

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 AT 6.30 p.m.**  
**IN ROOM 201, JOHN MCINTYRE BUILDING**

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

**Apologies:** M Deans, R Slater, E Porter, S Dallas, A Martin, L McDougall

**Attending:** B Hay, A Bankier, F Coton

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### **1. Presentation and Consultation on IT strategy**

Council welcomed Prof Frank Coton, VP Academic and Educational Innovation. F Coton had been invited to consult Council on the future of the University's IT Strategy. F Coton delivered a short presentation which explored the background to the strategy and the role of the campus redevelopment as a driver to reconsider priorities in IT strategy for the future. Council was asked specifically to consider three questions in groups prior to an open discussion on the floor.

The questions posed by F Coton in his presentation were:

**1** – Using the university's IT strategy as a point of reference, what aspects of IT do you think we should be prioritising to support the student experience in the next three years and beyond?

**2** – Thinking of our physical estate, how could we use technology more actively to improve the campus experience for both staff and students in our new expanded campus.

**3** – The use of student IT data could, for example, be used to support retention, including early identification of mental health issues, and student safety on campus. It could also be used to understand student service and support needs but this would all require an element of tracking of individuals on campus. Should we be doing this and, if so, what safeguards do we need to build in to our systems to preserve personal freedoms?

The discussion was wide ranging and covered areas not explicitly covered in

the questions as posed.

Council stressed the need that current IT systems had to work before any large changes to the University IT landscape were considered. Lessons learned from the implementation of previous systems, such as MyCampus, were critical.

Council was supportive of evaluating the University's IT position in light of the the opportunities presented in the campus redevelopment but concerns were raised that this should not be to the detriment of bringing existing parts of campus 'up to speed'. It was noted that many existing lecture theatres were not 'mobile device friendly' with few power sockets, and little space for laptops and books etc. Similarly it was noted that wifi provision currently only extended to indoor areas and did not cover out door areas limiting the use of technology in those spaces.

Council also highlighted that academic staff need to be supported appropriately in new technology enabled active learning spaces. Reports of lecturers being unable to operate microphones or projectors in existing spaces raised concerns about the capacity and capability to move to teaching in new spaces. It was also noted that the most common complaint from academic staff about lecture spaces was that the IT did not work.

Council considered the tracking of users, and the combining metadata across numerous existing systems into larger sets extensively. It was noted that the benefits of better use of data in this way included better support for students who were struggling with health problems or academically. It could help staff make appropriate interventions more quickly than at present and help improve student retention by reducing instances where students simply 'disappear' from the University. It was also noted that some studies suggested attainment could be supported through better use of IT with students 'self regulating' their attendance and participation when there was greater visibility of their peers attendance and attainment.

A number of concerns were expressed about the tracking of students and greater use of metadata. Concerns about the principle of tracking students were voiced along with questions of how data was and would be protected from unauthorised internal and external persons. Greater transparency of what the data collected would be used for and an ability for students to opt-out from such analyses were suggested. Some members of council felt that the data driven intervention from staff at vulnerable times could do more harm than good if not handled sensitively, with some further feeling that it was undesirable. Similar concerns were expressed about whether IT enabled visibility of peers performance and attendance would have the intended effect of improving attainment. The general principle that students were adults and responsible for their attendance was stated by several members of Council.

Council thanked F Coton for attending and presenting to Council and it was agreed that the issue would be considered again at a future meeting of council once the consultations on the IT Strategy had concluded.

Clerks note: the following email address exists to allow students and staff to feedback on any aspect of the IT Strategy.  
[technology-consultation@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:technology-consultation@glasgow.ac.uk)

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting 29<sup>th</sup> October were approved with no amendments.

### **2.1 Matters Arising**

#### **2.1.1 – Changes to Library Staffed Service**

Council was asked consult with constituents on the proposed changes to the staffed evening service of the library.

I French responded that the students he spoke with usually go to the Library after 6pm and they were concerned that there would not be staff on hand at that time.

C Hill commented that the students he had spoken with were not greatly concerned, and were more concerned about opening hours.

A Pancheva asked if there would be staff cuts. L King confirmed that the proposed service model included staffing cuts. A Pancheva said that on that basis the students she spoke with were against this.

E Napier added that the mature students he had spoken with had concerns over the cuts believing they would have an adverse effect on parents, carers etc.

It was suggested that a late night opening model of two nights a week could be negotiated with the Library if Library management still wished to press on with the proposed changes.

L King and G Gratton thanked Council and informed they were due to meet with the University Librarian on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

## **3. Sabbatical Reports**

### 3.1 Liam King - President

#### 3.1.1 - Minibus Drivers Contracts

L King updated Council on progress made since the last meeting. A meeting was held with the minibus drivers as Council had asked and the minute of this along with comments of drivers unable to attend was appended to his report. It was noted that on reflection on this meeting and considering further the concerns of Council it was decided to commission independent consultant to review the use of contractors arrangements across GUSRC. The review would consider:

- How the use of such contracts fits with the SRC's overall purpose and aims
- The financial implications of the different contractual options
- The likely impact on service delivery of these options
- The impact on contractors / employees of any changes that may be countenanced.

The review would conclude by the 18<sup>th</sup> December and Council would receive the report soon after to give time to mull over the Christmas break.

E Napier asked how the contractor was selected to ensure the independence of the consultation, as he is aware that the company has a previous relationship with GUSRC, He wished to know if they were selected from a group, or if they had just been appointed on the basis that they had been used before?

L King explained that this was a consultant who had carried out work for GUSRC in the past and had an understanding of the organisation and its operating environment. He added that given the priority of this review and the desire to have it concluded before the Christmas break it was felt the best option was to use a consultant with a track record and awareness of the organisation as opposed to delay and undertake a full tender process.

E Napier asked if it was possible if the contractors previous connection with with GUSRC could impact on their objectivity with them having an established affinity with GUSRC.

L King responded that he did not think this would be the case

B Hay responded that GUSRC aimed to select someone who has the integrity to do an independent job who provide good value for GUSRC. He added that it was normal for GUSRC and the University to have a 'framework' of consultants on which work could be undertaken with shorter notice and GUSRC would normally only go through a tendering process for work likely to cost over £5000

L King added that the consultant would be present at the first council

meeting in the New Year to present the report and take any questions Council members may have.

E Napier asked how long a history GUSRC have with using the contractor.

B Hay responded that he believed the first time the contractor had been used was during the development of the first strategic plan in 2008. He added that they had also been used for a freshers evaluation and a review of sabbatical structure.

### 3.1.2 Scottish Funding Council and the future of Scottish university funding

L King highlighted to council that following a number of meetings, including one with the Scottish Funding Council, it was becoming increasingly apparent that the future landscape of government funding of universities in Scotland would be vastly different to the status quo. Changes are expected in the coming months and Council members should keep a close eye on the UK Government Green Paper and Comprehensive Spending Review. When the detail was clearer Council would be updated.

### 3.1.3 Student Journey Mapping

L King reminded council of the importance of engaging with events such as Student Journey Mapping as the outcomes can lead to significant changes in the direction of the university.

## **3.2 Gemma Gratton – VP Education**

3.2.1 G Gratton informed council that the presentation from the Architects of the Learning and Teaching hub would take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2.30pm in the Williams Room.

### 3.2.2 Library Developments.

G Gratton updated council that the expanded budget for the Level 1 & 2 developments has been approved with work due to complete by March 2016.

### 3.2.3 Pop up study spaces

G Gratton informed council that there would be pop up study spaces in the weeks commencing 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December. Council were asked if they would help with the promotion of them to students.

### 3.2.4 Council events

G Gratton reminded Council to inform the sabbatical officers of events they were organising with in their role on council.

### 3.2.5 Council Hoodies

G Gratton asked council members to let her know if they would like a council hoodie, advising them that the cost would be around £20.

## 3.3 Una Marie Darragh – VP Student Support

### 3.3.1 Lighting on campus meeting with G Mackenzie

UM Darragh informed Council that following a meeting with G Mackenzie, Head of University Security, that Security will look at lighting by the McGregor Building and also down toward the Western Infirmary site. She added that the lights at the back of the Library have now been fixed and there is CCTV coverage there as well. Security staff on patrols have also been briefed to report any lights that are faulty to Estates and Buildings to be repaired as a priority.

UM Darragh added that lighting on Kelvin Way is a different issue as it is within Glasgow City Council jurisdiction. Any changes here would require applying pressure on them.

Security were exploring a 'safe route' from Murano Street Student Village to campus. This would be a route monitored by CCTV operated by the City Council to which the University would have access. Concerns were also noted that the relative safety of campus to the West End and rest of the City left some students with the perception of campus being an unsafe area. Reports of all crime bar cycle thefts were much lower on campus than in other areas of the West End.

UM Darragh invited any further feedback to be directed to her.

### 3.3.2 Welfare week

UM Darragh informed council that she would produce a report on the week for the next meeting of council and thanked council members who had helped out.

Council thanked UM Darragh for running a very successful Welfare Week.

### 3.3.3 Prevention of Sexual Violence

UM Darragh informed council that she had attended a London conference on the prevention of sexual offending. She said it had been an interesting day

Council  
asked to  
feedback to  
UD

with lots of valuable information and ideas which could be implemented at Glasgow. She would feedback to the University steering group for the Prevetion of Sexual Offending which was chair by Anne Anderson, VP and Head of College of Social Sciences.

### **3.4 Ameer Ibrahim – VP Student Activities**

#### 3.4.1 Development of new undergraduate prospectus

A Ibrahim informed council that he would be providing more up to date information on student activities for the new prospectus.

#### 3.4.2 General rep drop in session

A Ibrahim informed council that a session had been held which had not been very well attended but it was intended that there would be a follow up to this in a few weeks time.

#### 3.4.3 Support for Clubs

A Ibrahim highlighted that he was trying to get further support for clubs and societies. He has met with Neil Campbell and will report back to council in the new year.

#### 3.4.4 Home student network

A Ibrahim informed council that home studetnshave the highest drop out rate at the University and that he is looking at ways to improve their integration.

#### 3.4.5 Fundraising

A Ibrahim informed council about fundraising that had been undertaken in recent weeks:

- Poppy Scotland poppy raid in Edinburgh £718
- Movember Event at the Hive £182 (further funds expected to be raised at the next pub quiz).
- Children in need £315

#### 3.4.6 Re-Freshers Week

A Ibrahim informed council that he would be contacting clubs about getting involved with this event and asked council member who want to get involved

to contact him.

Council thanked Ameer and Mhairi for their custard bathing fundraising.

#### **4. Council Reports**

The following council members submitted reports to council:

Elliot Napier – Age Equality Officer  
Lauren MacDougall – Disability Equality Officer  
Milia Hau – International Students Officer  
Tracy Duah – Race Equality officer

Council thanked T Duah and A Pancheva for organising the candlelight vigil for humanity which marked lives lost in recent terrorist attacks.

Iain French – Sexual Orientation Equality Officer

Council was asked to note the upcoming vigil for trans remembrance day on 20<sup>th</sup> November. There were to be four speakers and about the transgender remembrance event which would have four speakers

I French informed council about LGBT history month noting that two events are confirmed so far and but asked council to get in touch with any ideas for other events.

Luke Evens – Environmental Officer

L Evens informed council that he was hoping to organise a Christmas collection of items overseas students are leaving behind that can be passed on to refugee charities.

Bob Rooney – PG MVLS Convenor  
Frankie O'Donnell – PG Social Sciences Convenor  
Debbie White – PG Arts Convenor  
Fergus Taylor – UG MVLS Convenor  
Kate Powell – UG Arts Convenor  
Oscar Schafer – UG Science and Engineering Convenor  
Alex Pancheva – School Rep Computing Science  
Hannah Kay – School Rep Geographical and Earth Science  
Susan Yue – School Rep Culture and Creative Arts  
Louisa Kuheme – School Rep Psychology  
Erin Ross – School Rep Modern Languages and Culture  
Tuuli Lohmus – School Rep Physics and Astronomy  
Claire Watson – School Rep Veterinary Medicine



C Watson thanked UM Darragh for bringing Welfare Week events to Garscube campus.

Jenny Benson – General Representative  
Kirsten Muat – First Year Representative

## **5. AOCB**

F O'Donnell raised an issue encountered by students who were being emailed regularly about Celtic Studies events that were of no interest to them.

L King responded that there is an email policy for staff is where all-staff emails must be directed through certain channels and be approved. Something similar is now being looked at for students.

A Pancheva asked who she should contact regarding Student Voice technical issues. G Gratton asked her to contact her regarding this.

L King informed Council that the workshop for the Masterplanning of the Campus Redevelopment would be taking place at the next meeting of Council. The Architects and the Director of Estates and Buildings will be in attendance.

UM Darragh reminded council that Secret Santa would also take place at the next meeting.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 6.30pm, Room 201 John McIntyre Building.

AP to  
contact GG  
re Student  
Voice