

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2009 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Alan Daly, Stephen Flavahan

1 WELCOME

L Laws welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting and also for attending the informal planning meeting held in September.

The meeting started with everyone introducing themselves and informing members what they had been doing for the last couple of weeks.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

14 May 2009 – Factual Corrections

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 1 July to 1 October 2009

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

**LAURA LAWS, PRESIDENT
(Copy of report circulated)**

3.1 ELIR (Enhancement-Led Institutional Review)

S Hall asked for an update. L Laws informed Council that she and the Past President, Gavin Lee, had been working on a presentation for the review team. The team will be visiting the University in October/November and some Council members have been invited to meet them to discuss their student experience.

3.2 Graduate Attributes

J Harrison asked for more information on this. L Laws explained that the graduate attributes theme was being addressed across the University at the moment through a variety of initiatives. She summarised by saying that this was linked to PDP and employability and was about encouraging the development of a range of post-University relevant skills and attributes. L Laws suggested J Harrison contact Dickon Copsey, the LBSS Faculty Employability Officer to discuss it further.

3.3 New Principal

A Cohen asked how the meeting with the new Principal had gone. L Laws confirmed he had been very friendly and has significant plans for the University; he is also Chair of University Scotland.

**4 MORVEN BOYD, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)
(Copy of report circulated)**

4.1 DPTLA (Departmental Programmes of Teaching, Learning & Assessment)

A Cohen asked when this was going to start. L Laws reported that students have been selected for this year and there is a mixture of academic convenors and also people from different disciplines. The first one starts in January and training will take place in November.

4.2 Glossary

J Harrison suggested it would be useful to have a glossary for the acronyms in member's reports.

5 JIM WILSON, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)

5.1 Election Publicity

J Harrison complemented J Wilson on the election publicity and asked if the banner would be displayed outside the John McIntyre Building. It was confirmed the banner would be displayed for the election.

5.2 Lighting around campus

A Cohen referred to the meeting J Wilson had attended with the new Principal where J Wilson had highlighted the need for better lighting and security on campus. A Cohen pointed out that there is no lighting around the area just past the Queen Margaret Union. Council noted that a survey has been carried out and crime levels have been monitored and more money will be spent this year on lighting to ensure people feel safer around the area.

6 SOPHIE HALL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT) (Copy of report circulated)

6.1 Breakfast with the Chaplain – Swap Shop

A Cohen asked about the Swap Shop. S Hall informed her it was an idea which was being looked into about the possibility of having a service where people can swap belongings in good condition or items in good working order for other things.

6.2 Response to the HMO Consultation Document

T Gore referred to this and asked what the implications may be for students. S Hall explained that there were concerns around proposals to make planning permission compulsory. She also added that there were potentially new powers around maintenance and repairs which could force landlords to meet their responsibilities. S Hall directed Council to the website if they wished to view the document or her response.

7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

L Laws reminded everyone reports are required to be submitted by 5pm the Tuesday before each meeting to n.jennings@src.gla.ac.uk

7.1 R Balaban, Arts Faculty Convenor

7.1.1 Philosophy Department Project

L Laws referred to the project in the Philosophy Department that is being resurrected where older students help younger students by providing advice regarding their course work. L Laws is fully supportive of this and advised that the SRC can assist in arranging disclosures and R Balaban should contact C Buckland, the SRC's SVSS Co-ordinator.

7.2 A Cohen, Science Faculty Convenor

7.2.1 Save the Lift Petition

M Boyd enquired about the lift. A Cohen explained that the lift is situated in the old Genetics Building, which has closed down, and it's the only lift of its kind in Scotland. There is a petition being circulated as part of a campaign to prevent its destruction and have it transferred to a museum. T Gore will raise this at the next Museums & Galleries Committee. A Cohen & T Gore will discuss it further.

TG

7.2.2 Post Freshers' Helpers Party

S MacGregor, GUU Pro Tem Ass Hon Sec referred to the disruption caused by some GUU helpers at the party and pointed out that a disciplinary enquiry is being held on Monday, 12 October.

7.3 T Gore, Clubs & Societies Officer

7.3.1 Breakfast Club

T Gore reported that this event for Glasgow International College students is going really well. This Club is designed to help them improve their English.

7.4 J Harrison, LBSS Faculty Convenor

7.4.1 Committees

S Hall asked J Harrison if he had spoken to a member staff in the Advice Centre before attending committee meetings. J Harrison was unaware he had to do this for all committees but informed S Hall he would.

7.4.2 Facebook

J Wilson asked how the Facebook Group was going. J Harrison informed him it was going well but he was disappointed with the response from societies.

7.5 G Carre, Engineering Faculty Convenor

7.5.1 Communication in Aerospace Engineering

G Carre raised his concern about the Aerospace Engineering department not adhering to the University calendar with regards to appeals. He also feels that the letters being sent out appear to be rather threatening in tone. G Carre will engage with the Advice Centre in addressing this.

7.5.2 Course Change

G Carre outlined a recent scenario whereby a significant change had been introduced to a course in the Aerospace Department. Communication issues meant that G Carre was not made aware of this proposed change through the usual SRC channels (i.e. Class Rep). G Carre will work to resolve communication issues.

8 WELFARE WEEKS

8.1 Health Week (12-16 October)

S Hall informed Council plans were going really well and she hopes everyone will encourage their friends to come along to the events. J Harrison, T Gore, S Gordon, L Irving, A Silkoff, C Nimmo, G Carre and D Bentley offered to assist at the events. A Murray pointed out students will be able to give blood in the QM Union between 12.30 and 3.30 p.m. by appointment. An email will be sent out advertising all the main events.

8.2 Green Day (28 October)

The programme has been arranged and more information will be circulated in due course. The SRC will be teaming up with 'Save Otago Lane' to do a clean up of the Gibson Street (East) back court so if anyone is free and would like to get involved please let S Hall know. S MacGregor, GUU Pro Tem Ass Hon Sec offered her assistance.

8.3 Other Welfare Weeks

T Gore, S Gordon, U Malik, A Silkoff, R Balaban, D Bentley and A Cohen offered to assist in the planning of the other events.

9 ASSESSMENT POLICY WORKING GROUP

M Boyd explained the remit of the Assessment Policy Working Group. At the meeting in May the members of the Group decided to each select one aspect of assessment policy and each member would draft up a brief report and bring it back to the Group for the 16 October. M Boyd was looking for some ideas from Council. The SRC's topic is:

'To address the question of how feedback on assessments should be given to students'.

Council were divided into three groups to discuss the following:

When feedback should be given, how it should be given and how much feedback should be given?

After some group debate M Boyd informed members she would collate all the suggestions and take it to the Committee. Once she receives feedback from the Committee she will report back to Council.

10 MOVEMBER

S Hall explained the background to the campaign which began as a result of 50 men in a pub in Australia growing moustaches for the month of

November to raise money for Prostate Cancer. The campaign is now worldwide and Movember are keen for the SRC to get involved. The person who raises the most money is entered into a draw. Movember are sending out packs which will be distributed to everyone. T Gore will publicise it through the Clubs & Societies and the QMU and GUU representatives offered to assist in publicising it in Qmunicate and GUI. Anyone interested in getting involved can register through the SRC website.

11 MEDIA WEEK (9-13 November)

J Wilson reported on the arrangements for Media Week. He has been in contact with various speakers and radio presenters who have agreed to come along and hopes to make it more of an across campus event as much as possible. If anyone has any ideas please contact J Wilson.

12 CONSTITUTION FOR APPROVAL

It was noted that at May's Council meeting amendments to the Constitution had been approved but were now being submitted to the meeting for endorsement, with the addition of three further amendments –

First Amendment - Schedule 2 – Elections
Nominations & Publicity, point 4.7

Delete 'and' between 'nominations and election' and insert 'or'. Point 4.7 now reads:

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 or 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.

Second Amendment – Schedule 2 – Elections
Canvassing, point 5.2

Insert 'the Gilbert Scott Building, Fraser Building and' after 'Canvassing is not permitted in'. Point 5.2 now reads:

Canvassing is not permitted in the Gilbert Scott Building, Fraser Building and in areas deemed Polling Stations (University computer clusters) or any other areas deemed Polling Stations in the SRC Election Guidelines.

Third Amendment – Schedule 3 – Code of Conduct
Conduct of Council Members, point 1.

Delete 'In addition to the requirements of paragraph 1. Point 1 now reads:

Council members must also adhere to the following additional standards -

Council approved and passed the additional amendments to the Constitution.

Council approved and passed the entire Constitution.

ACTION

13 FEEDBACK FROM INFORMAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

L Laws apologised to members for not having the notes from the September meeting available but confirmed they will be ready for the November Council Meeting.

LL

14 AOCB

14.1 Giving Racism the Red Card

A Silkoff reported that the Equality & Diversity Officer has a DVD on Homophobia and one on Racism and he thought it would be a good idea to have a showing of one of these movies during Media Week. S Hall suggested he contact GUMSA. If anyone else has any other ideas they should let J Wilson know.

14.2 Code of Assessment by Faculty of Physical Sciences

A Cohen reported to Council that she presented information to the Advice Centre that the Faculty of Physical Sciences are not using the proper marking scheme (Schedule A) at honours level. It would appear that they are using an old grading system that is no longer used in other faculties.

The SRC President has now written to the Clerk of Senate and he is investigating the matter. L Laws thanked A Cohen for bringing it to Council's attention.

14.3 Overview of the Principal's Plans for the University

L Laws brought to Council's attention the plans the new Principal has for the University, which had been circulated at the recent Court meeting. He is planning the following –

- Restructuring the academic units from 9 Faculties to 4 Colleges;
- Reducing the number of academic units from 45 departments to 20-25 schools;
- Proposing that the University restructure into 4 Colleges with 5 major budget centres:
 - I. Arts
 - II. Biomedicine
 - III. Engineering and Physical Sciences
 - IV. Law, Business, Social Sciences and Education and
 - V. University Services
- To encourage interdisciplinary research between different faculties to make it easier to do research that is more relevant to Scotland and more relevant to what the University can get funding for;
- The Senior Management Group will be streamlined and the Principal will line manage the 4 heads of the Colleges;

- The whole administrative structure of the University will be more simplified.

The proposal will now be submitted to the next meeting of Senate and the consultation period will finish at the end of November. L Laws hopes the SRC Council will be invited to the forthcoming Principal's talks.

A short discussion followed.

Council noted that a final paper will be presented to Court in December for formal approval and implemented for the start of the next academic year.

14.4 Admissions Policy

J Harrison had attended the LBSS Undergraduate Studies Committee where they had mentioned the huge intake this year compared to last year. As a result of this the Committee are suggesting raising the admission level but wondered if this would impact on the University's equality. J Harrison wondered if the SRC should take a stance on this. L Laws does not think there is any academic reason for different entry tariffs for difference courses but something that could be looked at.

14.5 Senate Guest Night Dinner

L Laws reminded Academic Convenors the Senate Guest Night Dinner will be held on 5 November in the Randolph Hall and they are invited to attend and bring a guest.

14.6 Date of Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of Council will take place on 12 November and not the 5 November.

14.7 Remembrance Service

This takes place on Sunday 8 November at 10.45 a.m. in the University Chapel and Council members are welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.