

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 2014 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : S Liu, F O'Donnell, E Zilberter

Attending : D Moore, G Reynolds

1. Campus Estates Update

D Moore, Estates and Buildings Project Manager, gave a presentation on the development of the campus development. Discussion followed.

2. Website Launch

G Reynolds launched the new website and demonstrated some of its new features to council. Discussion followed.

J McGrellis thanked G Reynolds for all his hard work organising the production of the new website.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

J McGrellis informed council that they would discuss the strike further at the next meeting when it is known whether marking bans will be taking place.

J McGrellis informed council that the council bulletin should be available soon and would be circulated to them once done.

4. Council reports

4.1 SRC President – J McGrellis

New Vice Principal and Head of the College of Arts - J McGrellis informed Council Professor Roibeard O'Maolalaigh had been elected to this position.

U21 Student Leaders' Network, Lund – J McGrellis informed council that this had been a positive experience. Glasgow will be the representative of the

**JM will
circulate
Bulletin
once
complete**

student experience cluster headed by F Coton.

Q – D Mackay asked if anyone had been appointed to the new part time Vice Principal positions. J McGrellis responded that Professor Miles Padgett had been appointed as VP Research and that Professor Jon Cooper had been appointed as VP Knowledge Exchange. She added that the Head of the College of Science and Engineering position was still vacant although there was one candidate at present.

4.2 VP Student Support – L Graham

Plagiarism Working Group discussion of Company offering essay writing service – L Graham informed council that there had been a company on campus handing out cards advertising that they would write essays for them and that this would not be plagiarism. It had been pointed out that while it is not plagiarism, it is fraud and would result in expulsion from the university. L Graham asked council to try and publicise this information to students.

Q – H Gower asked why the name of the ‘Athena Swan Action Group’ had been changed to ‘Gender Equality Steering Group’. L Graham responded that it the remit of the group had been changed slightly and now looked at broader issues, and that there was now student representation. Because of these changes the name had been changed.

4.3 VP Student Activities – B O’Connor

International Womens’ Week – B O’Connor thanked C Meehan for her hard work.

RAG Performance event – B O’Connor informed council that it had been postponed from the 11th March to 23rd March and asked council members to help promote the event to students.

Library Fines - B O’Connor asked Council to publicise to students to pay their library fines next week as the fines paid during that time are being donated to charity.

VCS Awards – B O’Connor asked council members to help promote and encourage students to nominate.

Fossil Fuel Divestment Petition – B O’Connor informed council that GU Climate action would be formally handing over their fossil fuel divestment petition to D Newall.

Surgeries in Advice Centre - B O’Connor informed council that local councillor Pauline McKeever, who also sits on the university court would be

holding student surgeries on the second Tuesday of every month and asked council to help promote this to students.

4.4 VP Education – O Coombs

STAs – O Coombs thanked those members of council who had been involved in picking the winners for the STAs with particular mention of G Masiulyte, HT Chan and M Karrasch for their work on the shortlist.

O Coombs will contact council member who have volunteered to hand out an award in due course.

Q M Karrasch asked about the lack of spaces for students to attend the ceremony. O Coombs responded that a higher proportion of the staff who had been nominated were attending this year compared with last year so there were less spaces available. He added that the cost of increasing the number of spaces was also an important factor in this decision.

B Hay commented that it was O Coombs efficiency in organising the awards that had ensured such a good attendance from those staff who had been nominated.

4.5 School Rep Law – S Farrer

Grade profiles – S Farrer asked the school representatives if their schools make grade profiles available for students to access. J McGrellis asked for a show of hands.

Discussion followed.

O Coombs informed council that this may be part of the examination feedback policy which could include a grade profile.

4.6 School Rep Maths and Statistics – C Davies

C Davies asked if the outcome of the sabbatical review had been completed. B Hay responded that the first draft had been received

4.6 First Year Rep – C Mackay

C Mackay asked if GUSRC were helping to promote browser, a campus information website and app used by students in halls of residence, and if not, if it was something that council would consider.

Discussion followed and C Mackay, U Darragh and L Graham will meet to discuss further.

LG to meet with CM and UD to discuss

LG will circulate link to browser

4.7 First Year Rep – U Darragh

Wolfson Buses – U Darragh asked if it would be possible to arrange for additional service to Wolfson at expense of closer halls as she has been receiving complaints from students who are not getting back in time to get their dinner.

B Hay suggested U Darragh email himself and Jess outlining the potential improvements being proposed.

JM will ask GC about the minibus service

4.8 – School Rep Humanities – H Roberts

Study Abroad Grade Transfers – H Roberts has received a variety of complaints regarding this issue and he asked if any other council members had similar experience to inform him about it. J McGrellis asked council members with experience of this issue to attend the process improvement session on Friday at 10am.

5. Sabbatical Action Plans

J McGrellis

Rector - J McGrellis reminded council that there would be a farewell to Charles Kennedy on Friday.

Campus Development – No update

John McIntyre Redevelopment – new architects have been appointed and drawings should be available soon.

Q I Mitev asked if the change in architects would cost GUSRC additional money. J McGrellis responded that it was the university who were funding the consultancy costs

L Graham

Mental Health – Student mental health improvements working group has met in the last week. Training of advisers of studies was discussed. There had been good uptake on the training and there was some talk of making it compulsory.

Promote Mental Health Policy – Has been in touch with Graham Obrey's people to ask if he will be willing to give some talks.

Campaigns – Organ donation campaign is making good progress and a day on campus is planned.

O Coombs

Student Voice – Class rep system will be looked at over the coming months to look at how students taking online courses will be represented.

Lecture Recording – Gave presentation to staff which they were quite hostile to.

Exam Timetabling – O Coombs is writing a report to submit to SSDC.

Examination feedback policy – This has been disseminated to colleges for feedback.

B O'Connor

RAG Cultural Club Event – online competition will hopefully be online in the next few weeks.

Environmental Goals –

B O'Connor will attend GUEST consultaion on business plan for an eco-hub. B O'Connor and D Newall are to meet with Hospitality Services regarding a sustainable food policy.

Clubs and Societies Engagement – HEAR forms have been circulated to clubs.

6. U21 Student Summit

J McGrellis informed council that this event would be taking place in Glasgow this year and that there were opportunites to get involved.

B O'Connor will circulate information on all the opportunities to council.

BO will circulate information to council

7. AOCB

Elections – J McGrellis reminded council to pay heed to the code of conduct and ensure mutual respect.

Freshers' Fair Venue – J McGrellis informed council that GUSRC may not be able to use the Bute Hall for the next two Freshers' Weeks. This is due to the Bute Hall being turned into a teaching space and therefore requiring renovations. Discussions with the university are ongoing.

JM will keep council updated on this

Food Pricing – N Mosson commented on discrepancies in pricing by Hospitality Services who sometimes charge double if they consider too much food has been added to a container, but that this is not consistent.

LG will contact A McInnes regarding this

PSR Focus Group – O Coombs reminded council that this would be taking place next Friday to discuss.

Clothes from Council Office – H Gower asked council to check the boxes for their belongings after a clear up of the office.

International Day of Happiness – HT Chan reminded council that this would be taking place on the 20th March.

Student Media Code of Conduct – N Duffy Welsh commented that the ‘Top Trumps’ that was run on election candidates was inappropriate, especially as they were not attributed to any particular writer. J McGrellis responded that they had asked them to remove offensive comments but that they were limited in how much they could do.

JM will pass on comments to Student Media

Dogs on Campus – I Mitev asked council how many dogs would be on campus tomorrow. B O’Connor responded that there would be either one or two dogs between 12 and 4pm and added that the event was organised by GU Mental Wealth.

U21 website -C Davies informed council that he had received complaints that there were no links to African Universities on the U21 website. J McGrellis responded that at present there was only one U21 African member who only had only joined last year. Discussion followed.

The meeting concluded at 8.35