

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AT 6 PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: H Steele, K Powell, D Darulis, M Durkin

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- 1) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising – Minutes agreed. No matters arising
  
- 2) Committee Elections
  - a. SRC Assessor on Court (1 elected) – E Napier
  - b. Council of Senate (1 elected) – A Da Fonseca Ioannou
  - c. Learning and Teaching Committee (four positions available, one per college) – H Lysons, B Hall-Jones, P Palios, F Shoughari
  - d. Student Experience Committee (1 UG and 1 PG) – T Banos, M She
  - e. Academic Dress Committee (1 elected) – S McLean
  - f. Military Education Committee (1 elected) – J Cardwell
  - g. Health Safety & Wellbeing Committee (1 elected) – T McFerran
  - h. Hunterian Strategic Development Board (1 elected) – T Atsegoh
  - i. Library Committee (1 UG and 1 PG) – L Cerosky, F Paterson
  - j. Learning Enhancement & Academic Development Service (1 UG and PG rep) – L Brady, J Quinn
  - k. Scotland’s Rural College Liaison Committee (1 elected) – C Green
  
- 3) Council Reports
  - a. SRC President: Lauren McDougall –
    - i. The Gilchrist PG Club is due to undergo a refurbishment, hopefully in time for the New Year.
    - ii. A University online reporting tool has been launched. The tool is for reporting cases of bullying and harassment, either anonymously or with personal details. Council is urged to raise awareness of this facility
    - iii. The SRC and CaPS are rolling out a pilot College-wide peer support programme. It will be trialled and evaluated in the College of Arts, with the intent of extending it University-wide if it is successful. Funding has been secured for it, and the pilot will begin in semester 2.
    - iv. The SRC, along with the other student led bodies on campus, met with the Campus Trade Unions to discuss their joint priorities regarding the industrial strike action. However, it was felt that the Trade Union Reps wanted to lobby the SRC on concerns facing staff and not students, and therefore this did not fall within the SRC’s direct remit. There is a

possibility of further industrial action, so the intention is to keep a positive working relationship with UCU despite this.

- v. The Assessment and Feedback Transformation team are looking for progressive ideas from students regarding assessment and feedback from each of the four colleges. The SRC has agreed to arrange feedback sessions with Class Reps and has encouraged Council to contribute to this feedback.
- vi. There will be a 'Meet the SRC' surgery on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November for students to ask questions. Council members are encouraged to attend.
- vii. L McDougall opened the floor for questions regarding her council report:

L Cerosky asked who monitors the reports filed to the online reporting tool? L McDougall answered that it is K Morton who initially receives the reports, but she will pass them on to the relevant parties. A few reports have already been processed, and the system seems to be working as planned.

R Mowbray asked why the decision was made for the new Learning and Teaching Hub to be 'crockery free'. L McDougall answered that the decision has come from the original intention of the space housing pop-up businesses, as these did not need facilities for reusable crockery. However, Hospitality Services will be catering this space, and a decision to go crockery free was necessary due to design limitations.

E MacLeod Hughes suggested that a discount could be offered to people who bring their own crockery to the Learning and Teaching hub in order to encourage sustainability. L McDougall confirmed that this is one of the models they are looking into.

E Napier suggested looking at the cash flow potentially spent on non-sustainable crockery in relation to the costs associated with building facilities that could accommodate for reusable crockery. L McDougall agreed with his point, and will raise it at future consultations.

- b. VP Actives: Scott Kirby –
  - i. S Kirby primarily worked on Freshers Week for the first three months of his term and he will present a report on this at the next council meeting.

- ii. S Kirby is looking into further ideas on how Hospitality Services can support and cater towards clubs and societies, and would like feedback from Council. He is also working with External Relations on attaining more social media and publicity options for clubs and societies.
- iii. The Cross Campus Freshers Week Committee has agreed to create a new subgroup 'review committee', where they will review the current Freshers Week model with the intention on making it more successful and appealing to incoming Freshers.
- iv. Council members are needed for the Open Day on Saturday the 20th, there is a link on the council page for people to sign up.
- v. S Kirby is working with J Morrison on more flexibility on HEAR recognition, and welcomes councils' thoughts on this.
- vi. S Kirby is working with the P Everingham, the president of GUSA, to organise a University wide Sports Day.
- vii. S Kirby is not planning on programming a Volunteering, Clubs and Societies 'week' as such, but will focus on individual and specific events which incorporate this idea.
- viii. S Kirby will be confirming the RAG committee this evening. Committee positions will be prioritised to non-Council members first, as the intention of the RAG committee is to encourage volunteers who have not already made a connection with the SRC.
- ix. S Kirby opened the floor for questions regarding his council report:

E MacLeod Hughes asked if provisions would be made for people who had disabilities or other disadvantages associated with partaking in team sports for the Sports Day. S Kirby said that the idea behind this day is to encourage people who would not traditionally be active in sports, so these provisions would be made.

c. VP Education: Emma Hardy –

- i. The Virtual Learning Environment development board is working to transition all Erkund portals over to Turnitin. They are currently trialing Turnitin in a limited number of courses, and if this trial is successful they will roll it out to more courses next term.
- ii. E Hardy will provide additional support to class reps by developing a student representation 'tool-kit'. There is information for reps on how to collect feedback, as well as details for staff to better understand their role within the representation structure. She also held a class rep staff

briefing to educate staff on their expectations within the representative structure. This session was successful and more of these will be run.

- iii. Applications for Period Subject Reviewers are open, and E Hardy has encouraged council to apply for this. The candidate would need to attend a one day training session on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, review a Subject with a member of staff, and then complete the actual review itself.
- iv. E Hardy invited College Convenors to get in touch in order to set up a goals meeting. Academic Reps are also welcome to schedule a goals meeting as well.
- v. There is a new working group to discuss lecture recording with the intention of campaigning for lecture recording to be opt-out versus opt-in.
- vi. Moodle Minimum has been standardised and is easy to navigate and use. E Hardy plans to continue working on Moodle to improve it further.
- vii. The LEAF Conference will be taking place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. The conference discusses assessment and feedback and E Hardy would like to see council members in attendance. Anyone interested can get a ticket link from her.

d. VP Student Support: Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai –

- i. F Nokhbatolfoghahai sits on the British Sign Language Policy working group which is working on a University wide British Sign language policy. The policy is in draft form, and it will be completed and actioned this month.
- ii. The University is launching a new online mental health service called Big White Wall. The service is monitored by qualified psychologists and intends to help relieve the high workload placed on CaPS. Council has been asked to try the service and offer feedback.
- iii. F Nokhbatolfoghahai, Karen Morton, and staff from Communications and Social Media are working to develop more ways to communicate road safety to users of the University campus. There have already been some changes made on University Ave.
- iv. Free sanitary supplies have been placed in toilets on campus. F Nokhbatolfoghahai would like feedback from council on if this working in its current format.
- v. There are more ‘Mind your mate’ and ‘Let’s Talk about Sexual Violence’ sessions coming up. Council is encouraged to sign up for these.
- vi. There are five new Facebook Networks. These are for carers, disabled students, parents, home students and postgraduate

students. Council has been asked to join these and share them.

- vii. T Banos helped to run a successful World Mental Health day (more to be discussed in her report).
- viii. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October there is a panel called 'Celebrating Diversity in Academia' to celebrate Black History Month. It is at 6pm in room 201, and council are encouraged to promote this and attend.
- ix. F Nokhbatolfoghahai opened the floor for questions regarding her council report:

L Ceroksy asked where the events for 'Mind your Mate' and 'Let's Talk about Sexual Violence' would be advertised? F Nokhbatolfoghahai confirmed it will be promoted on facebook (via Eventbrite).

T Banos said she tried to use Big White Wall, but she was not able to, because her profile did not exist on the database. F Nokhbatolfoghahai will follow this up.

E MacLeod Hughes said that the British Sign Language Society is interested in securing an interpreter for Trans day of Remembrance. F Nokhbatolfoghahai has already spoken to them and have recommended that they apply for a clubs and socs grant.

- e. International Officer: Basel Shehabi – B Shehabi held an International Café and Quiz. The Café was successful with about 600 people in attendance. The quiz was not as successful as he had hoped, due to last minute planning and changes. He is undergoing plans for international week in mid November.
- f. Mental Health Equality Officer: Teresa Banos – T Banos took over the University's Instagram account for World Mental Health day. She also held a tea and meditation event, yoga at GUSA, and a Mind Your Mate session. She encouraged GU positive minds and the GUU to hold events. She is planning future lunches/teas sessions to encourage students to talk about mental health in a relaxed environment.
- g. Environmental Officer: Ross Mowbray – R Mowbray met with GUEST, and is searching for a new location for their food co-op as the previous location in the QMU is no longer available. The Crypt is interested in assisting He is in discussion with the Communications Office to find more sustainable solutions for producing the prospectus.
- h. Age Equality Officer: Elliot Napier – n/a

- i. PG Social Sciences Convenor: Ketong Zhang – K Zhang has met with Social Science School Reps and the Undergraduate College Convenor to discuss issues facing the School. They discussed lecture recording and ways on making it more widely available. They also discussed making travel grants available to postgraduate students. K Zhang would like to work with other Council Convenors in petitioning the above within their college. K Zhang is also working with the Business School Rep to develop ways in which to provide better integration for international students on the course.

K Zhang opened the floor for questions regarding his council report:

L McDougall addressed K Zhang's point on lecture recording and added that if there is further industrial action, then the recorded lectures could be used as teaching material. However, as lecture recording is still opt-in, this is not available to everyone.

V Ferry highlighted that some lecturers are concerned about their ownership rights and their intellectual property and how this factors into lecture recording. They also might feel that using it as teaching material goes against the principles of the strike.

L McDougall answered that the lectures were not recorded with the intention of using them during industrial action, however it may be an option if they have been previously recorded, as this reduces the negative impact on the student.

E Napier expressed concern that if lecture recording is used for this purpose, then there could be less support from staff regarding this issue.

L McDougall agreed this could be a concern, but feels as lecture recording is not universally used at the moment, then it is unlikely that this will be an issue. The SRC has the duty to consider the wellbeing of the students. The concern about intellectual property is an ongoing conversation E Hardy is engaged in.

- j. PGR Convenor: Flynn Gerwartz-O'Reilly – n/a
- k. UG Social Sciences Convenor: Claire McCormack – n/a  
C McCormack opened the floor for questions regarding her council report:

F Nokhbatolfoghahai asked to meet C McCormack so they could discuss peer support.

L McDougall added that if anyone wants to promote peer support

within their School, please talk to F Nokhbatolfoghahai in the first instance, before going to the School.

1. UG Arts Convenor: Victoria Ferry – V Ferry met with W Anderson to discuss creating an engaging learning community within the College of the Arts, and has asked for some ideas and help from council. W Anderson wants to create a more uniform identity within the College of Arts, that the students can feel a part of. V Ferry opened the floor for questions regarding her council report:

J Cardwell asked if the Arts Advising Team would be open to taking constructive criticism in order to improve their interaction with reps and students.

V Ferry answered that she has tried to suggest some changes, but they were not well received.

L McDougall confirmed that a survey has been issued to gauge the satisfaction of the different types of advising systems. The results of this survey has been collected, but need to be analysed. L McDougall will share the findings with Council.

J Cardwell expressed that there is no consistency of advising systems within the Colleges and asked if there was any scope for uniformity.

L McDougall will look into this and get back to Council.

- m. UG Science & Engineering Convenor: Bethan Hall-Jones – B Hall-Jones has succeeded in getting the School of Physics to list their current reps on Moodle. She suggested this requirement should be included as part of Moodle Minimum for all Schools.

L McDougall agreed that this should be implemented.

- n. Computing School Rep: Kyle Burns – K Burns said that there were some teething issues with implementing video recording during lectures, however he anticipates these will be dealt with at the next Learning and Teaching committee.
- o. Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Leo Cerosky – L Cerosky highlighted that only a limited number of lecture rooms are equipped with lecture recording equipment, and asked how this could be rectified.

L McDougall suggested to speak to E Hardy as she is working on ensuring rooms are equipped for lecture recording. The University

have started with rooms that are more heavily used, and then are slowly rolling this out to rooms as they are being refurbished.

- p. Vet Med School Rep: Antonia Ioannou – Glasgow University is the only Vet School in the UK who does not have a dedicated counsellor. A proposal to address this was submitted to the University but was unsuccessful. A Ioannou would like to work with the SRC on this matter.

L McDougall said that Fatemeh has been made aware of this situation.

- q. Humanities School Rep: Hannah Lysons – n/a

- 4) Dictionaries in Exams (Discussion): E Hardy – The University wants to ban dictionaries from all exams. This would have a negative impact on students who are not native English speakers. A survey has been circulated amongst all students to evaluate the impact of this. The survey suggested that the number of students who use dictionaries in exams are low, however the impact for them on an individual level is high. Students expressed that dictionaries are not used to formulate the answer, but to ensure the question is fully understood.

E Hardy opened the floor to comments from council in hopes to determine the stance of the SRC on this matter.

T McFerran commented that there are a high percentage of international students, and even as a native English speaker it is difficult to remember the technical academic language used let alone an additional language on top of that. He suggested that the University should issue a standard dictionary to be given out at exams.

E Hardy said the difficulty is that there are a large volume of different languages, and it would be hard for the University to accommodate this.

T Banos suggested that the University has created a list of approved calculators, could this be done for dictionaries as well?

J Cardwell agreed with T McFerran's point that provisions are already inadequate for non-English speakers as it is, and that there should not be further limitations.



L McDougall commented that it is not solely about the actual 'using' of the dictionary, but about how having a dictionary can combat mental anxiety within exams.

F Gewirtz O'Reilly asked who this survey was administered to?

E Hardy said it was circulated to all students. She is concerned that a number of colleges are lowering the language requirements for entry, however this is not being countered with additional language support offered by the University.

K Zhang added that if the impact is high on students, then there should be support in spreading the word that dictionaries can be used, as perhaps more students would use them if they were aware of them.

L McDougall agreed that if the current model stands, then the SRC should promote the use of dictionaries in exams.

M She added that not only should non-native speakers be allowed the use of a dictionary in exams, they should also be given extra time for allowances to consult the dictionary.

M Daniel suggested that when students register, they could register their need of a dictionary and the desired language. This would give the University extra time to managed the work load, as well as giving students the opportunity to use them throughout the year, and not only on final exams.

J Quinn suggested the University could provide electronic dictionaries.

E Hardy suggested non-native English speakers could complete their exams on computers that had additional language support software.

L McDougall said the University is considering this as an option, but generally they want to remove this support completely.

C Green added than an institution has a legal duty to provide support to disabled students, and removing dictionaries is something that could affect them as well.

The General agreement from the Council is that they want the SRC to fight back against the decision to remove dictionaries from exams.

5) AOCB

S Kirby urged council to sign up for a hoodie as these will be ordered soon.

L McDougall asked any Council member who hasn't signed a media consent forms they come speak to her after the meeting.

6) Date of Next meeting – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018