

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER AT 6 PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: Elisabetta Trasatti, Bethan Hall-Jones, Philip Palios, Paula Campbell, Fiona Paterson, Jamie Quinn, Darius Darulis, Kyle Burns, Struan McLean, Bob Hay

Attending: C Bingham, M Rambo-Hood

---

- 1) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising – n/a
- 2) Glasgow Students for Life (GSL)

L McDougall outlined the context to the decision against affiliating Glasgow Students for Life and advised that a complaint had been received from the group with a suggestion of future legal action

Given some of the recent, inaccurate, media coverage the Executive considered it would be appropriate to bring the matter to a full meeting of Council for consideration.

L McDougall opened the floor to questions.

T Banos asked what ‘legal action’ entailed in the complaint from Glasgow Students for Life?

L McDougall explained that the person noted as GSL’s legal advisor in the complaint does not appear to be a qualified lawyer and informal soundings suggest that there are no grounds for legal action.

She clarified that this was not a question of banning a Club, nor was it about censorship. GSL have not been banned from meeting or holding events on Campus. They have indeed been very active over the first semester, holding a range of events. The question was simply whether the Trustees wished to permit this group to have access to SRC resources or have the SRC’s name and branding associated with pro-life activity and whether such activity reflected the SRC’s own values.

Clearly if legal action were taken, the SRC would seek formal legal advice. It was understood that several other student organisations in Scotland had been contacted by similar groups.

E MacLeod Hughes thanked the exec for making this decision, and wanted to express support for it.

J Cardwell expressed concern that the group in question may be using this situation to gain media attention.

L Cerosky asked how they were able to hold events on campus if they are not affiliated?

L McDougall answered that they held their events within the Catholic Chaplaincy.

K Zhang asked if this club has been affiliated with the SRC before?

L McDougall said this society has not.

L Ceroksy asked if this was a different club from the one that sought to affiliate last year?

L McDougall said it was a very similar group to last years' and the constitution was similar.

L McDougall put the matter of GSL affiliation to a vote. Twenty Nine of the Thirty Two in attendance voted in support of the Executive's decision to refuse affiliation to GSL.

- 3) Welfare Forum Update – F Nokhbatolfoghahai delivered a quick summary of her 'Welfare Forum' report submitted to Council and expressed that the plan of action delieanted from this forum had been successful. She invited questions.

K Powell asked if Exam De-stress events were successful in their current format?

F Nokhbatolfoghahai answered that traditionally Exam De-Stress incorporated a number of events, but she feels that fewer events teamed with more emphasis on engagement activities would be more successful. P Everingham felt that developing a Cross Campus collaboration for Exam De-stress was positive.

L McDougall also expressed that the collaboration between the roles of VP Activites and VP Support for Exam De-stress were also positive.

- 4) Academic Forum and Class Rep Mixer Forum Update – E Hardy delivered a quick summary of her 'Academic Forum' report submitted to Council. She

advised that issues emerging from this will be raised with the Senate Office for consideration and future action.

She advised that the Class Rep Mixer, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, was intended as an Ice breaker event for Class Representatives. She delivered a short summary of her 'Class Rep Mixer' report submitted to Council, feedback from the event was extremely positive and there was scope for the event to grow and become even bigger in upcoming years. She invited questions:

L Cerosky asked if there was a possibility for another Class Rep Mixer this academic year?

E Hardy said yes there is, although not this term.

C Green suggested that some of the icebreaker activities used at the event may have intimidated some participants, especially anyone with a disability or those struggling with their mental health. She recommended breaking the room into smaller groups at first, before using large group ice breakers.

E Hardy advised this had been noted and this would be incorporated for future events.

#### 5) Council Reports –

a) SRC President: Lauren McDougall – n/a  
She invited questions:

L Cerosky asked for an update on her visit to China.

L McDougall said that she will submit a report for the next Council meeting.

b) VP Actives: Scott Kirby –

S Kirby talked about his recent meeting with F Coton and R Partridge regarding Student Enterprise. Any Council members with experience or ideas on potential ways to progress this should get in touch.

S Kirby and R Mowbray attended the Sustainability Working Group and Extinction Rebellion was in attendance. Rebellion Extinction issued a list of demands, including asking the University to declare a climate emergency. S Kirby asked for Council's feedback.

E MacLeod Hughes asked if Extinction Rebellion is an affiliated society?

S Kirby confirmed that they are not an affiliated society; they describe themselves as “an international social movement that aims to drive radical change, through nonviolent resistance in order to minimise species extinction and avert climate breakdown”.

c) VP Education: Emma Hardy –

E Hardy advised that the SRC will be taking part in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) again this year.

E Hardy had a meeting with library staff, and 24 hour library access should be starting in the new term.

E Hardy asked Council to continue to share the STA promo. She invited questions:

K Powell asked what action would be taken regarding the University’s decision to remove dictionaries from exams?

E Hardy advised she has raised concerns about the decision at the Learning and Teaching Committee and shared SRC’s stance that they do not agree with dictionaries being removed. She has also discussed this with M Fischbacher-Smith, who will mediate the situation.

K Powell asked if a decision will be made at the next committee?

E Hardy confirmed that this may be likely.

K Powell suggested that it may be helpful to alert international students which could pressurise the University.

L McDougall agreed and also suggested developing proposals for options which could be used in place of the dictionaries, such as digital dictionaries.

E Napier stated that if we are going to inform international students, then we should do it now during exams, and before the holiday period. Also, he sought clarification as to why the SRC appears responsible for making the proposal to the Learning and Teaching committee?

L McDougall clarified that this proposal is primarily being compiled by M Fischbacher-Smith, however it is in the SRC’s interest to campaign for student rights and therefore ensure that these rights are protected.

K Powel asked if Council could see M Fischbacher-Smith's proposal before it went to the meeting for consideration.

L McDougall and E Hardy both confirmed Council could see the proposal before it went to the Learning and Teaching Committee.

C Green expressed that as a disabled student, she feels dictionaries are especially important. She suggested considering forms of activism if the proposal is not accepted.

L McDougall thinks if the SRC makes students aware of this situation, this would put pressure on the University.

C Green asked which students have been involved in this up until now?

L McDougall said a survey was administered to all students, in the previous academic year and feedback from international students was documented, but so far the University has not taken this feedback into consideration.

M Durkin stated that the QMU will help raise awareness on this issue if needed.

C Green asked if this decision will affect all students, including disabled students? And if so, why are some students getting penalised and not others?

L McDougall said she does not have this information at this moment. However a reasonable adjustment for a disability is a different circumstance than students needing additional assistance that are non native English speakers, because language is not a protected characteristic.

E MacLeod Hughes pointed out that if the University is only protecting people because of legislation then this is not in the best interest of the students.

L McDougall agreed with this point.

E Napier asked if there was a figure for the number of people who have been caught cheating by using a dictionary?

L McDougall said that she can ask for this figure.

M Fahd asked what are students allowed to use right now?

E Hardy said that currently there have been no changes to the policy, but these concerns are being raised because there is fear the dictionaries will be banned in the future.

- d) VP Student Support: Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai – n/a  
F Nokhbatolfoghahai invited questions:

L Cerosky referred to the History of Slavery committee and the report that was produced, and asked how the SRC can ensure action materialises from this report?

F Nokhbatolfoghahai agreed with this point, and would like further investigation into the impact of this on current BME students. If any actions are taken from this report, she will bring it back to Council and invite members to participate.

- e) Age Equality Officer: Elliot Napier – n/a

L Cerosky asked for further information on the Scottish Govt Brexit Summit on Higher Education event.

E Napier said he attended the event in place of L McDougall and delivered a short speech on 'the student view of Brexit'. The event on the whole was a positive experience. It was centred around the impact of Brexit on Universities.

- f) Disability Equality Officer: Charlotte Louise Green – n/a

- g) Environmental Officer: Ross Mowbray – n/a

- h) International Officer: Basel Shehabi –

B Shehabi met with F Nokhbatolfoghahai and S Kirby about a planned Cultural Exhibition for Refreshers Week.

B Shehabi also met with staff from the Glasgow International College and expressed GIC's concerns that they wanted a stronger partnership with the SRC, and stated that he was informed GIC has tried to contact the Sabbatical Officers with no response.

B Shehabi also would like to support the 'Post Study Work Visa' campaign and would like feedback from Council.

L McDougall said she is happy to discuss the 'Post Study Work Visa' Campaign further alongside F Nokhbatolfoghahai. In response to B Shehabi's meeting with GIC, L McDougall clarified that GIC has not attempted to get in contact with any of the Executive Officers this academic year. GIC is a commercial enterprise, which is separate from the University of Glasgow. Not all students who attend GIC will transition to UofG. They are not UofG students, and therefore the SRC cannot support them. However, the SRC has reached out to them in the past and has run campaigns in conjunction with them. L McDougall is happy to maintain an open dialogue with GIC, but cannot extend support past this. She opened the floor to questions:

K Powell re-emphasised that the SRC represents University of Glasgow students; GIC is not part of the University. Therefore the SRC cannot represent them. The SRC's resources are limited, and University of Glasgow students should be prioritised.

B Shehabi said he agrees with L McDougall and K Powell, but stressed again that GIC want more communication from the SRC.

S Kirby reiterated that none of the Executive officers have received correspondence from them.

L McDougal expressed her concern about B Shehabi's statement of the SRC ignoring GIC's correspondences, and wants to clarify that the breakdown in communication is not due to the Executive officers, and that it is not the SRC's responsibility to support GIC students.

i) Race Equality Officer: Desmond Okumbor – n/a

E MacLeod Hughes asked what the theme and goal of the cultural exhibition will be?

D Okumbor confirmed that he, along with B Shehabi are bringing together different international clubs to form an exchange of cultural practices.

L McDougall suggested speaking to S Kirby, as similar events have happened in the past, and he might be able to give advice on the best way to run this.

K Zhang further clarified D Okumbor's description of the cultural exhibition, stating it is a place for international students to make contact with their own and different cultures.

j) Business School Rep: Elisabetta Trasatti – n/a

k) Chemistry School Rep: Harry McLachlan

H McLachlan stated that the School of Chemistry is against releasing past papers as a guide for current students, but they have agreed to provide model questions. There was a push at the last Learning and Teaching committee for Advisor's of Studies to offer more support to their students.

L McDougal confirmed that the support and role of the Advisor of Studies has been an ongoing issue, and there have been many survey's administered to try and target the problems. She agreed that there needs to be better training given to this role, and there is still a lot of work to be done.

C Green said this is a reoccurring issue for disabled students, and appreciates that it was raised.

l) Computing School Rep: Kyle Burns – n/a

m) Critical Studies School Rep: Nina Donald – n/a

n) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Kirsty Summers – n/a

o) Humanities School Rep: Hannah Lysons – The Learning and Teaching committee for Humanities has been postponed indefinitely and therefore a lot of actions have had to be delayed.

p) Law School Rep: Daniel Buchan – n/a

q) Life Sciences School Rep: Hugh Steele – n/a

r) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Razeen Rohan – n/a

s) Psychology School Rep: Liam Brady – n/a

t) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Rebecca Coleman Bennett – n/a



- u) Vet Med School Rep: Antonia Ioannou – A Ioannou is planning Feel Good February, and would like to run a SRC Meet & Greet.

L McDougal said she would like to support A Ioannou with the Meet and Greet.

F Nokhbatolfighahai said that the Vet School Mental Health Access Survey closes tomorrow. She will be meeting with the heads of the School to compile a report and is happy to go through it with A Ioannou. L McDougall asked if CAPs has had any input of this survey.

A Ioannou said they had not.

L McDougall stated it would have been better if they could have been included.

- v) PG Arts Convenor: Fiona Paterson – n/a
- w) PG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jamie Quinn – n/a
- x) Social Sciences Convenor: Ketong Zhang – K Zhang encouraged Council members not be afraid to send a late report. He was afraid at his first meeting, because his was late, so he did not submit one.

L McDougall agreed with this, and said she would rather have a late report than none.

- y) UG Arts Convenor: Victoria Ferry – n/a
- z) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Bethan Hall-Jones – n/a

- aa) Social Sciences Convenor: Claire McCormack –

F Nokhbatolfighahai asked how the document for Peer Support was progressing?

C McCormack said that her and Pamela Orr have been in contact, and will produce a flow chart for the School of Social Science so that they can find out more information on applying for Peer Support system funding. She also stated that even though certain Schools have not had trainers trained, this would not stop them from using trainers from other Schools.

E Napier asked if this was the case at College level as well?

C McCormack could not confirm this, but was certain it was true for School level.

L McDougall stated that the Peer Support Trainers do not check student IDs, therefore technically any student from any School or College could access the training. However, since the School pays for the training, they can be protective over who takes the sessions.

bb) First Year Rep: Seven Jacobs – n/a

cc) First Year Rep: Temisan Atsegoh – T Atsegoh said she would like to speak to someone at the SRC with experience on how to hold events in halls of residence.

L McDougall suggested speaking to S Kirby and to A Cuthbert.

dd) Leo Cerosky: School Rep CCA – L Cerosky stated that Music Students are struggling to find storage for their instruments while they are on campus, and asked M Durkin if there was scope for the QMU to offer space.

M Durkin said she is in conversation with Karen Lee about storage space for clubs and societies. She feels there is unused space that could be utilised, and she will follow up on this.

K Powell confirmed this is a campus wide issue.

E Napier suggested putting pressure on the Music Department to fund space, as he is concerned that the space being reserved for Clubs and Socs should not be compromised by Music Students.

E MacLeod Hughes agreed with L Cerosky's concerns and suggested asking Music Students to raise this issue as well.

L McDougall said she did not suggest taking away clubs and societies proposed spaces, but that it could merely be part of the same conversation with Karen Lee about on campus spaces for storage.

ee) Paula Campbell: School Rep SMLC – n/a

ff) Edan MacLeod Hughes: Gender and Sexual Diversity Officer – E MacLeod Hughes will be meeting with Sandra White and Patrick Grady

this weekend asking them to support non-binary recognition. They would like Council's approval to submit it on behalf of the SRC?

L McDougall stated that the SRC has already pledged their support for this campaign. Because this campaign has a lot of background context, Council requires more information before they can make a decision, so she has asked E MacLeod Hughes to submit an email to council outlining this. However, in principal no one on council had any objections.

- 6) AOCB – D Okumbor asked for further clarification on the decision behind not affiliating Glasgow Students for Life, and asked if the issue stemmed from not having the capacity to support them.

L McDougall clarified that it because the remit of the society did not align with the SRC's, it has nothing to do with funding or support.

D Okumbor said that he does agree with this stance, but is concerned that this decision will infer that the SRC are accusing them of not supporting women's rights

L McDougall reiterated that the vote has been cast and any opinions on the matter should have been expressed before the vote. However she clarified that it is not exclusively about women's rights, but about how the clubs' view could infringe on the rights of other students.

C Green explained that she has been getting a number of Council members asking her if they could pass on her Council email to students. She stated that she is happy for Council to pass on her email address, as it is public knowledge. However in cases where the SRC Advice Centre is more appropriate, please provide this email instead.

L McDougall supported this statement, and further stated that Council can ask a fellow member if an issue falls within their remit, but for any issues that are more appropriate for the Advice Centre, they should always be signposted there first.

L McDougall told Council that the Gilchrist Postgraduate Club is getting refurbished, and closes after business tonight, but will reopen in the new year.

- 7) Date of Next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

