

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 17th JANUARY AT 5.30 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: F Shoughari, L Brady, H Lysons, K Powell, P Palios, J Cardwell, K Jagger, H Steele

Attending: C Bingham, M Rambo-Hood, Sarah M, B Hay

Presentation given by Robert Partridge titled 'Transforming Student Services'.

- 1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt – as above
- 2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising – n/a
- 3) Annual Accounts –The SRC's income had dropped slightly against the previous year but a small surplus was maintained due to 23 percent increase in marketing revenue. Expenditure was in line with the expected budget. In conclusion, all budgets have been kept to and the auditors are satisfied that the accounts are a fair reflection of the actual spending of the SRC.

E Napier asked if we could collect the age of class reps on feedback forms?

B Hay said this was something that could be included on the feedback forms.

L Cerosky proposed to accept the annual accounts.

T Banos seconded this

There were no objections

L McDougall proposed from the Chair that Alexander Sloan be retained as GUSRC auditors for financial year 2018/2019.

L McDougall proposed from the Chair that Govan Law Centre (Dailly and Co. Solicitors) be retained as GUSRC solicitors for 2018/2019 .

No objections.

- 4) Update on Translation Dictionaries – L McDougall asked Senate to provide information on number of incidents of dictionary misuse in recent years?

Response stated; 4 in 13/14, 5 in 14/15, 5 in 15/16, and 6 in 16/17. Based on this information she does not consider the action of removing dictionaries is proportionate to the number of offences. A working group has been established at the behest of Vice Principle Coton.

L Cerosky asked who was behind the drive to remove dictionaries?

L McDougall advised that Senate Office appear to be the ones pushing to remove dictionaries. She explained that there are a range of views amongst academics with no clear majority view on one side or the other. She suggested that there was perhaps a need to consider the current quality of support provided to 'English as a Second Language' students.

L Cerosky asked how many students have requested and used dictionaries.

L McDougall said to her knowledge this information is not held centrally.

L McDougall asked if Council could be mindful of who they discuss this issue with, as it could raise unnecessary alarm.

5) Council Reports

a) SRC President: Lauren McDougall –

L McDougall advised A Muscatelli about the SRC's concerns on dictionary removal.

A review of Student Conduct has taken place, and the figures are now available. Because of the SRC's involvement with student conduct cases, they had noticed a number of issues with the procedure. Positive discussions have taken place between R Partridge and L McDougall and she will keep Council updated.

L McDougall warned Council about the worldwide movement called Generation Identity, as their posters were found on campus. The posters were taken down by Security immediately. There is no way to know if this is a group based on campus or not. If Council members find these posters, they should report it to L McDougall and G Stevens immediately. The SRC plan to release a statement to confirming zero tolerance.

L McDougall said there have also been reports from students of transphobic graffiti, flyers and stickers on campus. She has once again urged Council to report it if they see it.

M Durkin confirmed that it has also happened recently at the QMU.

C Green confirmed that the transphobic group is still on campus, because she was recently a victim.

L McDougall asked her to report this.

C Green asked if there has been any further contact from Glasgow Students for Life?

L McDougall said Glasgow Students for Life have been notified of the final decision, and there has been no further contact as yet.

b) VP Education: Emma Hardy –

ELIR Steering Committee has planned a visit next week between student representatives and staff. A few members of Council have been approached, and it is likely further Council members will be needed in March.

She is continuing work on the Student Rep Toolkit with A Cuthbert. They have met with several Schools to get a better idea how the class rep structure works within each Subject.

The Class Rep Conference is next week on the 23rd of January. E Hardy needs more volunteers from Council.

She urged Council to continue submitting nominations for the Student Teaching Awards and to continue to share the promo. There is a stall booked at the library, and she is seeking volunteers.

E Hardy reminded the School and College Reps to start organising their second term class rep meeting.

There has been further resistance towards Lecture Recording in regards to GDPR, however these appear to have been resolved and she plans to bring it to the Learning and Teaching Committee in January.

M She asked when the 24 hour library access will start?

E Hardy said that originally it was meant to be January, however there has been setbacks with staffing. E Hardy has followed this up and is awaiting a response from the Library.

T McFerran expressed concern, because the scheme did not run last exam period, and he felt this negatively impacted students' health and wellbeing.

L McDougall said that the initial 24 hour Library scheme was a pilot. In order to make it permanent, it has to be agreed with the relevant union(s), and she hopes that it will be finalised before the next exam period.

M Fahd Asif asked how GDPR affected lecture recording.

E Hardy advised that GDPR had been used recently as an argument against lecture recording. Further investigations revealed it had no impact.

L McDougall shared the results from the Digital Experience Survey and said that at this point last year 36 percent (230 students) were using lecture recording, whereas this year it was at 71 percent (1,300 students).

C Green asked for an update on the Student Teaching Award submissions. She also asked for an update on Urkin and Turn-it-in.

E Hardy said she is not certain how many Student Teaching Award nominations have been submitted, but she can get the figure. She said there have been a few issues with the Turn-it-in trial. Some Schools had agreed to take part in the trial, but have subsequently changed their minds. Life Sciences have been part of the trial from the start, and it has been a positive experience. She is still hopeful that Turn-it-in will be the primary programme for essay submission from the start of the 19/20 term.

c) VP Student Support: Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai –

F Nokhbatolfoghahai discussed the rent-guarantor scheme, which is be targeted at international students in the first instance. A proposal has been developed, and she has had a positive response.

F Nokhbatolfoghahai has also been involved in offering feedback for a more user friendly Financial Aid Service. One of the improvements is making the website more accessible. For example, there is substantial information on the discretionary fund, however this is not the case for the hardship fund. They also encouraged Financial Aid Services to think of ways to engage in a wider outreach (via social media and outreach groups). This feedback was received positively and she will update Council as this progresses.

F Nokhbatolfoghahai told Council about an ongoing issue regarding microwaves on campus. This issue especially affects students with disabilities who need them at a specific height or for certain dietary requirements. R Partridge plans to support an audit on campus to establish the current locations, and consider possible new locations.

There was a soft launch of the Big White Wall in October, and there will be an official launch this week. The Big White Wall is an online platform for mental health and wellbeing. F Nokhbatolfoghahai would like Council to test it out and provide feedback directly, via the platform.

The University and the SRC are launching a Gender Based Violence campaign, called 'It Stops Now' next week. This involves online material, a 'Let's Talk' workshop, and an informative video. The wall on Level 3 of the library will be available for students to write messages on.

L McDougall further stated that the Online Reporting Tool will be officially launched next week as well as part of the Gender Based Violence campaign.

d) VP Activities: Scott Kirby-

S Kirby updated Council on the HEAR approvals board and stated that J Morrison has proposed a radical change to the way HEAR is processed. This change is intended to make the process more user friendly for both staff and students, and would include a wider range of eligible activities.

S Kirby said that Refreshers Week took place, and there was more targeted marketing towards international students.

P Everingham said that he felt the collaboration between GUSA and the SRC for Refreshers was successful and he wanted to thank S Kirby for his hard work.

K Zhang thanked S Kirby for ordering the Council Hoodies.

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

f) Environmental Officer: Ross Mowbray – n/a

g) International Officer: Basel Shehabi – n/a

- h) Business School Rep: Elisabetta Trasatti – n/a
- i) Chemistry School Rep: Harry McLachlan – n/a
- j) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Kirsty Summers – n/a
- k) Life Sciences School Rep: Hugh Steele – n/a
- l) Physics and Astronomy School Rep: Darius Darulis – n/a
- m) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Rebecca Coleman Bennett – n/a
- n) PG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jamie Quinn – n/a
E Hardy responded to J Quinn’s question about SRC’s involvement in PTES Qs, in his Council report and said there is a meeting next week, where the questionnaire will be determined.

L McDougall gave her support for J Quinn’s meeting with the President of the PhD Society, and said that the society has also contacted her to set up a meeting with all of the PG Reps on Council.
- o) MVLS Convenor: Fadel Shoughari – n/a
- p) General Rep: Muhammad Fahd Asif –
M Fahd Asif thanked L McDougall for supporting the Palestine Society with their query about putting forward a proposal for a motion in regards to interactions with Palestine.
- q) First Year Rep: Seven Jacobs – n/a
- r) Vet Medical Rep: A Ioannou – n/a
L McDougall congratulated A Ioannou on the survey about mental health for Garscube. It is a requirement for Vet School students to have mental health provisions, so there is hope it will be actioned now.
- s) UG College Convenor Science and Engineering: Bethan Hall-Jones – n/a
- t) PG Social Sciences Convenor: Ketong Zhang – He is working on Chinese New Year Celebrations in the Gilchrist PG Club on the 5th of February and would love Council to attend and support the event.

K Zhang feels that the Library's announcement of 'your attention please' can be distracting and will raise this at the next Library Committee.

u) Interdisciplinary Studies School Rep: P Palios – n/a

6) AOCB –

L McDougall told Council that the refurbishment of the Gilchrist has been completed. There are minor snags, but the majority of the renovation is finished.

S Kirby said that Volunteering, Clubs and Societies nominations are now open, so please start nominating.

C Bingham said that there is a post on the main SRC Facebook page, so she encouraged Council members to share that. There is a boost on it for 5 days, so it is preferable to share it during this period.

C Green said that she has had reports from students regarding the University Accommodation's intermittent internet service over Christmas and January. She asked if this was something the SRC could follow up?

L McDougall said that the Sabbs would raise it with Accommodation Services next week.

M Fahd Asif asked when the SRC would be meeting with R Partridge?

L McDougall said that the Sabbs meet once a month, and L McDougall meets him every other week.

F Nokhbatolfoghahai said she is happy to take any comments from Council and raise them with him.

7) Date of Next meeting – Thursday 7th February, 2019