

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST COUNCIL COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2011 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : Kirsty Hill, Hera Hussain, Julia Tracey, Drew McCusker,
Lucky Dhillon, Stuart Tuckwood

Attending : Thomas Killean (Advice Centre)

1. WELCOME

1.1: Apologies/Sederunt

1.2: Minute

S. Ritchie noted that, as this was the first meeting of Council Committee, there was no minute to be approved.

1.3: Reports

S. Ritchie noted that Council Members were required to submit reports, or communicate in advance of a meeting that they would not be doing so. He also noted that reports would now not be printed and would be noted only. He explained that Council Members were expected to read reports in advance of a meeting, and note any points they wished to discuss. He noted that reports should be briefer than in the past and should focus on a brief synopsis of the external facing work that Council Members undertake.

A: Items for Discussion

2. PRESIDENT, Stuart Ritchie

2.1: PG Social Space

S. Ritchie apologised for not presenting the current floor plan for the proposed PG Social Space. He explained that the architect for the project had met with Glasgow City Council who had explained that the plans which had been submitted were not suitable for a grade A listed building. S. Ritchie explained that he hoped that there would be an update by the end of next month. It had been hoped that the PG Social Space plan would go to the next meeting of the Capital Expenditure Committee in the second week of November. This will not now be possible. S. Ritchie noted that any space would not now be operational until at least the beginning of the next academic year.

2.2: Matters arising from reports

S. Ritchie requested any items for discussion from reports.

- **20/09/11 Religious, Belief and Equality Group, raised by J. Meaden, in S. Ritchie's Report**

S. Ritchie explained that that this was part of an attempt to improve engagement with religious groups on campus. The proposal was to promote a 'Religious Cafe' in the style of the GUSRC 'Language Cafe', where different groups could informally interact with one another in a relaxed environment. The cafe would take place on 17 November, and Council would be sent a reminder.

- **25/09/11 SRC Minibus Service, raised by C. Day, in C. Day's Report**

C. Day wished to explore the concept of extending the free SRC minibus service to Garscube. **He was not aware of whether GUSRC had the means to do this, but hoped to meet with a member of the executive to discuss it further.** S. Ritchie explained that the SRC minibuses are at capacity, as are all GUSRC services, but GUSRC's budget constraints mean that the service is limited. A. Daly suggested that a charge could be introduced in order to help subsidise the minibus service.

A. Johnson,
C. Day

- **06/05/11 Higher Degree Board of Studies; 10/05/11 Undergraduate Board of Studies; 11/05/11 Graduate Board of Studies, raised by F. Weber in F. Weber's Report**

F. Weber explained that his attendance at the Graduate Board of Studies and the Higher Degree Board of Studies preceded the appointment of T. Tiballi, PG College Convenor for Arts.

He explained that he would like GUSRC to decide how many methods of assessment it would like to see on courses, and how it would like to see the weighting of each assessment.

J. Harrison
and
Academic
Convenors

2.3: Academic Year (report circulated)

S. Ritchie explained the background to this agenda item. The Academic Standards Committee was now considering altering the current academic year. It was explained that the four options proposed in the circulated report were to be considered by Council and a consensus reached to support the option considered most beneficial to students. Council separated into groups to discuss the options. The consensus was split, and it was agreed that the Senate group would meet to discuss the matter further.

Senate Group
to discuss

2.4: New Council Structure

S. Ritchie explained the importance of having a defined role for monthly committee meetings, which is different from Full Council. He emphasised the importance of contribution from Council members. He would approach members in the future to bring forward points of business which could be included as Agenda items, but would like to see Council Members actively participating in doing this too. He explained that Council Members were expected to be carrying out work on behalf of the SRC, particularly those who have defined roles. He noted that E. Docherty, Environment Officer, had already submitted an Agenda item for this meeting and that it gave a succinct update as to what a member of Council was doing.

2.5: Open Day

It was noted that an Open Day would take place on 28 October in the Bute Hall between 10am – 2pm. Council Members were asked to see S. Ritchie after the meeting if they could donate some time to the SRC stall.

3.VP LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT, James Harrison

3.1: Update on STA (Student Teaching Awards)

J. Harrison thanked those who were able to take part in the STA working group. The first meeting would take place at 1pm on 3 November. An Email would be circulated confirming this. Progress was being made with regards to a logo, an interim list of categories for awards and funding. K. Law wished to know why this was being changed from last year's PETS (Prizes for Excellent Teaching). J. Harrison explained that, reviewing the objectives of the scheme and considering the practise of other institutions, it was considered that it was important to use a name which included 'awards' in the title as this emphasised the professionalism which was expected of such an event. He also noted that the scheme was being expanded, with nominations open over two semesters. S. Ritchie noted that STAs were being picked up by the NUS who were pushing this nation-wide. The Government and academic enhancement committees were also interested in this project.

3.2: Class Representative Training

Class Rep training had now begun. For School Representatives, the spreadsheets from Schools with details of Class Representatives were now being received and would be circulated to the relevant School Representatives shortly. J. Harrison urged School reps to make contact with Class Reps once training was complete.

3.3: College Meetings

J. Harrison explained that he was organising meetings with the School Representatives and College Convenors for each College in order to discuss plans for the year. He urged any members to come along to the Sabb office at any time to discuss such issues.

4. VP STUDENT SUPPORT, Amy Johnson

4.1: Health Week (Presentation and Discussion)

A. Johnson presented a brief introduction to Health Week 2011 which detailed the variety of events that would be taking place. She particularly noted that Karen Morton from the Accommodation Office would be working with her to help sign up staff and students as bone marrow donors. She also noted that 'Condom Fairies' were to be re-named 'Condom Angels' and requested volunteers to distribute condoms at student events.

A. Johnson noted that the motion for the Health Week debate was being considered. She requested that the SRC Council suggest a topic for the debate. Some suggestions to date included: 'This house believes in hugs not drugs' which would explore the concept of treatment, and 'This house believes that depression is a frame of mind'. She suggested that the latter option would likely provoke more heated debate. Y. Yousafzai explained that depression, in his understanding, was a medical fact and so would not stand up to much scrutiny in a debate and that it would likely be sending the wrong message to students. A. Johnson noted that this had been raised elsewhere and that she leaned towards the former motion. S. Ritchie suggested that members email Amy with any suggestions.

4.2: Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee

A. Johnson had met with David Newall on Tuesday to discuss possible Agenda items for the next meeting of the committee in December. She considered bringing up lights on Kelvinway and Bank Street as a possible safety issue and sought any further suggestions from Council. S. Ritchie suggested that this be added as an action point to the full committee, with any feedback submitted to A. Johnson.

4.3: Remembrance Day Poppies

A. Johnson thanked those who had volunteered their time to sell poppies on campus. She asked for any other volunteers to come to the SRC whenever they are free and they will be given a box of poppies to sell.

4.4: Conversational English Tutors

A. Johnson noted that the Student Volunteer Support Service required conversational English tutors. These are volunteer positions, meeting once a week to chat with international students to help them improve their

English. She also suggested that School Reps and Class Reps could consider lecture shout outs to spread the word to as many people as possible. Anybody interested should contact A. Johnson.

5. VP MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS, IAIN SMITH

5.1: Publicity Report (circulated at first Full Council Meeting) Report Noted.

5.2: 'The Gen'

I. Smith presented on 'The Gen', a website commissioned by the University to promote Glasgow to prospective students. He explained that at other universities, the student associations are tasked with the responsibility of promoting the institution in this manner. He requested feedback on this site from Council, in order to report back to the University on why GUSRC should have official involvement should such a project be undertaken in future. It was generally agreed that GUSRC needed to make its displeasure at not being approached with regards to this project noted to the University.

5.3: Movember

I. Smith urged that there were not enough Council members taking part in Movember this year. He also reminded everybody to donate money to the cause.

5.4: Upcoming Business

I. Smith noted some important items of business with which he would be concerned over the coming year, including discussions to redevelop the GUSRC website in January. He also noted that Subcity had needed to cancel their Halloween party this year due to issues with the venue. He particularly noted and praised the new issue of GUM. S. Ritchie suggested that in future a portfolio be circulated to Council Committee to keep members up to date with the work of the VP Media Comms.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER REPORT, Ellen Docherty

E. Docherty's report was noted. She wished to draw particular attention to the Higher Education Carbon Management Awareness Campaign, for its relevance to GUSRC. She explained that Corporate Communications were interested in forming a focus group of students to explore the way the University can save energy. Six universities from across Scotland were working together to compile a plan by 11 November. She requested that the SRC discuss campaign ideas for this plan. **S. Ritchie suggested that E. Docherty approach members of Council to form a Working Group for this.**

E. Docherty
Executive

7. Council Hoodies

S. Ritchie explained that A. Johnson had secured a deal for GUSRC Council Hoodies. A majority of members agreed that they would be willing to pay for a Hoodie. Money would be collected at SRC Reception, with the price set at £15.00. The deadline for payment would be Friday 4 November.

8. AOCB

8.1. Alan Daly wished to know who was responsible to GCC for University parking, which he described as 'disastrous'. S. Ritchie would look into this.

President

8.2. Remembrance Sunday, 10:45am, 13/11/11

Council members who wished to attend this service were to meet at the John McIntyre Building beforehand. Both S. Ritchie and A. Daly emphasised how important it was for the SRC to attend this service and urged as many as possible to do so. A. Daly suggested the SRC work with Rev Stuart MacQuarrie to help publicize the event to students, and agreed to approach him. Council were encouraged to spread the word and A. Johnson would communicate with Clubs and Societies.

8.3. Edith Halvarsson, Trans-Remembrance Day 14/11/11

E. Halvarsson wished to bring Trans-Remembrance day, which commemorates the thousands of transgendered people killed every year, to the attention to Council in the hope that the SRC could show support for this cause. S. Ritchie explained that he was happy for E. Halvarsson to take this on, if she was willing to discuss it with I. Smith and A. Johnson.

8.4. Flo Weber, Methods of Assessment

F. Weber explained that there was an issue in the College of Arts over the Hons. level entry requirements. S. Ritchie noted that the College of Arts were considering moving the entry requirements from two C grades, to a B and a C grade. The issue related to whether this was a decision subject area boards should take, whether it was a School level decision, or a College and Management level decision. **S. Ritchie suggested that F. Weber liaise with J. Harrison to discuss this.**

F. Weber
J. Harrison

8.5. Tom Tiballi, Postgraduate Social Space

T. Tiballi noted that he had been asked to bring up the issue of the pg social space with Council, as some students had heard that it was only to be open to the Business School. S. Ritchie explained that it would be open to all pg students and staff members from next year.

8.6. Interactions with Class Representatives, Catherine Shi,

C. Shi highlighted that she had not seen interactions between College Convenors, School Reps and Class Reps within the same Colleges. She emphasised that it was important to have meetings amongst these groups

as students would likely identify immediately with class/course representatives. She wished to ensure that Council members were known to their relevant College contacts. S. Ritchie urged all College Convenors and School Representatives to contact their respective College/School heads and make themselves known (from SRC email address).

8.7. Council Training

Council was reminded that training would take place on 12/11/11 at 10am.

8.8. K. Law, PG Diplomas in Languages

K. Law noted an article in The Guardian which noted that it was being proposed to suspend PG Diplomas in Languages for one year only, due to low uptake. He wished to bring this Council's attention. S Ritchie would look into this.

8.9. J. Meaden, Palestinian Society, 'Eden Springs' Campaign

J. Meaden wished to bring Council's attention to this campaign, which proposed a boycott of Israeli based 'Eden Springs' bottled water. S. Ritchie noted that this was a complicated issue, and urged Council members to research the issue. A. Johnson explained that the SRC would not take a political stance on the issue, but would look into economic and environmental reasons as to why such a boycott could be supported. E. Docherty also noted that she had spoken to Corporate Communications and that it was their understanding that the water was sourced in Scotland, but the business was based in the Middle East. S. Ritchie suggested that this be looked into further.

8.10. J. Meaden, Academic Dress Committee

J. Meaden noted that he had contacted The Senate Office who had agreed to help facilitate a meeting of the Academic Dress Committee. F. Weber urged that Arts should have a different coloured gown.

B: Items for Approval

No items for formal approval

C: For Information

The next meeting of Council Committee will take place at 1830 on 17 November.

The meeting concluded at 2100.