

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 AT 6 PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING**

**Present:** As per sederunt

**Apologies:** F Nokhbatolfoghahai , F Gewirtz O'Reilly, C McCormack, D Guthrie, P Aasen, A Ioannou, M Abbas

**Attending:** K Fraser, G Connor

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**1: Apologies & Matters Arising**

**1.1 Student death**

Prior to the meeting, Council took a moment to reflect on the passing of a student who had been studying at the University's sister organisation Glasgow International College after a road traffic incident on University Avenue. K Powell noted that there was little information at this time but a police statement has been issued and an investigation by the authorities would take place in due course.

Flowers and condolences had been passed onto the GIC from SRC.

**1.2 Peer Support meeting**

K Powell queried if A Ioannou had been able to meet with L McDougall regarding increased peer support facilities at the Vet School. This was still ongoing.

**1.3 Minutes of previous meeting**

C Holdsworth raised a query regarding the minutes of the previous meeting which was clarified and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate and approved.

**2: Written reports submitted:**

**2.1 SRC President: K Powell**

**2.1.1 Industrial Action**

An email updating students on the current issues regarding industrial action to all students. An agreement has been reached between UCU and UUK,

and all future industrial action has been suspended for the rest of the current academic year.

It was expected that students may approach SRC officers feeling that their grades or degree classification may have been affected by the industrial action and if officers encountered this K Powell advised to direct these students to the SRC Advice Centre for guidance on how to proceed.

### **2.1.2 Student Finance Sub Committee**

The SRC was still awaiting a decision on the annual block grant submission following the meeting with the University on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Once a decision had been notified the information would be circulated to council.

### **2.1.3 Council Dinner**

Council dinner would take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Kelvin Gallery. K Powell noted that the dinner would fall during Ramadan and all accommodations possible would be made for the comfort of Council members who wished to attend but may be fasting during daylight hours.

### **2.1.4 Accommodation**

Following from the previous Council meeting in March regarding the rise in accommodation costs, K Powell had approached A Allen and D Duncan to discuss. Both were unavailable to attend the current council meeting but this would be followed up by the Executive. There would also be a workshop to raise awareness of rent increases and this would have SRC advice centre staff on hand to offer advice to students

### **2.1.5 L&T Hub service model**

E Napier queried the catering hub in the L&T Hub and the new service model that is proposed for the new hub particularly regarding catering and if the new model would mean better quality and more reasonable pricing for students. K Powell responded that this would be one of the key areas that the SRC would be following up along with rents as both catering and estates are under the purview of Estates and Commercial Services.

## **2.2 VP Education: H Todd**

### **2.2.1 Laptop hire**

The library were now piloting its laptop hire scheme and early feedback from the SRC had resolved earlier issues and queries regarding laptop charging equipment. Feedback was requested to make sure the pilot is evaluated comprehensively.

### **2.2.2 Pop up study spaces**

Pop up study spaces are now in place around campus including much of the Alexander Stone building being open for study.

### **2.2.3 Advisor of studies Survey**

A survey is in progress to evaluate Advisor provision and student satisfaction with their advisors/advising teams. H Todd asked for responses from council members.

### **2.2.4 Dean of Graduates committee**

K Leslie raised concerns regarding the changes to Student Intellectual Property ownership policy and the lack of awareness amongst the general student population regarding the current policy and imminent changes. H Todd responded that the SRC would be looking further into the potential ramifications of changes to the policy

## **2.3 VP Student Support: L McDougall**

### **2.3.1 Mind Your Mate**

L McDougall informed Council that the SRC's application for Big Lottery Funding (over £21,000) to support the expansion of the Mind Your Mate programme over the next two years was successful. This funding would pay for another 16 individuals to be trained and allow the SRC to significantly increase the numbers of students and staff able to access the training, meaning the SRC would be better able to meet the huge demand for training.

### **2.3.2 Peer Support**

The new Peer Support programme the SRC has assisted CaPS in developing looks very comprehensive and it is hoped that if successful the programme would be greatly expanded and available in all schools rather than a limited few which provide funding for Peer support.

### **2.3.3 Exam Destress**

H Todd to circulate

H Todd would circulate the IP proposals were circulated to interested council members in due course.

Preparation of the stress packs was currently underway and handout volunteers were requested from council members.

## **2.4 VP Student Activities: P Kariappa**

### **2.4.1 Cross Campus Committee**

Freshers week preparations are now underway and Freshers Helper applications will be open imminently for council members to apply and circulate.

### **2.4.2 Student Experience Committee**

Clubs and Societies were an area of interest at the last meeting of the committee. The Committee is currently focusing on the costs of storage space available for clubs currently and the possibility for more space available for clubs in the new hub.

### **2.4.3 Emergency App**

P Kariappa informed Council that the University is currently developing an app that would allow students to register their status if in areas where an emergency situation was occurring. It was currently in the development stages but was noted by P Kariappa of being of used to students who may be international students or abroad during their studies.

**2.5 Vet Med** - Antonia Ioannou – report noted

**2.6 Computing Science** – Stephen Brown – report noted

**2.7 Age Equality**- Elliot Napier – report noted

**2.8 Physics & Astronomy** – Bethan Hall Jones – report noted

**2.9 Disability Equality**- Emma Docherty – Report Noted

**2.10 PG Convenor MVLS** – Kirstin Leslie – Report Noted

**2.11 1st Year Report** – Patrick Aasen – Report Noted

**2.12 Humanities** – Emma Hardy – Report Noted

**2.13 Mental Health Equality** - Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai - Report Noted

**2.14 Psychology**- Xenia Stieger

X Stieger informed council that she was working on a student wellbeing and student experience survey and hoped this would be of use to other council members perhaps looking to carry out similar surveys in their own schools/colleges.

**2.15 PG Research**- Flynn Gewirtz O'Reilly - report noted

**2.16 PG Science & Engineering-** Chris Holdsworth – Report noted  
**2.17 Geographical & Earth Sciences-** Scott Kirby – report noted

### **3. Personal Relationships Policy**

K Powell updated council on the progress of the policy which is currently in draft form and is under review from a number of university committees. L Mcdougall noted that the current document circulated to council may have already undergone amendments from the last SSDC.

E Napier raised concerns about students who are also staff members at the University. The university employs GTA's, interns etc. who also study while working. Noting that he felt the policy is too harsh on students who are also employed by the University of Glasgow who may be in relationships with other students. Noted there was no power differential and there isn't always a power imbalance as these positions are not generally ones that can exert influence over the other.

L Mcdougall noted that there would be guidance notes supplied by Equality & Diversity Unit and this could be a scenario which could be accounted for in the guidance notes and would address conflicts of interest rather than a blanket policy against student/staff relationships. E Napier also expressed concern that the current policy could be overly onerous on students who have friendships and other relations at the university while employed here.

M Ballaty raised that there seemed to be some differences in tone in parts of the policy particularly regarding gifts and students. M Ballaty asked if there had been any similar policy in place previously and K Powell advised that the policy was entirely new and still under its final stages of evaluation.

Council was advised to send in any evaluations of the policy they may have to L Mcdougall and K Powell. The policy is anticipated to be passed in due course but is currently being assessed by the university's legal and HR teams before going before proceeding to final approval by the university Court during the summer. K Powell hoped that the policy would be in place for the next academic session.

### **4: University Statement on Sexual Harassment**

The University had drafted a statement on recognition of sexual harassment on campus. Comments on the policy were requested from council members.

### **5: UofG Free Speech Policy**

K Powell informed council members that the university is proposing a Free Speech policy due to recent events on campus, while noting that there have been issues recently with SRC affiliated societies who have acted in a way that brings them into conflict with the SRC's policies for Equality and Diversity. K Powell remarked that there was a lack of clarity on the expectations on clubs and societies and that this was resulting in a firefighting situation that was causing clubs/societies to be disaffiliated when they act in a way that comes into conflict with the SRC's values.

L McDougall noted that there is a balancing act between the mildly offensive to hate speech which in a number of cases is a crime. There has been proof of hate speech on campus and this has resulted in clubs being disaffiliated when there has been clear evidence of contraventions of the SRC's policy of equality and diversity.

C Holdsworth remarked that there previously was no definition of what is considered hate speech on campus and that there was no clear policy at this time that makes it clear what expectations there are of students and clubs and societies on the matter when it comes to the balancing act of protecting freedom of speech while protecting the welfare of students.

M Harris advised that any free speech policy should be a collaborative effort between all four student bodies when it comes to affiliation to ensure a consistent policy across campus and the university.

A Sardar asked if a society invited a speaker who has previously committed hate speech would they be allowed on campus?

K Powell responded that it was felt it would be an executive decision taken on a case by case basis.

L Mcdougall informed council that the SRC would seek guidance from the university's Equality and Diversity Unit when making any decisions on either the proposed policy or [any events on campus which may cause concern re. hate speech](#)

R Abushalla asked if there would be timescales required for clubs and societies who want to invite speakers as part of the policy. K Powell advised that the policy is currently in its early stages but this may be something thaty could be considered

A Ibrahim noted that the university has limitations imposed upon it from the Higher Education Governance Act on how much it can limit events on campus and this might limit how much the university and SRC can act.

## **6: Campus Names**

Campus Development is ongoing and the university is seeking to raise funds. There is a campus names group and the SRC has played its part in trying to diversify the names of rooms and buildings on campus.

The committee is receptive to the SRC's suggestions and that campus names should reflect the diversity of campus and both the university and SRC would look at ways of ensuring this is reflected

E Napier asked if there was [a-futurescope for naming rooms/buildings after more diverse people and then seeking the funding to support that from multiple smaller donors, rather than the current situation of asking one person or organisation to solo-fund a project and name it themselves](#)~~for seeking donations for buildings/rooms that have already been named.~~

## **7: Student Teaching Awards 2018 Report**

H Todd thanked council members for their support for the awards, which had expanded on the success of previous years and was now considered a part of the academic calendar with both university staff and students highly receptive to getting involved.

## **8: AOCB**

### **8.1 Marketing and advertising policy**

X Stieger queried if there was a policy in place at the SRC regarding advertising and marketing as there had been concern about student accommodation advertising on the SRC's social media pages.

Kate Powell noted that the SRC executive felt that advertising a single provider may give the false impression of an endorsement when the SRC is firmly neutral when it comes to accommodation provision due to its position as an advice and guidance resource of students experiencing issues with rental accommodation- some of which may be some of the advertised rentals.

M Harris queried how would a potential SRC advertising policy affect student media if it were put in place and K Powell responded that the SRC affiliated student media were independent of the SRC and would be able to make their own decisions on advertising within reason.

There followed a brief discussion between council members on the impact the advert may have had but no real consensus as to whether it would be

appropriate to restrict individual accommodation providers from advertising.

## **8.2 Look after yourself**

The new 'Look after yourself' website is now available to view and a short demonstration of the new site was given to council members. The website included details such as key dates, mental health resources as well as a blog

## **8.3 Scottish Rural College (SRUC)**

M Ballaty had been the SRC's student representative on the UoG/SRUC liaison committee has a small student association and if council members are interested it may be a possibility to get in contact with fellow students from the SRUC and build further links with the organisation.

## **8.4 Council officer handovers**

R Abushalla asked if there were the arrangements for the handover of council members expressing concerns about duplication of efforts or lack of information that inhibits council members from representing students due to lack of knowledge. It was agreed that the Executive and SRC staff would look at a solution

## **9: Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be in October of the 2018/19 session.