

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd April 2015 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Absent :

Apologies : N McGuire, C Glendinning, L Hinton, D Bacanskaite,
K Mcewen, L Taylor, S Dallas, C Davies

Attending :

1. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

1.1 Updates on action points

- Screensaver Messages – B O'Connor updated council on behalf of C Davies that the Library have not promoted the pop-up study spaces or desk hogging messages. GUSRC have asked if they could arrange now but it is unlikely that this will be done in time for exams.
- B O'Connor informed council that a calendar has been created on the SRC website for use by Clubs and Societies but due to the time of year it has not been used that much as yet.
- L King has still not heard back regarding gym prices.
- Space shortage at council meetings, other venues are not available in a meeting room style as they are being used for teaching.

2. GUU Strategic Plan presentation from Rory Slater

R Slater delivered a short talk on the new GUU strategic plan and asked council members to get in touch if they have any feedback.

3. Reports

3.1 - B O'Connor – SRC President

Free hot water - B O'Connor updated council on the issue surrounding

hospitality services charging 56p for a cup of hot water. It has now been agreed that if students bring in a re-usable cup free hot water will be available in One A the Square and if successful this may be extended to the Fraser Building.

Student debt – B O'Connor updated council on meetings with Trading Standards and then the Court office on the issue of student debt. GUSRC made two recommendations to the court office. Firstly, a return to £250 threshold and secondly, an external independent review of the process to evaluate whether it is fair on students.

The university have agreed to remove the £5 threshold but have not disclosed what the new threshold is, although it is unlikely to be over £100. The university are not keen on having an independent review but propose to have an independent person reviewing applications for payment plans.

Higher education governance consultation - B O'Connor informed council of a meeting with cabinet secretary for education Angela Constance regarding the Higher Education governance consultation GUSRC completed.– GUSRC raised concerns about the position of Rector. It is being proposed that it become a position elected by both staff and students. The responses to the bill can be viewed online. It will go to committee but B O'Connor is concerned that GUSRC will not be invited with only the NUS being approached.

Student Sub finance committee – B O'Connor informed council that GUSRC's budget submission requested a 2% rise in funding but no increase was awarded. B O'Connor has been advised that there will likely not be any additional funds in the next 4 years.

Q - J Vlcek asked what the guidance on funding student bodies. B O'Connor responded that there was no particular guidance and that the decision was taken by committee year on year.

Q J J Vlcek asked about the overall funding for student bodies at Glasgow. B O'Connor responded that the funding was lower than other universities.

Q – M Deans asked if the university are making any demands on the budget awarded – B O'Connor responded that it was not normally the case but if the student body was in financial difficulty they might.

B O'Connor informed council that she was attempting to build more partnerships. For example she is looking to potential funding from the College of Social Sciences to enable GUSRC to provide some services to Glasgow International College students.

Student Carers Lunch – B O'Connor informed council that this is something she would hope would be developed further as the event provided useful

information to take forward to update and develop the policy further.

Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy – B O'Connor informed council on the development of this strategy. There are three subgroups in the development of the strategy.

1 - Academics (2 from University of Glasgow and one from Caledonian University) who are willing to undertake research in the area.

2 – Gordon Mackenzie - Security and student services.

3 – Student aspect developing information and the campaign

B O'Connor will share the strategy with council when she receives it for G Mackenzie.

Q – R Kerr asked if the strategy would be in place by next year – B O'Connor responded that it would not.

Conflict free minerals – M Karrasch updated council that the working group had met twice and people were generally receptive to the ideas in principal of reducing conflict free minerals. However implementation in practice is more complicated in terms of procurement which is often centralised for UK wide volume discounts. It was also found that the University had now implemented a sustainable procurement programme covering ethical and environmental concerns. The statement is part of the procurement contract.

R Brown commented she had consulted with the Enough Project on the sustainable procurement programme and the response had been supportive of it as it is more comprehensive than the motion. As it does not specifically discuss conflict minerals it was suggested that this might be remedied.

M Karrasch added that there was an ongoing dialogue but at present the matter is addressed but still on the long term agenda.

Council of Senate – B O'Connor updated council on a number of issues discussed and noted that no actual decisions had been taken at the meeting.

- Question to the principal at council of senate – B O'Connor informed council that there had been a question to A Muscatelli regarding the Israeli ambassador visit and how it was dealt with as there had been very poor communication and they had used of the welcome point as meeting point for large numbers of students without any prior warning. They asked if a working group would be set up to look into it. B O'Connor advised that it seemed likely that there would be a review group.

- Postgraduate Thesis wordcount It was discussed that the lower limit of the wordcount may be reduced.
- Centre for open studies – To reduce the number of courses being run with uptake courses being cut in an attempt to make the centre pay for itself. A new access course will also replace the old with students being able to pick their own modules. Court have decided that it be changed to a teaching only unit with staff will not be able to research, this is strongly opposed by staff. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting of Council of Senate with the full research.
- English Language Dictionaries – The paper from working group taken to senate and concerns were raised about the nuances of transition but not on the banning of dictionaries. The policy will not be implemented until english language provision has been assessed. It is likely this will not go to senate until next session.

Living rent campaign – B O'Connor is hoping GUSRC will be campaigning on this issue over the summer. B O'Connor asked council members who will be around over the summer to help out.

Q - J Vlcek asked B O'Connor about the potential for an SRC presence in the Learning and Teaching Hub. B O'Connor responded that GUSRC had been asked to trial services that we would like to have in the hub elsewhere in the university to see how effective they are. SVSS have a section in the library for use by clubs to promote themselves. B Hay commented that although there will be a GUSRC presence it is a concern that we will not have any input in the development.

Q - J Vlcek asked B O'Connor about the event management meeting – B O'Connor explained that the meeting had been in regards to larger clubs and societies events being held on campus. The outcome is that societies need to take on more such as risk assessments. The University appear to be putting a lot of restrictions on these events making things more difficult for clubs and societies.

C Davies – VP Education

G Gratton spoke on C Davies behalf

G Gratton informed council that there were still spaces available at the Enhancements Themes? Conference in June.

G Gratton reminded council any responses to Eleanor Estates & Buildings need to be sent to him by Sunday 5pm

G Gratton informed council that pop-up study spaces are now open.

G Gratton passed on a message of thanks from C Davies for a lush year.

1hr 2 mins

Liam King – Vice President Student Support

Turn it in – L King informed council that Turnitin software was no longer in use at the university. The application that will be taking its place is URKUND.

Santurary and Halls – L King informed council that he had met with some senior residents at halls of residence who discussed that their contracts were changing from being full time employees of the university to voluntary workers with no employment rights, being paid only in rent rebates. GUSRC are waiting to hear back from the unions about the legality of this kind of contract is and are likely to seek their own advice on the issue.

Another issue this raises is the high rents in halls which have been used to justify the cost of paying for the senior resident system.

Halls feedback – L King and a team of council members circulated letters at halls, and more letters will be circulated in the following weeks. LK asked council members to help with distribution.

G Masiulyte – Vice President Student Activities

Dogs on Campus – G Masiulyte informed council that there would be dogs in the williams room on Friday from 11-1pm

Freshers Helpers – G Masulyte informed council that applications to be a freshers helper are now open and asked them to take part and encourage their friends to get involved also.

L Evens – Environmental Officer

Community café idea – L Evens informed council that there were a group of students on campus who would like to set up a community café and they are trying to develop a proposal and at present they are furthers in talks with the QMU.

Q – B O'Connor asked if the university are affiliating to the fair trade group

and L Evens responded that it is. B O'Connor commented that there was controversy surrounding fairtrade. L Evens responded that he felt it was still a step in the right direction.

J Vlcek – School Representative – Business School

Study abroad – J Vlcek informed council that he had met with J Murdoch, International Dean: Mobility regarding raising the profile of study abroad in the business school.

J Vlcek asked council members to get in touch if interested in getting involved.

B O'Connor asked J Vlcek to meet with Helen Speirs regarding his plagiarism form.

JV to meet with HS regarding Plagiarism form.

Emily Cottrell – School Representative – Geography and Earth Sciences

Q - B O'Connor asked E Cottrell if she had any information of programmes that were going to be implemented in September with regards to the Kelvin hall teaching space. E Cottrell responded that she had not.

4. Jan's Handover document

B O'Connor highlighted that J Vlcek's handover document was very comprehensive and that they were hoping to develop a template document for council handovers.

J Vlcek commented that he had felt that the start of the year was very much a learning experience and hopes that the handover will be helpful for the incoming representative in combatting this.

B O'Connor will circulate the template to council members.

BOC will circulate a handover template.

5. Presentation to Council by Kate Powell

K Powell gave a short presentation to council suggesting a new way for students to propose a motion to Council that would involve a petitions process.

A brief outline of the proposal is -

- Student submits proposal to exec for consideration
- Proposal would then go online

- Petition would have to reach a quota
- If quota reached it would become an agenda item
- Petitions would not be for raising finance.

Discussion followed and there was generally positive feedback as long as there were systems in place to ensure that spoof petitions could be discounted and that only students would be able raise a petition and vote.

KP will continue to take this idea forward.

B Hay commented that implementing this system may not require any constitutional change.

6. Motion to Council – Animal Testing

R Brown presented a motion to council regarding the university's policy on animal testing.

After much discussion separate votes were taken on individual sections of the original motion to agree which sections were to be included in the final motion.

In the vote regarding 'The SRC Believes' - 27 in favour 1 against 1 abstain

Each paragraph section of 'The SRC resolves' was voted on individually.

Section 1 – 3 in favour, 18 against, 6 abstain
 Section 2 - 8 in favour 14 against, 7 abstain
 Section 3 – 26 in favour 2 abstain
 Section 4 – 4 for, 9 against, 14 abstain
 Section 5 – 23 in favour, 5 abstain
 Section 6 – 19 in favour 1 against, 6 abstain
 Section 7 – 7 in favour 9 against 12 abstain

The final vote on the motion which only included The SRC Believes and sections 3, 5 and 6 was voted the motion passed with 26 in favour 0 against and 2 abstaining.

7. Class Reps Feedback

C Triantafyllou informed council about their meeting regarding class rep and how GUSRC can better engage with them in future. A problem identified was that basic information on being a class rep often doesn't get to students.

J Vlcek added that school reps should try and hold meetings with class reps

and pass on school specific information to them.

8. AOCB

Strategic plan update – B O'Connor informed council that GUSRC hope to have plan developed and circulated by the end of June. B O'Connor asked council members to read the document when it is circulated. B Hay asked council to keep in mind that it is a high level document that does not go into great amounts of detail.

Council Dinner – B O'Connor informed council that Council Dinner would take place on the 22nd May and responses should be returned by the 8th May.

Democratisation of the SRC - L Evens asked if there was any progress on the democratisation of SRC which was something A Craig had been looking at. B O'Connor responded that this was related to what K Powell had been working on and something that was ongoing.

Safety in the sun – R Brown asked if the SRC would be interested in helping with and information stall promoting safety in the sun? G Masiulyte responded that it is something that she could look into.

Student Communication – B O'Connor informed council that she had met with R Sandison and C Lowther to work towards improvements.

Meeting ended 21.39.

**RB to speak
with GM
regarding
this**