

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 11th March 2015 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Absent : A Ibrahim, C Vallis, B Garry, G Davies, S MacDonald,
F Taylor

Apologies : A Morgan, E Campbell, C Alfonso, C Glendinning,
N McGuire, M Karrasch, H Curley, J Richardson, D Bacanskaite

Attending : K Lee, A Dougall, G Devlin, R Marshall

1. Central Timetabling

K Lee asked Council for feedback on the new spaces being used for teaching around the university such as Bute Hall, and more general feedback on rooms, and video conferencing, and class test spaces.

Responses raised issues with heating and acoustic problems in larger spaces and also noise issues when viewing lectures using video conferencing. Different delivery of tests such as online testing was highlighted as a way of lessening the need for test spaces.

K Lee updated council on the procedures for room bookings for clubs and societies, the rooms available and what they can and can't be used for.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

B O'Connor informed council that she would follow up with the Vet School Rp, Lucy with regards to a Vet Medicine rep attending meetings regarding the Glass Building at Garscube.

B O'Connor thanked council members who attended the L&T consultation.

3. Council reports

3.1 B O'Connor – President

Prevention and Anti Terrorism Guidance – B O'Connor and L King met with

the head of the Preventing Violent Extremism Unit of the Scottish Government for additional input into the higher education section of the guidance.

B O'Connor has requested the latest draft to see if they have incorporated the feedback provided but has not had any response as yet. She will inform council if there are any updates.

Student Voice – B O'Connor asked council members to get in touch with herself or C Davies if they have any feedback regarding Student Voice .

Macgregor Building – B O'Connor informed council that the findings of the complaints concerning the McGregor Building had been made public by a University staff member and there were some concerns around breach of the complainants' privacy. Ongoing issues are still being followed up by GUSRC.

Prevention of Sexual Offending Workshops – B O'Connor informed council that the workshop had also involved Glasgow Rape Crisis, Glasgow Caledonian University, Police Scotland, Sexpression and the head of the rape task force in Scotland. The aim was to develop a strategy to take forward and also look for funding as the campaign is quite long term.

Strategic Plan – B O'Connor informed council that she had circulated the University's strategic plan to them and asked council members to attend the consultation if they were available.

PhD Students and council tax – B O'Connor informed council that PhD students do not qualify for council tax exemption between submitting thesis and their viva as the university does not expect them to work more than 21 hours per week. This was not an issue that GUSRC are able to pursue further.

3.2 G Masiulyte – VP Student Activities

Unicycle Lunch – G Masiulyte informed council that herself and L Evens had attended the meeting and that there would be opportunities for students to get involved with the Bike Station in the coming months.

Settlement – G Masiulyte informed council that there would be a Settlement meeting where they present their project to students on the coming Monday.

RAG week – G Masiulyte asked council members to get in touch if they would like to get involved or have any ideas.

3.3 C Davies – VP Education

Library desk hogging – C Davies updated council that the library are planning to run another campaign against desk hogging. Posters some with anti desk hogging messages and others promoting pop-up study spaces.

C Davies confirmed that screensaver messages indicating PCs are free will appear after a certain time in some levels of the library. Library staff are also leaving notes on hogged desks.

C Davies asked council to feedback in the next week.

3.4 H Roberts – PG Convenor Arts

PG Conference 12th June – H Roberts informed council that the theme of the conference would be “Highlighting Research” and asked for council members to help out if they could. The aim is to help getting postgraduate students involved and engaged with the SRC.

Q J Vlcek asked for more information regarding application fees for Adam Smith Business School postgraduates. B O’Connor responded that it the university had introduced trial fees of around £60 all international postgraduate applications. B O’Connor added that the principal had pointed out that many universities charged a fee. It is expected to be rolled out to other schools and the funds will be put towards scholarships.

3.5 R Brown – PGT Convenor

Q B O’Connor asked if there had been any word on the Conflict Free campaign. R Brown responded that the group had been asked to review the motion and it will go to Court in April.

3.6 K Powell – UG Convenor Arts

K Powell informed council that she had created a handover document template for council members.

3.7 E Napier – Age Equality Officer

Q LKing asked if Counselling and Psychological Services had passed along information to the Mature Students Association about the Crisis Team?
E Napier had not heard anything from MSA .

CD will circulate and email to council with information

KP to email document to BH

EN will follow up

3.8 L Evens – Environmental Officer

B O'Connor commented on the shared calendar suggestion agreeing that there was a problem with events clashing. B O'Connor is going to discuss with the SRC's IT Support G Reynolds.

BOC to speak with G Reynolds regarding calendar

L King updated LEvens that Carbon Management Committee would be meeting next week when it would discuss the Green League. L King added that it was essential that the SRC have a robust relationship with GUEST, as the SRC are better equipped to take their findings forward.

3.9 C Triantafyllou – School of Engineering Rep

SSLCs - C Triantafyllou informed council about a change in the feedback process in the School of Engineering SSLCs where issues are raised in advance of the meetings, this means sometimes issues may be resolved prior to the meeting which allows the meeting to focus on the unresolved issues.

Following discussion, B O'Connor suggested that council members get together to discuss and produce a document to inform next years' representatives. C Davies commented that it would be useful to have representatives from each college.

CD will circulate email

3.10 UM Darragh – Disability Equality Officer

Gym Pricing - UM Darragh informed council that she had been approached by students regarding the doubling of the cost of gym membership. L King commented that he will be meeting with the assistant director of student services soon and would raise the issue then.

LK to look into price increase.

Discussion followed.

4. Student Teaching Awards

C Davies thanked council and in particular Una Marie Darragh for their help with the STA preparation and informed council that they had received 300 more nominations than for the record year in 2013 with nominations from Singapore and a Dumfries candidate shortlisted for the first time.

C Davies requested 4-6 council members to volunteer to help with the set up for the awards.

The awards will be livestreamed on the 20th March.

Q UM Darragh asked if council members would be presenting the awards. C D responded that they would and that they could request which award they would like to present and he would try and accommodate them.

CD will circulate email with more information

6. Dictionaries

B O'Connor updated council that there had been two meetings of the short life working group.

The research identified by the SRC was quickly discounted by the academic staff. The results of the SRC survey were inconclusive.

The primary argument by the University in favour of the ban was that it was too much of a strain on registry to ensure dictionaries were available for exams.

In the second meeting of the working group there was a vote taken on a number of options.

- 1 – Maintain current policy – 2 votes
- 2 – Ban all dictionaries from exams – 5 votes

The other options were not supported by any members of the working group.

The convenor is now preparing a paper for Senate to consider. The large majority of academic research supports the view that that dictionaries have no impact on grades.

Q -Y Abdel asked when it would come into force. B O'Connor responded that it would only affect new students.

Q – R Brown asked if the make up of the working group had been challenged by GUSRC. B O'Connor responded that it had which is why the papers were circulated to LTC for comment. The intention was to keep the working group small, and for there to be the opportunity to discuss further at Senate.

B O'Connor will see the report in advance of Senate.

Following discussion it was agreed that there would be a Senate pre-meeting to discuss

7. Media Week Report

G Masiulyte reported to council on Media Week and thanked council members for helping out. Feedback had been positive, particularly from Media Management masters students.

Pre –
meeting to
discuss
GUSRC
position

8. Sanctuary

B O'Connor informed council that they had received information on issues at the Sanctuary owned University Halls. The information suggested there could be some serious issues impacting on students staying in those halls. The situation was compounded by Sanctuary's separate complaints procedure, which resulted in a communications gap and the university being unaware of problems encountered by residents. Concerns were also expressed at Sanctuary's paper based complaints system and lack of recording and complaint receipts, making it hard to keep track.

A visit by B O'Connor, J Richardson, T Smitts, E Napier and A Craig to QM residence found many of the residents had a wide range of issues. Advice Centre leaflets were circulated, and students were encouraged to keep records and report issues to residential services and seek help from the Advice Centre.

B O'Connor asked council members to talk with residents at halls and distribute leaflets.

B O'Connor added that GUSRC would aim to continue to highlight the problems with Sanctuary to the university.

Q E Napier asked if GUSRC have reviewed the contract and seen what areas that Sanctuary have not been delivering on. B O'Connor responded that this was something that could be looked in to.

**BOC will
look into
contract**

A Craig commented that he would be hoping to bring a motion to council to gain support for Living Rent campaign.

9. Campus Strategy Update

B O'Connor informed council that she had attended interviews for the Architects for the Learning and Teaching Hub and added that she expected that the Architects would be selected in the next month.

B O'Connor, UM Darragh and K Powell met with D Spaeth M Fischbacher who are involved with the innovation workstream. The meeting looked at how the strategy will be taken forward.

B O'Connor informed council that the management workstream will be led by H Durndell.

B O'Connor informed council that Court had approved wider estate strategy 2015-2025

Q J Vlcek asked if there would be a paid position for a student to be involved in the process of the estates consultation. B O'Connor responded that this is something that should happen in the future.

10. AOCB

Leelah's Demonstration – B O'Connor informed council that the demonstration would be taking place on Saturday.

West End Festival – B O'Connor asked council members to get involved with arranging events for the west end festival in June.

Focus Groups Feedback – J Vlcek asked if there had been any report back on the focus groups. B Hay responded that once the report was received, himself and B O'Connor would begin work on the Strategic Plan.

Space shortage for Council Meetings – J Vlcek asked if it would be possible to relocate council meetings to a larger space. B O'Connor responded that she would investigate if there was anything that could be done.

Campaign Spending – M Deans asked council their thoughts on the introduction of a spending limit for SRC elections. Following discussion it was decided that a working group would be set up to investigate this issue.

Democracy in the SRC – A Craig requested that a working group be set up to investigate issues of the constitution democracy in GUSRC.

B Hay advised council that while it is useful to review the constitution from time to time, it was important not to become inward looking and lose sight of their role in representing the students of the university.

Q - M Deans asked the reasons for the difficulties encountered in the past. B Hay responded that SRC in-fighting some ten years ago had resulted in the University commissioning a management review which was heavily critical of the SRC's focus on internal arguments around constitutional matters rather than engaging with the student population.

B Hay agreed to circulate the report to council members

A Craig will produce a document outlining the topics for discussion. Council members were asked to pass their ideas on to him by next week.

BOC will look into alternative venue's for council

BH will circulate report to council

AC will produce a document

Senate Member down – E Napier asked if one of the council members had been deemed to have resigned for not attending meetings. B O'Connor responded that they had been contacted, and were awaiting response as required by the constitution.

Reports – R Brown requested that reports and papers be circulated earlier to enable time to read them. B O'Connor responded that they would aim to get them out the Friday before the next meeting of council.

Learning and Teaching Conference – C Davies reminded council members about the Learning and Teaching Conference in April and asked them to get involved.

Animal Testing Facility – R Kerr stated to council her support of the facility and gave her reasons for GUSRC to not support any upcoming motions that ask GUSRC to oppose the facility and to not take an official view on the issue. R Brown responded that she had advised the Vegan Society to bring a motion to council as they were concerned about the development of the facility.