

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING**

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: Lauren McDougall, Xavier Weiss, Rafa Abushaala, Kyle Brownson , Xenia Steiger, Fatameh Nokhbatolfoghahai

Attending: B Hay, K Fraser, A Cuthbert, C Bingham, G Reynolds, P Khindria.

1. Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

2. Minute of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by council.

3. Campus Development Presentation

Overview of the Campus Development plan, by Nicola Cameron, Assistant Director (Estate Strategy), Estates and Buildings outlining the progress of the Learning and Teaching Hub and development on the former Western Infirmary site.

Council was informed that work was progressing on identifying key areas for improvement of the existing spaces on campus and land that was currently under development.

Topics raised from council members included; the improvement of cycling lanes, better lighting on campus, improving connections between more remote parts of the university such as the Dental School and Dumfries campus, staffing models to encourage a more active campus after office hours, accounting for journey times between classes, better allocation of space for student parents and postgraduate dedicated spaces and increased space for services such as the Counselling and Psychological Service.

4. Student Service Model – Kate

Council was asked to consider the paper, previously circulated, regarding the delivery of services to students in the, currently under development, Learning and Teaching Hub. Council was broadly supportive of the proposals.

5. Academic and Welfare Forum updates – Hannah and Elliot

5.1 Welfare Forum

The minutes from the previous forum had been circulated to Council members. In addition to the supplied minutes of the forum it was noted that exam de-stress preparation is now underway so all possible assistance and ideas were encouraged from Council members. It was noted that GUSA would be launching a new anti-smoking campaign to discourage smoking in doorways around campus.

5.2 Academic Forum

The minutes from the previous forum had been circulated to Council members. The forum had discussed revised guidance to class representatives on participation in meetings. Best practice for Moodle was discussed and feedback would be reported back to the University in order to improve standards and create a 'Moodle baseline' to help guide staff.

6. Council Reports

6.1 SRC President: K Powell

6.1.1 Brexit Letter to Scottish Ministers

This letter had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. K Powell informed members that the letter had been signed by the student presidents of the majority of Scotland's higher education institutions. There was a perception that the future of Higher Education was currently being dangerously sidelined in the Brexit negotiations and the letter was intended to raise awareness of the importance the links between the UK Higher Education sector and Europe.

6.1.2 Student Over-recruitment

K Powell updated Council that there had been no response so far from Senior Management Group to SRC Executive's open letter but advised that a response was expected imminently and this would be circulated to council members once received.

6.2 VP Education: H Todd

6.2.1 Academic Forum

Council members were reminded that the next forum would take place on 22nd November at 6pm in the Williams Room.

6.2.2 Student Teaching Awards

H Todd emphasised the importance of publicity to increase nominations for the STAs and encouraged all council members to do their part in raising awareness about the awards in both the student and staff community at the university.

6.2.3 Class Rep Mixer

A mixer for Class Reps would take place on the 23rd November, this would be a fairly informal event, designed to help provide support to Class Reps while they settle into their roles. Council members were encouraged to attend to help introduce the SRC and its work to a new cohort of class representatives for 2017/18.

6.2.4 Learning and Teaching Hub - Teaching spaces

Council members were informed that the next Teaching Spaces Workshop would be taking place on the 28th November and that the workshop was a chance for Council members to feed into the furniture designs for the Learning and Teaching Hub.

6.3 VP Student Service: L McDougall – Written report noted

6.4 VP Student Activities: P Kariappa

6.4. 1 Refreshers week

The date has been finalised for the Refreshers Fair and will be the 11th January and Refreshers week will take place from the 8th - 12th January 2018. Events for the week would be published in due course. There would be a donation drive for non-perishable items for the elderly in the community and this would be a joint effort from all four student bodies.

6.4.2 RAG Committee

The committee was now meeting and in the process of organising events and initiatives to fundraise over the coming months

6.5 PG MVLS Convenor: K Leslie- written report noted

6.6 PG Science & Engineering Convenor: C Holdsworth - written report noted

6.7 PG Social Sciences: M Harris - Written report noted

M Harris informed Council that there was the possibility of strike action amongst Graduate Teaching Assistants in the College of Social Sciences due to issues regarding

H Todd and
K Powell
would look

pay and class preparation time. It was noted by other Council members that these issues may not be restricted to the College of Social Sciences and there may be potential strike action in other areas of the University.

further into
the
situation.

6.7 Age Equality: E Napier - written report noted

6.8 Race Equality: A Sardar

A Sardar informed council that there had been positive feedback from the Black History Month event the SRC had organised in the Boyd Orr. It was hoped that the SRC would be able to organise similar events in the future to better engage with BME students.

6.9 Mental Health Equality: F Nokhbatolfoghahai – written report noted

6.10 Disability Officer: E Docherty - written report noted

6.11 International: H El Ajouz - written report noted

6.12 Charities, Clubs & Societies: S McLean written report noted

6.13 Humanities: E Hardy - written report noted

6.14 Computing Science: S Brown - written report noted

6.15 Geographical & Earth Science: S Kirby - written report noted

6.16 Veterinary Medicine: A Ioannou

A Ioannou notified Council that she was considering a possible survey for Vet Med students as the position School Representative for Veterinary medicine had been vacant for a number of years and there were concerns about engagement from students in the school. She would be seeking guidance from VP Education on how to take this proposal forward to gather feedback from students.

6.17 Interdisciplinary: L Lepple

L Lepple informed council that she was working on trying to encourage clubs and societies based on the main campus to hold events on the Dumfries campus.

6.18 Psychology: X Stieger – written report noted

6.19 First year Rep: M Ballaty – written report noted

6.20 First year rep: P Aasen – written report noted

6.21 General Rep: X Weiss – written report noted

6.22 UG Social Sciences Convenor: J Horseman – written report noted

6.23 UG Arts College Convenor – V Ferry

V Ferry raised that there seemed to be confusion regarding the function of Student Voice and how staff are meant to engage with the system. She had received queries from staff unsure about what materials and information should be shared through the platform from Staff Student Liaison Committees.

Staff in the College of Arts also seemed unsure of procedure for the structure of College/School Learning and Teaching Committees when a SRC Representative position is vacant.

K Powell informed council that there was guidance produced jointly by the University and the SRC that encouraged colleges, schools and subjects to make minutes and other relevant materials available to all members of staff and all members of the relevant student body via Student Voice. In the case of Learning and Teaching Committees the SRC Executive would monitor vacant accounts and attend meetings where required to ensure continuity.

7. Slack

S Kirby had suggested that Slack could be a possible alternative to Facebook messenger for SRC Council member business and would help improve communication between Council members particularly when trying to organise events/campaigns or preparation before council meetings

G Reynolds and S Kirby gave a brief overview on how Slack works and the potential benefits to the SRC. K Powell noted that Council would use Slack on a trial basis until the end of Semester 2 to see if it would fit the needs of the SRC before committing to any paid for services with Slack.

8. Council Training Evaluation

The feedback from the council training for new council members had been circulated to council members and further feedback was welcomed for future training.

9. AOCB

Nothing further to add.

10. Date of next meeting and forums.

Full SRC Council- 7th December, 6pm, Williams Room
Academic forum – 22nd November, 6pm, Williams Room
Welfare Forum - 23rd November, 6pm, Williams Room
