

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 30th October 2014 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : **L Evens, M Igbinosa, LTaylor, O Martin U Darragh**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

B O'Connor informed council that the action point for the circulation of the sabbatical review to council had been completed, but that it was unclear whether O Coombs had followed up on the problem being encountered by modern languages students being moved on from computer clusters with essential software.

The minutes of the last meeting, held on the 24th April were approved

2. Amendment to Constitution

An amendment to the constitution was proposed by C Davies and seconded by U Darragh (Detail appendix).

C Davies explained to council that there were two key elements to the motion:

proposal to create a new representative role for the school of interdisciplinary studies in Dumfries.

proposal to change the name of the 'Students with Disabilities Officer' to 'Disability Equality Officer.'

Council voted on the motion and it was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

3. Coalition for Syrian Refugees

G Masiulye informed council about the Coalition for Syrian Refugees which involves a number of clubs and groups on campus getting together to run a week of events and workshops that is planned to take place on the week commencing 26th January 2015.

The coalition have requested GUSRC's support and assistance. B O'Connor asked council if they approved of GUSRC supporting the

event, council approved unanimously by a show of hands.

4. Estates Update

B O'Connor updated council on the campus re-development highlighting three particular areas that have been discussed at estates committee and the estates strategy working group.

- Tay house, relocation of non student facing services in the university to the city centre freeing up space on campus. The move is on a short term basis 5- 10 years during re-development of campus at the Western site.
- Stevenson 'Hive' Building is hoped to be completed by August 2015 and a flythrough of the plans can be viewed on the Sport and Recreation Service webpage.
- A Learning and Teaching Hub has been approved by estates strategy group and court. A working group is being set up in January. C Triantafyllou and C Davies are to look at other similar spaces in the UK such as Aberdeen and Manchester to feedback what works and what doesn't. Council were shown an architectural drawing of how the hub will look, it is located next to the Boyd Orr Building.

B O'Connor informed council that F Coton will be attending the next meeting of council to speak about the Learning and Teaching Hub.

5. Reports

B O'Connor – President

B O'Connor informed council about Glasgow ARM, which is a charity being set up by staff and students of the university. Following an update of their constitution, one SRC council member shall sit on the management committee of Glasgow ARM. B O'Connor will keep council informed.

B O'Connor highlighted an ongoing campaign regarding student finance. GUSRC have consistently opposed the university's policy that prevents students from graduating or progressing if they have a non academic debt of over £5 owed to the university. Although office of fair trading have ruled against this practice, it has been difficult to identify specific cases and progress them.

Finance office are not willing to speak with B O'Connor regarding this

issue in recent months.

B O'Connor informed council that the Rector, Edward Snowden is keen to engage with students even though he is not present. B O'Connor is concerned that the university are being hesitant in arranging this, they closed the rector email address on the day Charles Kennedy left office. GUSRC now have an 'ask the rector' page on website but are awaiting approval from the rector before going live with it, only university of glasgow students will be able to contact him. It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange surgeries in the future through the use of new technology.

Q - M Karrasch asked how well communications with the Rector worked and if it was a concern that after setting this up in glasgow things could fall through at his end.

B O'Connor responded that communication was generally slow with email responses going through a third party and normally taking around four days.

Q – J Vlcek asked how much help the rector could be to students.

B O'Connor responded that he has the ability to communicate to a wider audience than GUSRC so could potentially be of great assistance

B O'Connor updated council on the issues encountered by students based in the Macgregor Building which currently was not fit for studying.

B O'Connor referred council article in September's issue of Glasgow Guardian for more details and added that some progress had been made towards resolving the issue and improving communications.

C Davies – VP Education

C Davies informed council about the study spaces meeting. Study spaces will be a big problem until the re-development of the campus is complete but the aim is to update the list of study spaces by going round campus and seeing what is available and where. C Davies added that pop up study spaces is something they hope to arrange during study periods at exam times, perhaps opening up lecture theatres as places students can sit and study. C Davies asked council members interested in getting involved to get in touch by email or facebook.

L King VP Student Support

L King highlighted the PIPS suicide prevention training that would be taking places as part of Welfare Week. Teaching the basics of suicide prevention in a 2.5 hour long session.

Q – K McEwen asked if anything would be available at the Dumfries Campus.

L King advised it was unlikely there would be resources to visit Dumfries

Q – C Steeghs asked regarding 3rd party hate crime reporting, whether the training would be available to council members rather than just sabbatical officers.

L King responded that he would be happy for interested council members to take part if there were spaces available.

G Masiulye – VP Student Activities

G Masiulye informed council that she would report on Freshers Week at the next meeting of council.

Y Abdel – Race Equality Officer

Y Abdel informed council about the Show Racism the Red Card charity and that it was hoped that a charity football game would be organised.

B O'Connor added that there was a bit of a delay in getting the funds that Santander had agreed to from the university but it would hopefully go ahead at a later date.

J Vlcek – Business School Representative

J Vlcek informed council of a project being piloted in the Business School that enables students to get a confirmation receipt on submission of hard copies of their work and also get online feedback.

L King thanked C Steeghs for the Halloween decorations.

B O'Connor asked council to contact the sabbatical officers if they have any ideas, projects or campaigns they would like to run.

LK will discuss with K McEwen regarding Dumfries

J Vlcek will post the name of the project on facebook

6. Committee Elections

Council were informed by the sabbatical officers of details of the various committees with seats up for election. The following council members were elected by either secret ballot or uncontested.

Court Assessor – Marvin Karrasch

Academic Dress – Georgina Davies

Deans of Graduate Studies – Hugh Roberts

Health Safety and Wellbeing – Oscar Schafer

Hunterian Statagic Development Board – Amelia Mordas

Learning and Teaching – Scott Dallas (Science & Engineering) , Cathy Steeghs (Social Sciences), Gemma Gratton (Arts), Kirsten Leslie (MVLS)

Library – Elliot Napier, Ameer Ibrahim – Ameer elected pending approval that he can take B O'Connor's places as she will be unable to attend.

Religion and Belief Equality Group – Bethany Garry

Researcher Development Committee – Amelia Mordas

Senate Student Conduct – Morag Deans (Science & Engineering), Hannah Curley (MVLS), Eilidh Campbell (Social Sciences)

Student Support Development Committee (SSDC) – Ruth Brown

Christies Education – Georgina Davies

SRUC (Scotlands Rural College) – Nicola Mcguire

Enhancement Themes Project Board – Hugh Roberts

7. Strike Action

B O'Connor informed Council that UCU have called a marking boycott to begin on the 6th November. The boycott is in response to proposed changes in the University pension scheme .

B O'Connor intends for this to be a standing item on the agenda throughout

the year as she does not believe there will be a speedy resolution
Following discussion it was decided that at present council do not have enough information to make a fully informed decision on GUSRCs stance on this issue . This will be re-visited when more is known. Council were encouraged to investigate this issue themselves. The sabbatical officers will also seek clarification by talking with students and those on both sides of the argument.

8. Periodic Subject Reviews

C Davies informed council about Periodic Subject Reviews (PSRs) and asked council members interested to get involved to apply by the 10th November.

C Davies will circulate information on PSRs and Learning and Teaching Conference to Council

9. L&T Conference

C Davies informed council about the Learning and Teaching conference and asked interested council members to get in touch if they want to present there.

10. Council Training

B O'Connor reminded council members about the induction scheduled to take place on the 15th November.

11. Charity Activities

G Masiulye informed council members of upcoming charity fundraising campaigns

- Poppy Raid, taking place on Saturday 1st November
- Movember

12. National Demonstration for Free Education

B O'Connor informed council that a coach would be taking students to London to attend the demonstration on the 19th November and asked them to promote. Tickets can be purchased online.

13. AOCB

SRC Publicity - B O'Connor informed council that G Gratton would be organising SRC publicity and that there would be opportunities for paid work.

Senate Guest Night – B O'Connor informed council members who are on the Council of Senate that they would need to confirm their attendance before Wednesday 5th November.

Student Teaching Awards (STAs) – C Davies informed council that nominations of STAs open on Monday 3rd November and asked council members to get involved and help with promotion.

Amnesty International Foodbank – R Brown asked GUSRC if they would be interested in supporting the idea of the Amnesty International Foodbank. B O'Connor said that they would and that they had run something similar last year.

Meeting Concluded at 9.40pm

Motion to amend GUSRC Constitution

Monday 18th 2014

Constitution as it currently stands:

From page 4:

7.1 Council shall:

- a) Be elected by students in accordance with Schedule 2.
- b) Consist of ex officio members in accordance with Schedule 2.
- c) Consist of no more than 49 members.

From page 17:

EIGHT WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICERS:

- *Sexual Orientation Equality Officer*
- *Age Equality Officer*
- *Race Equality Officer*
- *Gender Equality Officer*
- *International Students' Officer*
- *Students with Disabilities Officer*
- *Mental Health Equality Officer*
- *Charities, Clubs and Societies Officer*
- *Environmental Officer*

From page 17:

EIGHTEEN SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES one of whom will be elected from each school.

Constitution with amendments:

From page 4:

7.1 Council shall:

- a) Be elected by students in accordance with Schedule 2.
- b) Consist of ex officio members in accordance with Schedule 2.
- c) Consist of no more than ~~49~~ 50 members.

From page 17:

EIGHT WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICERS:

- *Sexual Orientation Equality Officer*
- *Age Equality Officer*
- *Race Equality Officer*
- *Gender Equality Officer*
- *International Students' Officer*
- ~~*Students with Disabilities Officer*~~ *Disability Equality Officer*
- *Mental Health Equality Officer*
- *Charities, Clubs and Societies Officer*
- *Environmental Officer*

From page 17:

~~EIGHTEEN~~ NINETEEN-SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES one of whom will be elected from each school.

* Council is currently at 49 Members, the change to 50 allows for the creation of a School of Interdisciplinary Studies Representative.

** The change to Students with Disabilities Officer was a mistake; this changes it back to its name prior to May 2014.

*** Nineteen School Representatives allows for the creation of a School of Interdisciplinary Studies Representative. (Who will sit under the Social Sciences Convener & Crichton University Campus Students' Association- (Glasgow Student Representative), and line managed by the Vice President (Education))

Proposed by: Caelum Davies

Seconded by: UnaMarie Darragh