

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 8th December 2016 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING**

Present: as per sederunt

Apologies: E Ross, N Hristozova, A Abushaala, A Ali, S McLean, S Luan, L Bergin, L Henssge, M Hussain, M Shah, J Vlack, A Awotunde, D Beck, S Gill

Attending: B Hay, A Bankier, G Connor, D Borland

1. Student Engagement Coordinator

A Ibrahim introduced a new member of staff to council members, Douglas Borland, who is taking on a new role as student engagement coordinator.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved.

3. Annual Accounts

G Connor presented the annual accounts up to June 2016 and took questions from council members.

Q E Porter asked if there are guidelines on the acceptable level of surpluses and deficits. G Connor responded that any surplus or deficit they had to be able to be accounted for. The the aim was to work within the budget as closely as possible and be able to justify any substantial deviations.

Q - J Benson asked who creates the budget each year. G Connor advised that the draft budget is prepared by GUSRC and then submitted to the University's Student Funding Sub Committee for their consideration.

Q - F Gewirtz O Reilly asked for some clarification around the headings 'grant making' and 'support costs'. G Connor explained that 'Grant Making' related to grants awarded to clubs and societies and that 'Support Costs' related to the staffing cost of administration of Clubs and Society support services.

Q -T Ramdani asked if the surplus goes to the reserves each year? G Connor responded that GUSRC's policy is to attain a £450000 reserve. The figure

being based on estimated 6 months operating costs and projected wind up costs.

X Weiss asked what the return was on the expenditure of raising funds. G Connor responded that for 15/16 it had been £37,954.

E Porter proposed approval of the accounts and T Ramdani seconded the proposal and the accounts were approved.

A Ibrahim asked council if they were happy to approve Alexander Sloan as GUSRC's accountants, and Govan Law Centre as GUSRC's solicitors for the next year.

Council approved the continued appointment of Alexander Sloan and Govan Law Centre

3. Council Reports

3.1 Ameer Ibrahim – President

3.1.1 - International Symposium: A Ibrahim and T Ha have been meeting with various stakeholders to take the planning of the symposium forward. Council members were asked to get in touch if they would like to get involved or if they have any questions.

3.1.2 - Delivery Partner Stakeholders meeting: A Ibrahim informed council that he had met with two of the proposed contractors for the campus development where there was discussion around how the contractors envisage engagement with students throughout the period of the development.

3.1.3 – Environmental Strategy: A Ibrahim and C Holdsworth have a meeting scheduled with D Newall. Council members asked to get in touch if they have any ideas that could improve environmental sustainability.

3.1.4 – Campus Development Committee: A Ibrahim updated council on the first meeting of the campus development committee. There had been a presentation from A Allen on the capital plan and minutes of the meeting had been circulated to council along with A Ibrahim's report.

A Ibrahim added that Court would be considering the Estates Development Capital Plan at next Wednesday's meeting and he hoped to have further updates at January's meeting.

3.1.5 - Learning and Teaching Hub – A Ibrahim informed council that F Coton would be delivering a presentation at January's meeting.

3.1.6 – Student Fees – A Ibrahim advised council that his meeting with R Sandison has been postponed until January, he will follow up then.

3.1.7 European monitoring group – A Ibrahim advised council that there were currently no updates on funding for EU students and Brexit.

3.1.8 EU Symposium - A Ibrahim informed council that himself and T Ha were looking at arranging an EU Symposium which would follow a similar structure to the International Symposium.

3.1.9 Communications strategy working group – A Ibrahim informed council that J Vlcek would update council on progress at the next meeting.

3.1.10 Times Higher Education awards – A Ibrahim informed council that the university had not been successful.

3.1.11 New senate committee – A Ibrahim informed council that there was going to be a new committee to look at operational side of graduations which A Ibrahim will be sitting on. He added that the first meeting will take place next semester.

Q – B Rooney asked for clarification on the purpose of the committee looking at graduations operations? A Ibrahim responded that they were looking at how the processes can be improved.

Q R Crespo Molina asked for further information on the smart card control event. A Ibrahim responded that they had been looking at how, in the long term, smart card control can be rolled out across campus and issues of transition and the logistics of changing the way the system operates.

Q Jess Mac Sweeney asked for information on the ‘Ask me’ campaign and the ‘Welcome back to your future’ event. A Ibrahim responded that the idea of ‘ask me’ is that staff would wear an ‘ask me’ badge to enable students to know who to ask, and try and encourage students to approach staff.

Regarding the ‘Welcome back to your future event’ A Ibrahim explained that it was a mini fair for students to see what services are available on campus, targeted particularly at students who are starting their courses in January.

Q - J Brown asked for further information on the meeting with the library. A Ibrahim responded that it had been a brief meeting mostly focused on the new reflective space on level 6. The meeting takes place every month and A Ibrahim and K Powell attend.

Q - F Gewirtz O Reilly asked for an explanation of the term 'sticky campus' A Ibrahim responded that the term referred to students using campus for recreation and socialisation which is very much part of the philosophy underpinning developments such as the L&T hub which may be open 24/7.

3.2 Mhairi Harris – VP Student Activities

3.2.1 Living below the line: M Harris informed council that the donations page is still open but the current total is £1707. M Harris informed council that from working with GUEST it had been arranged that there will be permanent food bank collection at the welcome point.

3.2.2 Candy canes: M Harris updated council that there were still a few to sell.

3.2.3 Christmas Market: M Harris thanked C Holdsworth and X Weiss for creating a great event and atmosphere. M Harris added that it would be good to take forward again next year.

3.2.4 VCS Awards: M Harris updated council that planning was going well, and that she will supply more details in next report. Nominations will open on the 11th January and M Harris is hoping to increase nominations on last years event.

3.2.5 Clubs and Socs Space: Following a meeting with K Morton and A Macgregor and there will now be a dedicated space in Murano, Cairncross and Maclay halls of residence for clubs to use on Thursdays.

3.2.6 Handover Documents : M Harris informed council that she had met with J Vlcek and A Pancheva to discuss and that they were looking at providing more descriptive documents on specific council positions. M Harris will bring the ideas back to council once they are more developed.

3.2.7 Blog: M Harris informed council that she would be posting a blog in the next week on what has been achieved this semester.

M Harris thanked everyone who has been donating and passed on thanks from E Ross for all the help during De-stress week.

3.2.8 De- Stress Week: M Harris informed council that the final event would be taking place on Sunday with a screening of Planet Earth II. More stress packs will be handed out to students at this event.

3.2.9 Re Freshers: M Harris asked council members please get in touch if interested in helping.

Q T Ha – When will the schedule for re-freshers be posted? M Harris responded that she will hopefully post information in the next week. M Harris added that there will hopefully be a cross campus debate, a human library, international café, dogs on campus and movie screenings.

3.4 Kate Powell – VP Education

Academic forum Thursday 15th December: K Powell asked if school reps could prepare a short report ahead of the forum which College convenors could look over.

Non academic debt: University policy has now been reviewed and CMA have issued a press release outlining the terms of the changes to the policy. The University has agreed that its policy will no longer allow for students being unable to complete graduation due to non academic debt.. K Powell commented that T Killeen from The Advice Centre had played a significant role in this achievement.

STAs: K Powell reminded council members to please nominate for the awards and, if they have the time, to volunteer to promote them.

K Powell thanked Academic Forum members for all their hard work.

3.5 Other Council Reports Submitted

3.5.1 J Benson

3.5.2 M Shah

3.5.3. A Pancheva

3.5.4 B Rooney

Bus Service: B Rooney informed council that MVLS students were now finding it to be quite a struggle to travel between the Gilmorehill and Garscube campus' without the minibus service.

A Ibrahim responded that the service had been discontinued due to resource constraints and the withdrawal of the 50% contribution from Glasgow Student Village.

He added that the service had been provided for students who lived in halls of residence, rather than for students needing to get from one campus to another. The service had stopped at 10.30 am and didn't start again until 5pm so would have been of extremely limited benefit to Garscube students.

K Powell commented that the problem could be flagged by the SRC exec at a high level committee.

B Hay commented that he had been contacted on this issue as well. Consequently he has provided MVLS with information on the kinds of costs associated with providing such a service for students.

B Rooney added that there was also concerns from students at halls who do not feel safe walking along Kelvin Way at night. A Ibrahim advised that B Rooney contact E Ross for further updates on this issue.

Deans of Graduate Studies : B Rooney informed council that students can submit without supervisor consent.

3.5.5 Jess Mac Sweeney

School of Engineering policy to provide exam solutions changed. Lecturers will now have to provide exam solutions within set parameters. The information has to be provided on moodle.

Q L McDougall commented that this is being looked at across the university.

A Ibrahim asked if this agreement was is it in writing. J Mac Sweeney confirmed that the discussion occurred at a meeting that would have been minuted.

J Mac Sweeney highlighted to council the work survey she is planning which will aim to find out problems being faced by PGT students. J Mac Sweeny agreed to forward questions to A Ibrahim and B Hay.

3.5.6 J McCahill

3.5.7 H Hamid

Haseeb raised issues with the problem medical students have getting from one lecture to another due to the rooms that have been being booked for back to back lectures potentially being at the opposite side of the campus. He added that it was often the case that rooms within the medical school are being booked out by other subjects.

M Harris commented that the rooms in the Medical school were in high demand as they are considered to be attractive venues.

K Powell advised that the Name of school has been updated from 'School of Medicine' to 'School of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing'.

3.5.8 Ellie Young

E Young highlighted that at her meeting with Class reps an issue emerged around discrepancies between subjects and how they are assessed. This was particularly noticed by those undertaking joint honours courses.

3.5.9 Andrew Brown

3.5.10 Lauren McDougall

L McDougall updated council on her visit to hollyrood and the EHRiC committee on Disabilities and Universities. informed them that can be viewed online and there are also public papers that L McDougall can circulate to council.

M Harris congratulated L McDougall.

A Ibrahim asked what L McDougall's expectations were for the outcome? ... L McDougall hoped for some changes to DSA and that there could be away for students to be pre-assessed to prevent the gap in getting support in place when students start courses. L McDougall added that improved support for part time students would also be very welcome.

B Rooney – why was L McDougall the only student rep? L McDougall responded that she was told that they had wanted one disability equality rep. She felt they were trying to keep the group small. L McDougall add that the other representatives were all from support organisations.

A Ibrahim added that the Glasgow Student Forum had highlighted that financial funding application left a surplus of 150million pounds surplus suggesting there is a problem with the application process.

3.5.11 C Holdsworth

C Holdsworth asked if council members could pass on any ideas to him to take to his meeting meeting with D Newall.

C Holdsworth updated council on the relationship between divestment and field trip subsidy

Q - Jess Mac Sweeney asked C Holdsworth if the university have a green flag. C Holdsworth responded that he will find out, but thought that it was very unlikely as the university was not well rated for sustainability.

Q - A Ibrahim asked C Holdsworth for his views on the impact of divestment. C Holdsworth responded that he supports divestment but is aware of the arguments against it.

E Porter asked if any alienation from the industry is a short term problem? Does industry gain from not working with the university? C Holdsworth responded that they probably don't lose out as much as the academic institutions.

3.5.12 T Ramdani

T Ramdani informed council that she is currently compiling a list of where all child friendly and baby changing facilities are on campus and asked If council members spot these facilities to pass this on to her.

Q - H Hamid asked if there was any policy on how many changing facilities are required. T Ramdani responded that she was not aware of any requirements.

T Ramdani informed council that Transgender day of remembrance went well, and thanked all those who attended flag raising.

3.5.13 Amna Zahid

3.5.14 Xavier Weiss

X Weiss informed council that he had joined QMUs working group for their reflective space and as such was going to be looking in sales for lamps, rugs etc and asked council members to get in touch if they saw any good deals.

3.5.14 Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai

F Nokhbatolfoghahai commented that the Level 4 library space seems to be being well used and appreciated.

3.5.15 Jessica Brown

3.5.16 Pritasha Kariappa

3.5.17 Elliot Porter

3.5.18 FGewirtz O Reilly refer to report and recording.

F Gewirtz O'Reilly commented that he would be hoping to send out college feedback surveys. B Hay asked F Gewirtz to liaise with GUSRC.

F Gewirtz O'Reilly commented that the Library committee was not not until February. He would like to take note of any complaints from students that might come over over the busy period during the current exam period to be taken to that meeting.

Jess Mac Sweeney commented that computer clusters in PG science and engineering space were underused after 6pm and added that they could be useful for other engineering students which could free up space in library.

A Ibrahim commented that there are a number of clusters not used across campus.

C Holdsworth commented that this was indirectly related to the idea of a sticky campus. As Earth Science students have 24 hour access to the Gregory building.

4. Peer Support Service – Elliot Porter

E Porter updated council on peer support. Idea is to have a first point of contact for students. E Porter would like there to be blanket coverage and for the service to be centrally funded from the university. E Porter is looking for academic reps to approach their school to find out what kind of obstacles there are to setting this up.

K Powell advised council to speak to E Ross on how best to approach the schools.

A Ibrahim commented that the structure of the university presented difficulties in a centrally funded service.

Q - B Rooney asked if this was linked to mental health first aid. E Porter responded that they were not the same, but he expected that they would compliment each other.

5. AOCB

F Gewirtz O'Reilly asked if there was any update on the recruitment of more students than a school can cope with. A Ibrahim responded that he would be meeting with director of Marketing, Recruitment and International Office and look into it.

Council members were asked to contact A Ibrahim regarding the Christmas dinner with orders.

Next Meeting: 12th January.