

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 18th January 2017 AT 6 PM

IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: Leonie Lepple, Josh Horseman, Kyle Brownson, John Hardy, Ellie Young, David Guthrie, Ryan Rutherford, Xenia Sullivan, Jennifer McKeown, Rafa Abushaala

Attending: Bob Hay, Markee Rambo-Hood, Chloe Bingham

1. **Minutes of previous meeting** – Correction of last minutes: Under 9.4.2 change the 15th of December to the 11th for the VCS nominations opening.
2. **'Look After Yourself' presentation** – F Nokhbatolfoghahai presented an idea for a student led online mental health platform. It aims to promote awareness of services available on and off campus and will have five sections including a blog, a list of support services, events, how to get involved and tips. X Weiss asked how the resources would be gathered for this site and suggested a Peer Support option. F Nokhbatolfoghahai said they planned to approach local charities, in addition to gathering information about SRC and University wide services. M Ballaty asked how they foresaw the resources being used. F Nokhbatolfoghahai said the site is intended to be more of a sign-posting system than a replacement for any current services that are in place. C Holdsworth asked if there was a plan on educating staff on this initiative? F Nokhbatolfoghahai said there is a newly formed Mental Health Group with University staff and representatives of that SRC. X Weiss wanted to know how this platform will be tested. F Nokhbatolfoghahai suggested asking Council to engage with it first-hand. K Leslie asked if the blogs will be edited. F Nokhbatolfoghahai said at this point they will be edited by the VPSS and Mental Health Officer.

1. Reports

- a. **SRC President: Kate Powell** – Attended an Operational Board Meeting for Accommodation Services and hopes to get feedback about the halls and rent levels to pass onto Council.

The formulation of the Student Experience Committee has been approved.

K Powell met with David Duncan, regarding the pending industrial action, SRC will take a balanced approach but first and foremost it will represent the interests of students.

The UK Government is investigating into an alternative to ERASMUS

- b. VP Education: Hannah-May Todd** - H Todd reported that the Future Learning Spaces Group are aware of the lack of adherence to the Wednesday afternoon policy and was seeking to raise awareness and promote compliance.

A paper has been taken forward to revamp more teaching spaces. E Napier asked about the distance of these spaces is to campus. H Todd is uncertain at this point but exec will follow up with Estates.

The careers event for Arts and Social Science students is on the 6th of March, and helpers are needed if anyone on Council is interested.

H Todd has asked Council to share and comment on the 'LecRec' campaign.

The Library Pilot was successful and they are planning to do a second pilot.

The STA's are coming up; H Todd has encouraged Council to nominate.

X Weiss asked for an update on Moodle. H Todd advised that Moodle would be reviewed, and will keep Council updated. She will circulate further information to Council.

- c. VP Student Support: Lauren McDougall** - Karen Morton, at the gender based violence strategy group explained that the University are investigating an anonymous reporting tool. Although this cannot be used to officially report incidents, it can be used to track trends. L McDougall will keep Council updated.

International week is next week, the 22nd – 26th of January and any help is welcome.

- d. VP Student Activities: Pritasha Kariappa** - The Council Hoodies have arrived and are available for collection.

The Refreshers Fair was successful. There was added value

through co-location of the Sports Fair and SRC Fair. It was recommended that this practise continues next year.

The Give Blood Campaign will be taking place soon and , Council were encouraged to participate

The VCS awards are coming up, P Kariappa has asked Council to promote and share.

The Library Stall is now dedicated to clubs and societies on a Thursday. P Kariappa thanked M Ballaty for his work on this.

X Weiss asked for an update on the University's Gaelic plan. P Kariappa advised The University wants to move forward with the joint English/Gaelic sign format and is drafting a University Gaelic strategy

- e. **PG MVLS Convenor: Kirstin Leslie – N/A**
- f. **PG Science & Engineering Convenor: Chris Holdsworth – Submitted** report about Joseph Black building, but no action will be taken until the redevelopment.
- g. **PG Social Science: Mhairi Harris – M Harris** raised the issue of the thesis pending fee and the Colleges' approach to this.
- h. **PG Research: Flynn Gewirtz-O'Reilly – X Weiss** sought clarity on the PG reps discussion at their meeting having other representatives fill vacant positions on committees.
- i. **UG Arts Convenor: Victoria Ferry – Discussed** Student Voice and guidance for staff. Had discussion around online Peer Assisted groups, and wants more feedback on their effectiveness. K Powell suggested adding this to the agenda for academic forum.
- j. **Computing Science School Rep: Stephen Brown – N/A**
- k. **Age Equality Officer: Elliot Napier – Raised** an ongoing issue regarding Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary degree and the potential to withdraw it because of her failure to intervene and challenge the persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar. The Rector has suggested the honorary degree be taken from her, E Napier asked if Council would consider calling for the withdrawal of the degree. C Holdsworth suggested gauging how the student body feels on the matter before the SRC takes a stance. K Powell suggested drafting a letter, and then circulating it to Council to make a decision.
- l. F Nokhbatolfoghahai raised an issue of the relationship of the SRC to the Rector . There followed a general discussion around the relationship of the SRC to the Rector and his lack of response to invitations to meet with SRC

representatives. K Powell stated that she would contact the Rector.

- m. **Disability Officer: Emma Docherty** – N/A
- n. **Environmental Officer: Rafael Crespo Molina** – GUEST have proposed setting up a Community Fridge, and welcomes ideas from Council. This fridge would be used to store unwanted food from supermarkets.
- o. **Gender Equality Officer: Sophia Garkov** – International Women's week is coming up, and S Garkov would welcome help and ideas from Council. P Kariappa would like to take part with RAG. C Holdsworth suggested contacting STEM as they have staff ambassadors that could be interested.
- p. **Mental Health Equality Officer: Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai** – N/A
Vet Medicine School Rep: Antonia Ioannou – A Ioannou raised an issue the Vet school is having regarding their suicide awareness training. There appears to have been some issues associated with the presentation of **evaluation** data.
Humanities School Rep: Emma Hardy – E Hardy is meeting with the Hunterian, and welcomes any ideas about increasing student engagement with the museum and its collections. S Kirby would be interested engaging with any Geology related topics.
- q. **Physics & Astronomy School Rep: Bethan Hall-Jones** – N/A
- r. **Maths & Stats School Rep: Muhammad Fahd Asif** – N/A
- s. **First Year Rep: Patrick Aasen** – N/A
Leone – N/A
- t. **International Students Officer: Hussein El-Ajouz** – International week is the 22nd – 26th of January and any support is welcome. There are also plans underway for the Chinese New Year.
- u. **General Rep: Xavier Weiss** – X Weiss has made a list of all research groups, clubs and societies at the University interested in participating in a network and would welcome input from Council.

L McDougall is concerned about developing another communications platform, and raised concerns about using SLACK.

K Powell suggested that the exec will start using SLACK.

- v. **Geographical & Earth Science School Rep: Scott Kirby**– S Kirby was successful in influencing the changes to the degree structure for Earth Science students.
2. **Election to Council of Senate** – E Hardy and B-H Jones were elected to the Council of Senate.
 3. **Mental health Run Down: Lauren McDougall** – L McDougall clarified each of the different mental health initiatives and services and will circulate more information about each of these.

<p>4. Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy (Student Version): Hannah-May Todd – H Todd has produced a student friendly version of the accessible and inclusive learning policy. It has been positively received by the University Learning and Teaching Committee., H Todd has circulated this to Council. Once it is approved, it will be distributed to class reps/students.</p> <p>5. ‘Rate your landlord’ scheme – ‘Marks out of Tenancy’ is an online platform which allows tenants to review their landlords/flats. Council have been asked to trial it.</p> <p>6. Spring elections – Elections have been moved forward to the 28th of February and 1st of March. The executive encouraged Council to run for positions next year . Anyone thinking about running for a Sabbatical position, was encouraged to approach members of the current Sabbatical team for an informal chat.</p> <p>7. AOCB – N/A</p> <p>8. Date of next meeting – 8th February, 2018</p>	