

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 15th NOVEMBER AT 6 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: Temisan Atsegoh, Tom McFerran, Philip Palios, Kate Powell.

1) Welcome, Apologies and matters arising

L.McDougall requested anyone who has not yet signed a media release form to complete one.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- Minutes agreed. No matters arising

3) Freshers' Week Report

S. Kirby opening by thanking all who helped during the prweek. SK then presented key findings and recommendations in the report.

Highlights:

- Change of location of Welcome Tent to beside the Memorial
- Held the International Weekend on the weekend before Fresher's Week, with various tailored events for international students
- Tried to put on more 'non-traditional' Fresher events during week days.
- Worked collaboratively with a number of Clubs and Societies to run events
- Closed by highlighting that there is a joint review of FW
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Questions and comments:

E Hughes asked about Gender Based Violence training and whether feedback had been taken into consideration.

S. Kirby advised he understood that all training feedback would be considered in shaping future training.

- C Green asked if there was any way to try and ensure there wasn't timetable clashes between key Fresher's events (such as Fresher's Address) and School introduction talks. S. Kirby explained the logistics involved will limit when certain talks are held by Schools. L McDougall noted that we can inform Schools and Colleges about these key events and that the Fresher's Address is at the same date and time every year, but again we cannot enforce when School's arrange their own talks. S. Kirby noted though that the Fresher's Address is recorded.

- L McDougall thanked S.Kirby again for running this successful week.

4) Welfare Forum Update

F. Nokhbatolfoghahai explained forum notes are still being finalised; key points of last meeting were:

- Discussion of possible campaign around sanitary products and 'period poverty'. Possibly run during International Women's Week in March 2019
- Discussed exam de-stress activities running from 03/12/18 until 14/12/18, and de-stress packs. Events will include "dogs on campus", a tea stall on Library Hill. Timetable for SRC events will be out shortly, so please promote as much as possible. Volunteers are required for the tea stall, as well as packing and distributing the de-stress packs.
- There will be a special wall of the Library in level 3 assigned for students to write on with exam de-stress tips and encouragement.
- The SRC will run a social media campaign, where students will be asked to say what helps them de-stress, The SRC will pick a few and try and make them happen (depending on the budget).

5) Academic Forum Update

E. Hardy advised that last forum discussed the following:

- Updates from class rep meetings
- Aimee Cuthbert (student engagement coordinator) gave talk on the National Student Survey The Forum discussed q26 ("...my student union represents me..."), and the possible confusion this might cause students at Glasgow with its four student bodies.

6) Gender and Sexual Diversity Officer Name Change Motion

E. Hughes (EH) explained purpose of motion was to change 'job title' of GSD Officer to LGBTQ+ Officer, as current title does not reflect what the role involves. EH chose LGBTQ+ Officer rather than LGBTQ+ Equality Officer, as EH felt equality was implied.

L. McDougall asked for views on the motion.

C Green explained they believed “equality” should be included within name to fully clarify what the role involves. Several other contributions reflected a similar view.

E. Hughes agreed with the points made.

A vote was called and it was agreed to revise the role title to LGBTQ+ Equality Officer.

7) Council Reports

7.1 SRC Vice President: Lauren McDougall (LM)

Points of note were:

7.1.2: LM and F. O’Reilly met with Richard from Research Strategy and Innovation Office to discuss current training programs available for PGRs to equip them for study and if there were any gaps. It was noted more provision is needed for mental health support, therefore F. Nokhbatolfoghahai is arranging PGR Mind Your Mate sessions.

7.1.4: Attended General Council Business Committee to present the SRC priorities (e.g., lecture recording, exam distress, mind your mate) . Presentation well received.

7.1.5: Met with Tim Bradshaw (Chief Executive of Russell Group) to discuss student experience at Glasgow.

7.1.6: Sabbs had 1st meeting with Principle in November (due to calendar clashes). Outcome was the 4 Sabbs will go back to Senior Management Group in Semester 2 to present the SRCs priorities and raise anything that has emerged since last meeting with them in August 2018. Will look to Council for input for this.

7.1.7: Meeting about extending teaching day to 8pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Unlikely to be implemented until at least 2020/21. Hopefully will also allow Wednesday afternoons to be kept free. The implications are considerable , particularly when considering the equality impact. Discussions are ongoing. LM assured Council that she will focus on ensuring equality and diversity issues are a priority that there are no unintended consequences and that no compulsory classes are restricted to the evening.

E. Napier sought clarification as to whether ‘optional’ classes referred to choices of courses (3rd and 4th year options) or choices of repeat classes. LM confirmed it would refer to repeat classes, however noted that currently some PGT classes are already only run in the evening as these are advertised to students when applying.

S. Mclean asked what would happen if the day time class was oversubscribed? LM responded that discussions were at an early stage, but would expect reasonable adjustments to help ensure everyone who cannot attend the evening class can attend during the day.

7.1.8: Gilchrist will be refurbished over Christmas.

7.1.9: Met with Widening Participation regarding student progression and retention and how data tracking might be used to support demographics who have a higher risk of withdrawal or problems with progress.

7.1.10: History of Slavery Committee are doing a lot of work just now and there are discussions around partnership work, so LM will keep Council updated on developments.

7.1.11: Student Experience Committee discussed a range of issues including: student wellbeing; communicating key messages with students; the physical environment (facilities on campus and student residences). Will feedback once report is produced.

7.1.12: LM is due to meet with Scottish Trade Union Congress about Safe Home Campaign and working with the Unions for students/staff who work late, and general issues relating to workers' rights for students.

7.1.13: LM asked all those who can attend the Council Christmas Dinner to confirm with her.,

LM asked if there are any questions.

E. Napier asked if the new refurb for the Gilchrist can still make reference to Marion Gilchrist and suffragette colours. LM said she will look into this, but due to new design and furniture already being ordered the colour schemes available might be limited.

M. Fahd asked if there will be further meetings or surveys about the Widening Participation discussion on progression. LM advised there will be a further meeting but rather than surveys at the moment they are considering what the current available data on withdrawal tells them about who is at risk.

L. Cerosky asked if the reason for extended teaching hours is due to lack of space. LM stated it was due to space, but also there has been discussion to looking to make courses more flexible to different working practices for students.

7.2 VP Activities: Scott Kirby (SK)

Points of note were:

7.2.1: Review of HEAR transcript, in particular section 6 discussing extracurricular activities. SK has discussed with HEAR Approvals Board.

7.2.2: Attended EdPSC pre-meeting about Dictionaries in Exams. Emma will discuss this in more detail.

7.2.3: Discussed with University about storage space for clubs and societies: Storage on Thurso Street might be available, but are looking to see if this is fit for purpose.

7.2.4: Attended Translations of Grade for Study Abroad sub-committee. It was noted that Colleges may not be following same procedures for translating grades. SK asked if any council members have studied abroad could speak to him about how translation affected them.

7.2.5: As noted Cross Campus Review Committee for Freshers Week is underway If anyone has any comments let SK know.

7.2.6: Other brief points: SK will be arranging a general forum for 1st year reps so will update Council on that once arranged. At next de-stress there will be therapy ponies. Sweatshirts have been ordered.

E. Hughes asked if HEAR transcript review is aimed at volunteers or people on boards of committees and societies. SK explained it is for everyone and rather it just being a list of activities it will be more reflexive.

LM highlighted that the goal is for the HEAR transcript to emphasise what skills has someone actually gained from their activities. Related to this point, M. Fahd asked if the HEAR record was automatic or had to be applied for. SK explained it is automatic for certain activities (office bearers) but not for others.

7.3 VP Education: Emma Hardy (EM)

Points to note were:

7.3.1: Attended Learning and Teaching Hub Committee. Further to discussions at last council meeting it appears that crockery will be used partially in the new building.

7.3.2: Meeting with Richard Lowden from Senate about course evaluation forms and a review that is being done on these. Will discuss this at next Academic Forum

7.3.3: Attended LEAF Symposium Away Day and thank you to the reps that attended

7.3.4: Attended Library Committee meeting and it appears the 24 hour/361 days opening will happen. Start date not finalised but might be around Christmas.

7.3.5: Discussed pop-up study spaces with Karen Lee running this Christmas. Details TBC.

7.3.6: Student Teaching Award nominations are now open, so requested council members to nominate.

7.3.7: Other activities and points to note:

- there will be a STA stall in the library tomorrow so EM asked for volunteers
- there will also be a class rep mixer so looking for volunteers
- thank you to those who applied for PSRs – there were a lot of applications.

7.3.8: Put forward SRC's views (they should not be removed) on dictionaries in exams to the Learning and Teaching Committee. This was not particularly well received and does not look like we can stop this. The University though, is considering alternative proposals .Will hopefully hear about these at next LTC.

LM asked if there were any questions of comments:

B. Al Shehabi asked if the library will be open 24 hours during exam period. EH said not been decided yet. LM explained that a start date will be agreed once negotiations with the a Trade Union negotiations are concluded.

D. Darulis explained the removal of translation dictionaries appears extremely unfair for international students who pay a lot in fees. EH agreed and raised this point along with the level of English entry requirement that can be too low for certain subjects with LTC.

K Dongdong asked if this removal was across all Schools. EH confirmed this is all exams.

L. Cerosky asked about how will students know which pop-up study space rooms are available. EH advised SRC and UofG will promote available spaces.

C Green asked several questions:

- What is “moodle minimum”? EM explained this is minimum requirements (such as dates/key contacts/reading lists) that every moodle should have and where this info should be within the moodle.
- In the new L&T Hub will there be places to wash dishes? EH advised there will be kitchens with sinks and microwaves.
- Will there be extra support for students with disabilities to learn to use Turnitin and moodle? Similarly, will allowances be made if students have problems using turnitin before deadlines? EH advised support will be provided and it made very clear what the requirements are for students.
- As Moodle can be very difficult to navigate for students with disabilities – is this being looking at? LM advised this is being considered via the Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy – this was discussed at a meeting today and therefore not in the sabbatical reports yet.

7.4 VP Student Support: Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai (FN)

Points to note included:

7.4.1: FN has been looking into conduct committees and their duty of care. E.g. ensuring water in the room; privacy room before and while awaiting an outcome; responsibilities following a suspension or expulsion (such as something written that can be taken home on the day of hearing outlining support); access to counselling.

7.4.2: The Gender Based Violence training has started and being rolled out within UofG, as well as linking this into Report and Support tool.

7.4.3: FN has met with Senate to discuss “good cause” and how there are possibly inconsistencies between schools.

7.4.4: Involved in reviewing the Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy (AILP) via working group, on issues related to moodle content.

7.4.5: Advised that that next Wednesday there will be a Let’s Talk meeting, so encouraged sign-ups.

Questions were:

E. Napier asked about road safety comms and is this just targeting students but not drivers on campus (and gave a suggestion that staff could be emailed to remind them that pedestrians have priority)? FN advised it is targeted at pedestrians but will be expanded to target cyclists and then drivers. FN will discuss with University Comms..

7.5 Disability Equality Officer: Charlotte Louise Green - written report noted

C Green noted there are two events for the International Day of Disabilities. There will be a panel discussion on 30/11/18 and a lunch event on 3/12/18. A doodle poll has been set up for anyone who can volunteer at these.

7.6 Environmental Officer: Ross Mowbray - written report noted. R.Mowbray advised that there is a "Party for the Planet" event next Wednesday.

7.7 Gender Equality Officer: Jo Cardwell - written report noted. J Cardwell asked if any one has any thoughts or suggestions for events for International Women's Week to get in touch.

7.8 Gender and Sexual Diversity Officer: Edan Hughes - written report noted

E. Hughes has been working on the Trans Day of Remembrance. Previously this was at the flagpole, but to have more engagement this is going to be more of a coffee morning. There will also be a coffee morning in the Gilchrist for World Aids Day and anyone able to bake, please get in touch. E. Hughes has been discussing crisis resources with advice centre.

7.9 International Officer: Basel Shehabi - written report noted. Key points were:

Events coming up, International Week (discussions with FN), and Thanksgiving Dinner in the Gilchrist.

7.10 Mental Health Equality Officer: Teresa Banos - written report noted

7.11 Business School Rep: Elisabetta Trasatti - written report noted

E. Trasatti noted as outlined in report had a helpful meeting with Megan Lee and looking at ASBS' representation model (along with Helen and Aimee) which is being used to develop a representation toolkit. EH said if anyone is interested in hearing more about this toolkit then let her know.

7.12 Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Leo Cerosky - written report noted

L. Cerosky noted that discussions went well during Library committee

7.13 Critical Studies School Rep: Nina Donald - written report noted

N. Donald noted the disconnect between Arts (esp. in Theology) and Disability Service and spoke to C Green about these problems. LM suggested N. Donald discuss this with FN.

7.14 Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Kirsty Summers - written report noted

7.15 Humanities School Rep: Hannah Lysons - written report noted
H. Lysons will update council in next report about recent class rep meetings and LTC this week.

7.16 Interdisciplinary Studies School Rep: Philip Palios – absent but written report noted

7.17 Law School Rep: Daniel Buchan - written report noted

7.18 Life Sciences School Rep: Hugh Steele - written report noted
H. Steele had a class rep meeting yesterday which discussed a range of issues such as names of reps not on moodle for some classes and concerns regarding the cost of transport to Garscube.

LM reminded everyone that if they have had any recent meetings since the report deadline to include these in the following month's report. LM also highlighted that if you are approached by any student with a specific personal issue/concern to refer this through the appropriate channels and not to attempt to resolve

7.19 Modern Languages and Culture School Rep: Paula Campbell - written report noted
P. Campbell attended L&T meeting regarding moodle minimum and discussed moodle audit.

7.20 Physics and Astronomy School Rep: Darius Darulis - written report noted
D. Darulis attended LTC meeting and there are plans for significant changes to structure of level 1 courses; moving of exams from spring to December diet; course work; problems with labs; lecture recording.

7.21 Psychology School Rep: Liam Brady - written report noted

7.22 Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Rebecca Coleman Bennett - written report noted

7.23 Vet Med School Rep: Antonia Ioannou - written report noted

7.24 PG Arts Convenor: Fiona Paterson - written report noted

7.25 PG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jamie Quinn - written report noted
J. Quinn met with John Davies who complimented the SRC on our exam posters campaign.

Meeting with S. Hild was interesting as it highlighted problem with staff not realising there are PG reps and college reps and confusion between different types of reps (in physics there are 4 types of reps: Athena swan, SUPA, College grad school rep and SRC Rep). LM said she'll discuss this with J. Quinn.

7.26 UG Arts Convenor: Victoria Ferry - written report noted

7.27 UG MVLS Convenor: Fadel Shoughari - written report noted
F Shoughari had helpful LTC meeting with discussion on Advisor of Studies issues: college did not realise students were unhappy with the system, but were keen on looking to see what barriers Advisors had to doing their job. In the meeting Maureen Bain (chair) asked about a guide for advisors she was aware SRC might be working on and asked when this would be done. EH explained this is only at the idea stage, so nothing set in stone. LM will circulate the recent Advisor of Studies survey and that chief Advisors will have seen this, so should be aware of these issues: LM will also flag this study up again with Chief Advisors to share will general advisors.

7.28 UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Bethan Hall-Jones - written report noted

Points in report to note were met with John Davies today and meeting reps tomorrow. FN asked about the mention that Psychology has two mental health 1st aiders in the report. B Hall-Jones explained this was for support while awaiting a CAPs appointment and will talk in more detail to FN about this later.

7.29 General Rep: Marco She - written report noted

7.30 First Year Rep: Seven Jacobs - written report noted

7.31 First Year Rep: Temisan Atsegoh – absent but written report noted

7.32 L. McDougall noted that the following reports (C. McCormack and Razeen Rohan) were receive late so will circulate.

8) AOCB –

J.Quinn asked for LM's opinion on the Glasgow Guardian's article on the Barclay being fit for purpose.

LM explained that UofG currently does not have a service level agreement (though one did exist when it first opened) with the Barclay, and therefore as they just rent the space we have limited say on their business model. However, she has now spoken to Robert Partridge to ask if a service agreement can be considered. LM is going to a meeting with the lead partner in the Barclay to discuss this, and try and put some pressure on the practice

by sharing what students have reported to us (primarily this is difficulty in making appointments).

C Green asked if a secure type of hub (rather than facebook) could be arranged for council members to discuss their activities (and contacts with students) so that other members can read this and inform the student that this issue was within their remit. This would ensure students are always linked up with the correct council member.

LM explained that a council member's role is to assist with policy rather than an individual student's problem. If a student has a problem they should be referred to the Advice Centre. If a council member is unsure about this they should speak to the Sabb who line manages them, and if required they can then delegate the matter to the correct member.

In regards updating other council members as to what activities each member is doing on a daily basis, LM advised that there would be a concern the level of information this would generate would be too high and could not reasonably be reviewed by any council member or Sabb. Therefore if a member is in any doubt to once again speak to the Sabb who line manages them.

9) Date of Next meeting – Thursday 6th December, 2018