

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 29th October 2015 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN ROOM 201, JOHN MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present : L King, G Gratton, A Ibrahim, UM Darragh, I French, T Duah, M Deans, L McDougall, M Harris, L Evens, E Napier, E Porter, K Powell, F Taylor, O Schafer, C Steeghs, D White, B Rooney, S Al-Wasity, F O'Donnell, B Simpson, S Yue, S Maier, E Ross, C Hill, C Watson, M Dimitrova, I Hafeez, A Pancheva, H Kay, T Lohmus, J Richardson, R O'Fee, K Muat, F Nokhbatolfoghahai, S Kholeif, D Guthrie, J Benson, M Sefton

Apologies : M Hau, L Kuehme, H Curley, C Kelly, A Bankier

Attending : B Hay

1. Welcome

L King welcomed Council to the first meeting of the 2015/16 session.

L King commented on the move from the Williams Room to the larger room 201 stating that the layout was not ideal and that he would be considering the set up going forward. He added that the benefits of the larger space would come when there were presentations and workshops. He asked council for feedback on the new space.

Council was reminded of the importance of signing the sederunt each meeting. The sederunt served as the official record of attendance and that failing to attend council three times without submitting apologies was considered a resignation from the post.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved with no amendments.

2.1 Matters Arising

None

3. Reports

3.1 Liam King – President

3.1.1 - Minibus Service

A briefing note had been circulated by L King to give greater context to the recent Guardian article which was critical of SRC due to the nature of contracts agreed with Minibus drivers. (appendix 1 to minutes)

L King opened for questions;

E Napier – Mindful of conflict of interest as also minibus driver. Also mindful that several minibus drivers are mature students who E Napier represents. Response from L King and B Hay doesn't address hypocrisy.

L King - Purpose of contracts was to benefit both sides and aid flexibility. Limited budget now means options further limited. Briefing paper gives broad explanation. Change in drivers' status would impact on service. Simply unaffordable. Original purpose of current contracts to optimise flexibility for all parties

B Hay – Not necessarily what's written down, it's about how people are treated. Balancing the interests of contractors and students. Trying to ensure all who work with GUSRC receive living wage
Exploitation suggests using labour for financial gain. Currently trying to balance interests of contractors and students who use service.
Can't think in binary terms.

E Napier - No difference whether employees work for a charity or private company. SRC saving money in pension costs and holiday pay. Students gain and drivers lose out.

J Richardson - Pay is less than minimum wage because GUSRC not paying NI, Sick Pay etc. Can GUSRC only afford to run the buses with unfair contracts?

L King – Without current arrangement, GUSRC cannot continue to provide service at current levels.

J Richardson - Have we challenged University to provide extra funding?

L King- GUSRC requested increase in block grant unsuccessfully. Submit strong arguments every year. As do Unions. University has adopted living wage but student organisations not given any additional resources to meet costs.

M Deans – How to address power imbalance between management and contractor. Article suggests contract terminated after 1 complaint?

L King - Guardian article not accurate reflection. Main subject of Guardian article had contract terminated following a series of issues.

M Deans – Are drivers told to work in the mornings after only 6 hours sleep?

B Hay – The latest drivers would be expected to work would be around 11.30. GUSRC operate within law. No driver forced to work at any times they are uncomfortable with. Also free to swap shifts etc.

E Porter –Have we consulted the drivers?

L King – Being considered but wanted to meet with Council first

L King- In summary - Council would like the Executive and B Hay to go back to the drivers and consult them on their terms & conditions and their concerns. Find out what it is they desire from us, consider this and bring it back to Council.

**LK to meet
minibus
drivers**

Council were thanked for their contributions. The issue would be investigated and brought back to a future council meeting.

3.1.2 Library

L King outlined issues around the library service which were focused around: the redevelopment of Levels 1 and 2; and the staffing service which would be in place prior to but supporting the aims of redevelopment . The redevelopment plans would significantly scale back the issue desk. The new service model would mean a reduction in staffed service from 8pm to 6pm. The service model was based on the Apple Store with roaming library staff helping students. The concern that this reduction in service would impact negatively on large numbers of students, particularly non-traditional, students was outlined. It was noted that L King had been in numerous discussions with Library Director though they have led to an impasse with polar opposite positions being adopted.

It was further noted that the Library redevelopment was not significantly delayed due to a lack of financial control on the project as well as a lack of proper project management. The University was now in the process of seeking all the internal approvals necessary but the redevelopment would not be completed until late semester 2.

F O'Donnell - Seems like a potential threat to the quality of the service?

L King – Agreed. University contend that reducing staff would mean that they could keep library open longer. No evidence of this. A real concern.

F O'Donnell - Students on placement late should have the same rights to access library. This will impact on all those who don't finish until late.

L King- It's an all-round poor deal

E Napier – Do we have any data that will evidence our stance?

L King – University maintains that after 6pm there is a significant drop-off in service use and that self-service will fill the gap. Council asked to raise the issue with their constituents noting the concerns raised about the potential impact on non-traditional students.

Council was asked to share this information with their constituents and specifically to seek feedback on what a reduction in the evening service would mean for students across the university.

Council members to take information to constituencies to gain support

3.2 – Gemma Gratton – VP Education

3.2.1 – Council was asked to note the events that were taking place for Global Entrepreneurship Week. There was a large programme of events on the University website and they were keen to see a lot of students involved. Events included a Mobile MakerSpace from MAKLAB and talks on economics, enterprise and networking skills for those interesting in entrepreneurship.

GG will circulate programme of events to council

3.3 – Una Marie Darragh – VP Student Support

3.3.1 Black History Month

Council thanked T Duah for her work in organising the first campus-wide Black History Month.

3.3.2 PAVS

Council was asked to note the appendix to UM Darragh's report on success of PAVS (Private Accommodation Viewing Service). The service aims to help international students find suitable, safe and secure accommodation in Glasgow prior to arrival. The pilot of the service operated well and received good feedback from users. UM Darragh outlined that we aim to expand the service and recruit more volunteers. HEAR Approval was now being sought and council were invited to sign up as a volunteer at the meeting.

Extract from PAVS Pilot evaluation
14 volunteers initially recruited but figure reduced gradually until there was a core of around 6 volunteers regularly checking the facebook group in the final weeks of the pilot.

Total number of PAVS viewing requests –	40
Total number of students using the service –	26
Total number of viewings carried out –	15
Reasons for failing to carry out viewing –	Property no longer available
	Student no longer wished to rent property
	Student could not fulfil landlord requirements
This gives a percentage of successful viewings of 37.5%	

3.4 – Ameer Ibrahim – VP Student Activities

3.4.1 – Fundraising and Welfare Week

Council were asked to note that A Ibrahim would be leading a team in Edinburgh for the annual poppyraid with Poppy Scotland the coming Saturday. Council was asked that if they were able to attend they make themselves known to A Ibrahim.

Council were asked to note that A Ibrahim and UM Darragh had arranged for another stress relief dog event during Welfare Week and another at the start of December. Further there was to be fundraising for Movember in the library and in association with the GUU.

3.4.2 Freshers Week

A Ibrahim gave a short verbal report on Freshers Week noting that a written report would come to Council at a future meeting. There were new events this year such as Introduction to Student Volunteering which was well attended as well as a guest appearance from Verne Troyer at a film screening.

UM Darragh appended A Ibrahim's comments with some detail of the work done to support students during the week and events which complemented the usual focus on nighttime events. LGBTQ+ Society had again hosted 'Tea in the Tent' with scores of students attending. A lunch for students with caring responsibilities was hosted and has led to sustainable engagement with the group.

M Sefton asked about refreshers week.

A Ibrahim replied currently no plans set out for this yet but he was looking at different ways we might support societies during the week.

Council thanked the Executive for their work during Freshers Week and also

AI to bring the Freshers' Week Report to a future meeting of Council

thanked E Napier and L McDougall for particular contributions which aimed to make Freshers Week more accessible to their relevant constituencies.

3.5 Council Member Reports

Council thanked those listed below for their reports and noted the importance of submitting reports.

Kate Powell – UG Arts Convenor
Oscar Schafer – UG Science and Engineering Convenor
Erin Ross – School of Modern Languages and Culture Rep
Imran Hafeez – School of Engineering Rep
Iain French – Sexual Orientation Equality Officer
Lauren McDougall – Disability Equality Officer
Elliot Porter – Mental Health Equality Officer
Elliot Napier – Age Equality Officer
Mhairi Harris – Charities, Clubs and Societies Officer
Morag Deans – Gender Equality Officer

4. Committee elections

4.1 University Committees

The following council member was elected by secret ballot for a clear majority:

SRC Assessor on Court - Morag Deans

The following council members were elected by a show of hands for a clear majority;

Military education committee: Iain French
Deans of Graduate Studies -Salim Al Wasity
Researcher Development Committee*: Bob Rooney
Health, Safety & Well-being Committee: Oscar Schafer
Hunterian Strategic Development Board: Cameron Hill
Learning & Teaching Committee**:
 College of Arts: Kate Powell
 College of MVLS: Claire Watson
 College of Science & Engineering: Tuuli Lohmus
 College of Social Sciences: Cathy Steeghs
Library Committee: Frankie O'Donnell

Religion & Belief Equality Committee***: Fatimeh Nokhbatolfoghahai
Student Support Development Committee****: Elliot Napier
Students Rural Agricultural College Liason Board: Mhairi Harris
Academic Dress Committee: Bethan Simpson

4.2 Internal Committees

Council Decoration Committee: Susan Yue & Kate Powell (joint convenors)

Clerk's note:

*Only PG Reps were eligible for this committee

**Only Academic Reps from the relevant college were eligible for this committee

***This committee also included responsibility for the portfolio of Religion and Belief Equality and the relevant liason with VPSS

****After the meeting of Council it was confirmed that a PG only place on this committee was secured.

5. Information for noting

5.1 Periodic Subject Reviews (PSRs)

G Gratton advised that there were 8 PSRs happening this year she would send out application forms tomorrow. Stressed that it was heavy work load and attendance every day was essential as well as participation in the training. Useful in learning more about the University and how such processes work

5.2 Student Teaching Awards (STAs)

G Gratton: Nominations open Monday. Stall in library all next week. Would welcome volunteers. Please nominate those who deserve recognition and encourage others to participate

5.3 Council Clothing

G Gratton: Options poll would be on Council FB Page. Once ordered must be paid!

5.4 Rag Week

A Ibrahim: Application for RAG committee would be circulated and publicised from next week. Structure and process as well as some ideas for events outlined. To create a solid base structure for RAG and encourage fresh ideas.

In response to question as to why application forms were being circulated A Ibrahim advised that it was to reach out and involve people beyond the SRC.

5.5 Outline of Future Business

Council noted that:

Architects for the new L&T Hub will present in November potentially at the next meeting meeting and it will provide an opportunity for feedback on the current design and thinking.

Prof Frank Coton would be presenting on the new IT Strategy possibly at the next meeting in November. There needs to be a discussion about what students expect from University around software and hardware, as well as use of management information and potential tracking of users.

Student Services want to consult on the student journey in November. This will revolve around how we use services, when we use them and how we communicate and engage with them. The results from with work will have significant impact for how services are delivered in future.

The Audited Accounts will be taken in the December meeting.

A workshop with the architects for the Masterplan of the Estates Redevelopment will take place at the December meeting. Masterplanning encompasses everything outwith the curtain of each individual project and will involve making some important decisions about the future shape of the campus.

5.9 School of Education Rep

Council noted that the School of Education Representative P McCluskey stepped down from Council. Council wished him well for the future.

6.0 AOCB

No competent business.

7.0 Date of Next meeting

6.30pm on the 17th November 2015 in Room 201, John McIntyre Building