, Arts Convenor

ACTION

#### 6.3.1 E-mail to Arts Faculty

K Borrowdale sent out an e-mail to the Arts Faculty detailing the postponement of the elections and the AUT strike and what was happening with the library survey. She had received a number of responses regarding the strike.

#### 6.3.2 Questions or Comments for the Arts Convenor

None.

### 6.4 Kirsty Binnie, Arts Faculty Ordinary

#### 6.4.1 Museums & Art Galleries Committee

K Binnie will write a report on this meeting and she will speak to S Morrison about a video that is shown at Open Days. The Committee felt that the way the galleries are represented in the video needed updated.

KB

#### 6.4.2 Signage about Museums on Campus

As signage on campus is pretty poor it was suggested that a 'Millie type' statue be created.

#### 6.4.3 Questions or Comments for the Arts Faculty Ordinary

None.

## 7 CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

D MacKenzie requested Council's approval to send out the following letter to MPs regarding the Climate Change Bill. The letter read:

Dear MPs

The Students' Representative Council of the University of Glasgow has today, at its 7<sup>th</sup> Statutory Meeting of Council, asked me to urge you to support Mark Lazarowicz MP's Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill by attending its third reading in the Commons tomorrow (Friday). As you know, students from each of your constituencies come to Glasgow to study.

We are most concerned about climate change and fuel poverty, and we believe that renewable energy and energy efficiency must be a part of the solution. We believe that this Bill would make real progress towards cutting greenhouse gas emissions and that it is an essential step towards the reduction of these emissions to a sustainable level. It is also essential that we, as a developed country, take such measures to show large developing states such as China and India that we, too, are prepared to change to address the threat of climate change.

As Scottish MPs representing many students at Glasgow, please tell us if you will attend the third reading of this Bill tomorrow (Friday). We urge you to support the Bill and any other measures which will contribute to the fight against climate change.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours,  
Duncan MacKenzie, acting Environmental Officer  
On behalf of the Students' Representative Council

S Tomlinson suggested adding that he was representing 23,000 students.

Council approved the letter and thanked D MacKenzie for his efforts. The letter will also be added to the Campaigns section of the website.

SM

## 8 CAMPAIGNS

B Kahn proposed that a Campaigns Committee be formed. B Hay agreed and felt it could be a good way of getting new people involved in the SRC and having different groups working on different campaigns.

## 9 SRC POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

D MacKenzie proposed the following draft policy for consultation which read:

**SRC Policy on Environment and Sustainable Development  
to be put before SRC Council at the 8th Statutory Meeting, 20 April 2006  
Final deadline for comments: 10 April 2006**

This is a draft policy for consultation. As you can see it is a very incomplete work in progress. It will be revised periodically before being proposed on 20 April, and may be changed significantly. Your comments and suggestions are valuable!

Please send them to Duncan MacKenzie as soon as possible at [environment@src.gla.ac.uk](mailto:environment@src.gla.ac.uk) and if possible, include a telephone number at which you can be contacted.

Explanatory note: I've set out from the premise that environmental protection and sustainable development are imperative for various reasons, and that climate change is the most urgent problem which relates to both of these aims, while attainment of the Millennium Development Goals is also essential for the social and economic aspects of sustainable development. The University has adopted several policies and joined several initiatives in pursuit of these aims, but I think the main problem is that the Principal and Court need to lead from the top so that faculties and departments will follow; the University also needs to employ a full-time sustainability officer with authority to make change; and finally, the University should integrate sustainable development more into degree curricula if it is to be serious about producing graduates who will be able to face the world's problems in the future.

### **This SRC notes:**

#### **A. Sustainable development: facts and law**

1. That sustainable development, defined by the Brundtland Commission (1987) as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", and a healthy global and local environment, are now very widely recognised as being of the utmost importance and of immediate concern;
2. That anthropogenic climate change, also known as global warming, threatens the future of everyone. *Note: for more background information on this, go to the 'Briefing' at [www.peopleandplanet.org/climatechange](http://www.peopleandplanet.org/climatechange)*

#### (a) Background

i. The term 'anthropogenic [or man-made] climate change' refers to long-term climatic changes caused by man, characterised by a steady increase in the overall temperature of the Earth, along with associated and resulting changes. It is particularly associated with anthropogenic emissions into the atmosphere of 'greenhouse gases' (carbon dioxide, methane, and other gases) since the start of the Industrial Revolution which have contributed to, and continue to contribute to, the 'greenhouse effect'.

ii. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)), in its *Third Assessment Report* (2001) (TAR), projected an increase in globally averaged surface temperature of 1.4 to 5.8°C over the period 1990 to 2100. *Page references are to the TAR Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers (2001)*. It said (at p. 18; TAR Q. 5.24) “The pervasiveness of inertia and the possibility of irreversibility in the interacting climate, ecological and socio-economic systems are major reasons why anticipatory adaptation and mitigation actions are beneficial. A number of opportunities to exercise adaptation and mitigation options may be lost if action is delayed.” The IPCC’s *Fourth Assessment Report* is not due to be published until 2007.

iii. It has become apparent from more recent climate data, research and models that future climatic changes may be much worse than predicted in TAR. See for example, Schellnhuber H. J. *et al* (eds.), *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change* (CUP 2006).

(b) Effects –

i. Temperature changes;

ii. Failure of the Gulf Stream;

iii. Melting of the ice caps and rise in sea levels; melting of Siberian permafrost and escape of enormous quantities of methane from Siberia;

iv. Vicious circles;

(c) Law –

i. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

ii. The Kyoto Protocol;

iii. EU Emissions Trading Scheme;

(d) Governments’ targets –

i. Westminster;

ii. Scottish Executive;

iii. Recent bills in the Westminster Parliament about binding year-on-year carbon dioxide reductions;

3. That the maintenance of high levels of biodiversity on a global scale is essential to the stability of the Earth’s ecosystems, to sustainable soil fertility and food production, and thus to all life, including our own;

4. That it is commonly recognised that waste reduction and high levels of recycling are desirable to avoid mountains of waste being buried in landfill and incinerated, thus contributing to climate change through emissions of (*inter alia*) carbon dioxide and methane, and to air pollution through (*inter alia*) incineration emitting other noxious substances;

5. That sustainable development also includes economic and social development, and requires that extreme inequalities of access to basic resources be addressed on both global and local scales; further, that the UN Millennium Project’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) offer specific measurements by which this could be achieved by 2015, and that Sachs J. in *The End of Poverty* (2005) offers a vision of the specific action which would, in his view, be necessary to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and end extreme poverty by 2025 (see [www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/endofpoverty](http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/endofpoverty));

6. That economic and social aspects of sustainable development are intrinsically linked with environmental aspects: see, for example, the IPCC's *Third Assessment Report* p. 4; TAR Q. 1.9-10 (page references as in A.2.(a) above);

ACTION

**B. 'Education for sustainable development', and other universities' action on sustainable development**

1. 2005-2014 is the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development;

**C. Action undertaken by the University of Glasgow on sustainable development**

For more information, see [www.elec.gla.ac.uk/Environment/](http://www.elec.gla.ac.uk/Environment/)

1. Signature of the Talloires ([www.ulsf.org/programs\\_talloires.html](http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html)) and Copernicus ([www.copernicus-campus.org](http://www.copernicus-campus.org)) Declarations;
2. Membership of the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges' ([www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk)) Campus Sustainability Programme (CaSP);
3. Policy on sustainable development;
4. Environmental policy;
5. Recycling policy;
6. Actions by individual departments;
7. Individual initiatives;

**This SRC believes:**

1. That climate change is the most serious problem facing us as citizens of the world today, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future;
2. That students are the future, and students must lead by example;
3. That the University of Glasgow must show that it is serious about its responsibility to the future –

(a) by educating its students about sustainable development wherever links can be forged with students' subjects of study, and by extension, introducing new modules of study where necessary in order to make available these additions to the curriculum (for example, environmental and development economics);

(b) to the greatest practical extent, by putting principles of sustainable development into practice, and in particular by committing to steady reductions in its CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions. The absolute minimum target for this should be a reduction of 60% of 1990 levels by 2060, or the pro-rata equivalent of the current target to which the United Kingdom is committed in international law (at present under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and treaties adopted under this Convention), whichever is the greater reduction.

(c) by publishing free of charge and in detail, both on a publicly-available and wellpromoted Internet site, and (upon request and without unreasonable delay) in printed form, accounts of its progress in achieving the above targets and commitments, and details of the members of staff responsible for implementing this progress.

4. That, wherever practically and financially possible, students should aim to, and be encouraged to, travel by surface transport instead of by air; and that, in order to facilitate this, fiscal measures such as taxes on aviation fuel should be introduced, and fast, efficient surface travel should be developed and subsidised.

**This SRC resolves:**

1. Action by the SRC

- (a) to establish a space on its Internet site for environment and sustainability news;
- (b) to establish a steering group –

i. which shall conduct an audit, or direct that an audit be conducted, to determine what steps the SRC should take to become more sustainable, and shall compile a report;

ii. publish the report to Council and on the SRC's Internet site, and refer it to Council for consideration, at the earliest available opportunity following its compilation;

(c) SRC staff may then, in response to the report, immediately take such action without consulting Council as their authority allows;

(d) Council shall then consider the report and decide on further action to be taken;

2. Action by the university –

(a) SRC shall liaise with the University to:

i. implement the provisions in the Talloires and Copernicus Declarations;

ii. establish a policy and a decision-making structure led by the Principal and Court of Governors, and binding on every part of the University;

iii. through the policy, take action to improve the University's performance on environment and sustainability;

iv. establish a full-time sustainability officer with responsibility for deciding on and coordinating changes necessary to implement the policy;

v. establish a policy on education for sustainable development;

vi. establish a procedure for regular review of the University's policy, action, and education on environment and sustainability;

(b) Without prejudice to the previous subsection, SRC shall also seek to ensure that the University –

i. reviews its impact on climate change, and takes steps steadily to reduce this;

ii. donates the spare computing time on all of its computers to the ClimatePrediction.net project (or any other such distributed computing project or combination of projects with such charitable aims as it deems suitable);

3. Lobbying of external decision makers

(a) SRC shall contact –

i. The British Government,

ii. The Scottish Administration,

iii. Glasgow City Council,

iv. Other such relevant bodies as the Officer may decide, in order to express the concerns of students of the University of Glasgow (as expressed in this motion, or otherwise) and to press for appropriate changes to policy or law;

(b) SRC shall publish (unless such publication is precluded by law) any such communications, and any responses thereto, on its Internet site, where they will remain for a period of not less than one calendar year;

An open period followed. After discussion J McHale, G Lee and S Morrison volunteered to assist D MacKenzie in developing the final policy document and putting together simpler notes. B Hay also suggested they consult with the Advice, Policy and Training staff for professional advice.

## 10 MASS E-MAILS

As the SRC has received complaints regarding the amount of mass e-mails being circulated it was decided that in future any mass e-mails should only be sent out via the VP Communications or N Jennings. This will ensure that the Executive are aware of the messages being sent out and will be able to deal with any enquiries. B Hay will speak to the postmaster and instruct him that no other mass e-mails should be sent out on behalf of the SRC. S Morrison will produce guidelines on e-mail circulation.

**ACTION**

BH/SM

## 11 AUT ACTION

M Davies updated Council on this. The open meeting had been a success. Following an email consultation with Council Members it had been agreed to come out in support of the strike but not in support of telling students not to go to classes, this was their own choice. It was agreed this would remain on the Agenda until the situation is resolved.

## 12 MOTION

The following motion proposed by Struan Campbell and seconded by Rebecca Volk was submitted which read:

The SRC notes:

- That since September 2003 SAAS withdrew the funding that they provided for Dyslexia testing.
- That the cost of the test at Glasgow is over £100.
- That it is possible to get funding from the University's Hardship fund.
- That the meeting of students at the Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee, inquiry into disability this was a Marjory concern of many Students.

The SRC believes:

- It is not the point of the Hardship fund to pay for this test and that SAAS should pay for them.
- That this situation could lead to students not receiving the support they need to achieve their academic potential
- That this System of funding implies that being tested for dyslexia, and thus having it recognized in an academic context, are a luxury and not a necessity.
- That some Students may need to sacrifice spending in other areas, for example books, food, heating and electricity, to pay for their academic right to reach their full academic capability at University
- That SAAS must fund these tests so students get the support they need.

The SRC resolves:

- To lobby the Scottish Executive to re-introduce SAAS funding for Dyslexia testing
- To support the work of the other University and Students bodies in this matter

S Campbell spoke on the motion. Two amendments were proposed by S Tomlinson which read:

Under The SRC notes:

Point 4, change 'Marjory' to 'major'

Under This SRC believes:

Point 4, remove 'academic' after 'to pay for their'.

These amendments were acceptable to the Proposer.

No further amendments. No direct negative. Motion passed.

Motion now reads:

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The SRC resolves:

- To lobby the Scottish Executive to re-introduce SAAS funding for Dyslexia testing
- To support the work of the other University and Students bodies in this matter

## 13 AOCB

### 13.1 Mature Students Forum

As C Doran was not at the meeting M Davies reported that 10 e-mails had been received from students saying it was a good idea but not a good time for mature students to be meeting. M Davies will print out the responses and pass them to the Mature Students' Officer.

MD

### 13.2 Teaching Excellence Awards

This is a new initiative and the University is looking for student reps to sit on the panel to judge which teachers should receive an award. K Borrowdale, A Thom, G Lee and S Skinner volunteered to take part. M Davies will get further information and forward it to the interested parties.

MD

### 13.3 Elections & The Guardian

J McHale referred to the list of election candidates printed in the recent copy of Guardian where one candidate's name was missing. He felt this

**ACTION**

was a serious matter. Council agreed that a written apology from the Editor would be appropriate. S Morrison advised that she had discussed it with Guardian and she hopes an apology will be printed in the next issue. In light of this it was the feeling of Council that there should be a review of the whole control mechanisms. S Morrison will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION

SM

**13.4 Accommodation Survey**

This has now been completed and a launch will be organised. Council will be informed of the details.

**13.5 Future Meetings of Council**

It was agreed that in future sandwiches will be provided before the meeting at 6.15 p.m. in order that the meeting can begin sharp at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.