

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019 AT 5.30PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: G Kokkinidis, W Ng, L O'Connor, T Atsegoh, H McLachlan, M Wilson, J Hegele, K Mackay, H Mylin, P Everingham, A Nikolaou, M Daniel, A Neilsen

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay, I Henderson

---

- 1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt
- 2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising  
Minutes from previous meeting approved by Council.
- 3) University Strategy – Neal Juster

N Juster delivered a presentation on the University Strategy. A discussion followed whereby Council members offered feedback on ways in which the strategy could be shaped to best serve the needs of students at the University. The feedback provided will be taken forward in further discussions on the University Strategy.

After the conclusion of the presentation S Kirby reiterated the importance of Council's input on the Strategy and said that there are plans for further consultations between Council and the University on this project.

S Kirby said that there will be a presentation from the Sabbatical Officers at the next Council meeting, or at another suitable time in January, which will provide Council members with further context on the various transformation projects and areas of work that are involved in the formation of the University Strategy.

- 4) Council Reports:
  - a) SRC President: Scott Kirby

The petition for the University to adopt the sustainability-focused Ecosia as its main search engine is progressing, with the student who initiated the petition due to meet with IT Services to discuss its possible implementation. The SRC is currently discussing the possibility of adopting Ecosia as its own default search engine and is looking into ways of encouraging its non-invasive implementation within the University.

A joint-statement has been released by the University and its local UCU branch with regards to the recent strike action on campus. Excepting issues of workload and casualization, both organizations have come to an understanding on each other's positions with regards to issues such as pay increases, with both recognising the difficulties posed by collective bargaining. There is currently deliberation over further strike action next semester.

The SRC has been working with the University Rector to address the prolonged length of time between the perpetration of several sexual assaults on/around campus in mid November and the Police notifying the University of these crimes. S Kirby and the Rector sent a letter to Police Scotland on November 21<sup>st</sup> addressing the issue and further discussions have now taken place, with the following plans for improved communications between the Police and the University in development:

- The Police have proposed creating a new 'University Liaison Officer' position in Police Glasgow – a role which would cater directly to improving communications between Glasgow's universities and the Police.
- Also proposed was GCC and the Police carrying out safety and crime prevention audits of the University campus to address issues such as areas with poor lighting. The SRC will recommend that the University accepts this audit.
- The absence of a protocol for sharing information between the Police and the University is being addressed. This is something that other universities in Glasgow currently have in place.

- The Police will work actively to better their relationship with the University, the SRC and the GU student unions, as well as the University's Security team, in order to improve communications.

S Kirby said he recognises the safety concerns of the University's students with regard to these incidents and the lack of the communication they received surrounding them. The SRC has held emergency meetings with David Duncan and other University staff members to gain assurances that action will be taken to prevent any situations like this occurring in the future. The SRC will continue to address student safety concerns with the University and the Police, and will provide information to the student body on what action has been taken so far when it has been ascertained that the provision of such information will not affect any concomitant legal proceedings.

S Kirby said there has also been renewed discussion regarding poorly lit, student-frequented areas nearby the Gilmorehill campus, such as Kelvin Way and Kelvingrove Park. The SRC hopes to advance these discussions so that necessary improvements can be made to these areas.

S Kirby opened the floor for comment on the above.

S Mason said in universities in the USA there is an 'amber alert' system in place whereby students are immediately notified via text message when any emergency incidents occur. The system is designed to help police prevent further incidents and locate suspects as a description of any suspect is included in the text. S Mason asked if the University had a central emergency communication platform for students.

T McFerran said the University will soon be implementing SafeZone, an app provided by the technology firm CriticalArc, which will allow students to notify Security of an emergency situation via an emergency crisis button. The app will send the

student's location to Security so they can find the student and help them.

K Summers said the app will also have a 'late night stay' feature, whereby students and staff studying/working late on campus will be prompted to notify the app of their safety, with any non-responses being checked up on by Security. The app will also allow students who are studying or researching abroad to receive help in the case of an emergency.

S Kirby said T McFerran will be working with the University to improve the reporting process for incidents of sexual assault and gender-based violence, so that students know how to communicate with the University if they have been hurt, with the aim that no incident goes unreported.

S Kirby closed the floor for comment.

In light of a recent fire at The Cube student accommodation in Bolton, S Kirby signed an open letter with the presidents of all Scottish HE student unions asking the Scottish Government to begin a nationwide review of fire safety compliance procedures in all private student accommodation providers. The SRC will work with the Rector to address any fire safety issues that may be apparent with local private accommodation providers.

The legal barriers stalling the progress of the Lecture Recording Campaign have now been overcome, with hopes that an opt-out policy will be implemented from next year. S Kirby and L Brady will discuss the lecture recording policy with the University's Schools and Colleges in order to aid its effective implementation.

S Kirby has included a section in his Council report called 'Actions Requested of Council.' Council members are encouraged to consult this section in order to discern which projects/campaigns they can provide assistance with.

S Kirby has included L McDougall's International Student Experience Working Group Report as an appendix in his Council Report. The report is a presentation of feedback on the international student experience, with insights gleaned from focus group work. The report has been incorporated into the Student Experience Action Plan in order to help address issues facing international students at the University.

P Aasen asked if the discussion of 'alternative affiliation mechanisms' at the meeting with GUSA and GU Sport on the 18/11/2019 could lead to the GUSA affiliation of sports clubs whose activities are not based in the Stevenson Building.

K Summers said this meeting focused largely on the surplus of sports clubs that neither the SRC nor GUSA can currently support - the former not having the requisite facilities to support sports clubs (eg. a sports hall) and the latter experiencing issues with funding and staffing – rather than a discussion of GUSA affiliation itself.

E Hardy said she noticed that, while the SRC's Register To Vote campaign was highly promoted in the run up to the General Election, there was an absence of social media content on polling day.

S Kirby said that more social media content could have been generated, however, a mass email reminding students to vote was sent out on polling day. There were also several ambassadors and Council members out on campus reminding students in person.

b) VP Student Activities: Kirsty Summers

The Freshers' Week 2019 Report has now been released. The report highlights the successful training of 80 new Freshers' Helpers for FW 2019 and the work of the Freshers' Team Leaders in achieving this. The week also saw an increased focus on student welfare,

particularly through well-received welfare-focused events such as the Positive Minds drop-in clinic, Calligraphy as Meditation, Accessibility Tours and the Freshers' Fair quiet hour.

This year's early evening events, such as the Headphone Disco in the cloisters, were also a success and K Summers would encourage next year's VP-Student Activities to stage more of these events.

K Summers would like to thank all those involved in organising the event, with particular thanks to the Fresher's Helpers, SRC Admin Team, Communications Team, Permanent Secretary and the Bedellus.

L Brady congratulated K Summers for the success of FW 2019 and thanked her for all of her hard work in its organisation.

S Kirby also commended K Summers for her work on FW 2019 and expressed hope that this year's successful introduction of exciting new events will inform plans for future Freshers' Weeks.

The design process for clubs and societies storage space is in underway, however, there are hopes to accelerate this progress next semester. There has also been discussion around designating the new JMS Hub as a facility which clubs and societies can utilise heavily for activities, as well as discussion on increasing the availability of McIntyre Building rooms 201 and 208 for the same purpose.

K Summer is working with GUEST on bolstering student engagement with sustainability and environmental issues. The SRC and GUEST will collaborate on promoting these messages.

There are numerous events taking place this week (and w/c 16/12/2019) across campus as part of the University's Look After Yourself campaign. These include the SRC's 'Take a Break' events, such as meditation classes and Paws 4 Stress. Council members are asked to assist with giving out Take a Break goodie bags on 18/12/2019, and to devote an hour each to future Take a Break bag-packing sessions.

Refreshers' Week will take place between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January. Council members are asked to assist in the organisation and delivery of the event where possible.

The first Interclub Forum took place on 04/12/2019. This was an informal session where clubs and societies could communicate to the SRC any ideas or concerns they had in the running of their societies, as well as network with other societies. The next two scheduled events will be structured as more formalised town hall-style discussions.

P Aasen asked if any feedback had been provided on the event.

K Summers said the clubs and societies were appreciative of the opportunity to network with each other. There was also broad agreement from those in attendance that increased dialogue between SRC and its affiliated clubs would be of value to clubs and societies.

S Boyle said she had spoken to students involved with the RAG campaign who had asked about why there are reduced opportunities for them to help with RAG efforts.

K Summers said that the SRC's RAG efforts are coordinated by M Daniels who has unfortunately had to reschedule RAG activity due to work commitments. RAG members will be given opportunities to volunteer next semester.

K Summers said that £21,000 had been raised for RAG in November, thanking all who took part in the SRC's Movember efforts. She added that 200 bras had been collected for the Bras Not Bombs charity.

S Boyle asked if clarity could be provided on how RAG's fundraising efforts work, given that other student bodies also raise money for RAG.

K Summers said that RAG is the umbrella term for all fundraising activity undertaken at the University and that work is being done to

communicate this distinction so that students understand RAG is an amalgam of fundraising efforts.

K Summers reminded Council members that the Council Christmas Lunch will take place on 14/12/2019 at DRAM! Any members of Council who have not yet paid for their meal should approach K Summers.

c) VP Education: Liam Brady

At the Academic Standards Committee on 22/11/2019 the discretionary zone of degree classifications was discussed, with the Senate Office due to carry out a review of this, as well as the current rounding process in the calculation of students' GPAs.

Also discussed at the ASC was the proposed trial of electronic dictionaries in exams. The University have ran a cost-analysis on this proposal and deemed it to be too expensive, therefore discussions on alternatives which can provide necessary support to students - particularly international students whose first language is not English - are underway.

24 hour Library access is now in operation. This will be available until 20<sup>th</sup> December. The SRC is currently looking into the possibility of having semester-wide 24 hour Library access.

Pop-Up Study Spaces are now available on floors 7, 9 and 11 of the Adam Smith Building.

L Brady, T Atsegoh and H McLachlan visited UESTC in China to attend the fifth annual Global Student Leadership Forum, delivering a presentation as part of 'Pivot on Student Leadership: Boosting Global Competency for the Younger Generation.' They also took part in a debate whilst there.

At the Dean of Graduate Studies meeting on 05/12/2019 each Graduate School agreed to map their own PGR representation structure and pass this information to the SRC. This information will inform the SRC's efforts to improve representation for PGR students.



STA nominations are still open and Council members are encouraged to nominate outstanding teaching staff for an award.

The Class Representative Mixer was held on 20/11/2019. The event was a great success with around 100 students in attendance. L Brady would like to thank all those involved in the event's organisation.

A Korosteleva asked if there were any updates on an earlier release of the exam timetable for next semester.

L Brady said there have not yet been any further updates on this matter but that he will follow it up and pass on any information.

P Aasen asked if any clarity had been ascertained on what 'not taught' means in relation to the University's confirmation that "students won't be examined on material not taught (during the recent industrial strike action)."

L Brady said that this concern stemmed from ambiguity over whether 'not taught' might mean that materials which were not taught, but put on Moodle, could come up in exams. L Brady will follow the matter up as clarification has not yet been received on this issue.

D Henderson said that the School of Social and Political Sciences has confirmed that students will be examined on Moodle content, albeit in a reduced capacity.

D Henderson asked what changes could be expected after the review of GPAs and the discretionary zone, i.e. could the review result in the removal of the rounding process for GPAs.

L Brady said the review has not yet begun so it is uncertain at this point what changes it may effect.

L McDougall asked if L Brady, in his work on learning analytics, had been involved in any discussions with regards to using learning analytics for welfare purposes.

L Brady said as part of the Transitions WG there has been discussion of the possible implementation of StREAM in the University – a software which monitors student engagement with their learning resources. The software would allow staff to discern a lack of student engagement (an ‘early warning’) and take action if they thought it may be connected to a student experiencing welfare-related issues. Discussions between the TWG and Learning Analytics have not yet been bridged but L Brady will follow the matter up.

T McFerran said there is currently debate over how this information should be used, with particular regards as to whether students themselves should first receive a check-up on their welfare (perhaps having access to a ‘panic button’ if they are experiencing problems) or be given an ‘early warning’ regarding their performance, thus giving them a chance to address concerns before their Adviser of Studies is involved.

d) VP Student Support: Tom McFerran

Transgender Day of Remembrance took place on 20/11/2019. The event was successful and included a number of activities and events, including a candlelit vigil in the cloisters and an exhibition of trans artists’ work in the University Chapel. T McFerran would like to thank I Paoula for all of her work in the organisation of the event, as well as all others involved in the event’s organisation.

The Disability Lunch (ran for International Day of Disabled Persons) took place on 03/12/2019. The event was very well-attended and ran very smoothly. T McFerran would like to thank R Symon for all of her work in the organisation of the event.

Plans for a Rape Crisis drop-in service on campus are progressing, with a Team Leader for the service’s implementation now assigned. This service will provide both immediate counselling for students as well as broader support in terms of Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis’ services. These services will include support for other traumas and the provision of accompanying advisers for any Police-involved matters.

Work is underway on event-planning for LGBT History Month. T McFerran and I Paoula attended a meeting with the LGBT+ Network and discussed plans for the month. Planning with the EDU will continue over January.

T McFerran and T Banos will be attending Scotland's Student Mental Health Conference in Edinburgh on 16/12/2019. This is a collaborative event between Scottish universities and will provide opportunity for discussion regarding best practice for implementing mental health support provisions on campus.

- e) Charities, Clubs and Societies Officer: Morgan Daniel – n/a
- f) Disability Equality Officer: Rachel Symon

C Hughes said, in reference to a recent meeting with R Symon regarding the labelling of QMU food, that she had approached the QMU's head chef and been informed that labelling of allergens is not a legal requirement, however, this labelling would nonetheless be implemented next year.

C Hughes said, in reference to a recent meeting with R Symon regarding first aid procedure, due to the QMU's recent re-structuring of staff they have lost several first aid-trained staff members. C Hughes said she has compiled a list of current first aid-trained staff members, however, due to the limited number of trained staff members, first-aid training is going to be delivered to new staff members.

R Symon asked if, going forward, the QMU would continue to comply with standard first aid procedure (i.e. calling the Security Gatehouse for first aid assistance in the first instance) or if they would have their own trained staff deal with situations requiring first aid.

C Hughes said the QMU is required to have first aid-trained staff in their building so they would use their own staff as well as notify Security in the case of situations requiring first aid.

T Banos congratulated R Symon on the success of the IDoPwD lunch, noting its large attendance.

g) International Students Officer: Stephanie Mason – n/a

h) LGBTQ+ Officer: Indigo Korres Nte Paoula

Transgender Day of Remembrance was a great success, with several well-attended events.

Plans are currently underway for LGBT History Month 2020.

In January 2020, the University will become the first in the UK to have an LGBTQ+ Chaplain.

S Kirby commended all those involved in the organisation of Transgender Day of Remembrance and its events, which were both powerful and poignant.

i) Mental Health Equality Officer: Teresa Banos Garcia – n/a

j) Race Equality Officer: Moni Serneabat Ungar –

M Ungar attended a SREN Student Working Group meeting of POC student representatives from several Scottish universities. Plans for collaboration with these universities are currently underway.

M Ungar met with the University's Extinction Rebellion student society to discuss how they can be more racially inclusive in their activities. Further discussions on this are currently planned.

M Ungar is currently planning panel events for both LGBT History Month and International Women's Week - the former in conjunction with I Paoula.

k) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Hardy – n/a

l) UG MVLS Convenor: Fadel Shoughari – n/a

m) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Harry McLachlan –n/a

n) Chemistry School Rep: Jenny Newton – n/a

o) Computing School Rep: Andreas Nikolaou – n/a

p) Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Beth O'Hare – n/a

q) Engineering School Rep: Temisan Atsegoh – n/a

- r) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Sam Malis – n/a
- s) Humanities School Rep: Austen Waite – n/a
- t) Interdisciplinary Studies Rep: Di Huang

Since joining Council this year D Huang has attended SSLC meetings in Dumfries which have led to improvements in student-staff relations on the campus. He has also provided support to DUST, helping to promote the Dumfries campus's student-led environmental group.

D Huang has recently become President of CUCSA and plans to use this position, along with his position on SRC Council, to facilitate engagement with issues he has identified as affecting students on the Dumfries campus. He said these issues are –

- The high cost of Dumfries halls of residence compared to the cost of halls in Glasgow
- The lack of mental health support for students on the Dumfries campus. Whilst CaPS is effective for dealing with long-range mental health issues, there is a pressing need for professional psychoanalytical support in order to combat issues such as student suicide
- Inadequate sports facilities for students on the Dumfries campus. Students are unable to use heavy weights in the facilities provided and are also being charged £30 p/h to hire the sports hall – a facility which has been provided free-of-charge in previous years.
- Inequality with regards to the funding CUCSA receives from the University compared to the SRC. According to CUCSA, students on the main campus receive 2.5 times more funding than students on the Dumfries campus.
- The outdated IT infrastructure on the Dumfries campus. Students must deal with older Dell computers which have 10-15 minute start-up times and old hard drives.

- The lack of flexibility experienced by Dumfries students in relation to optional course choices. Students are also experiencing a lack of online course options.

S Kirby said CUCSA, with its dual UofG/UWS representation model, has the main responsibility for supporting students on the Dumfries campus. With regards to funding per student, the block grant received by the SRC results in funding of around £20 per student in comparison to the funding received by Dumfries students, which equates to around £30 per student.

S Kirby said the SRC's involvement with the Dumfries campus is limited due to the involvement of UWS and that he is happy to provide any further clarity on representational structures to D Huang if needed.

B Hay asked if UWS were still providing funding to CUCSA.

D Huang said CUCSA has experienced issues in relation to obtaining funding from UWS and, as a result, has had to rely solely on funding from the University of Glasgow.

B Hay said, in the past, UWS would grant CUCSA £2k – 4k per year in funding. He added that currently the Dumfries campus also receives around £11.5k per year to fund the Dumfries/Crichton Events and Admin Officer position, the result of which means students on the Dumfries campus receive roughly £10 more funding per person than students on the main campus.

D Huang said funding constraints make it difficult to organise social events on the Dumfries campus.

S Kirby said this matter could be discussed further but ultimately decisions on funding are made in relation to the number of students on each campus.

S Kirby said further discussion will take place to address the difference in the costs of halls of residence between Glasgow and Dumfries.

S Kirby said that due to the dual jurisdiction between two universities on the Dumfries campus it is difficult for the SRC to wholly influence policy with regards to the sports facilities on the Dumfries campus.

S Kirby said discussions regarding improving the IT infrastructure on the Dumfries campus are currently taking place at the University, with a recognition that UWS are not providing adequate support of their own to the Dumfries campus.

S Kirby said there would be opportunities for D Huang to provide insight on some of the ongoing discussions regarding issues he has brought to Council, adding that going forward the SRC could also address some of the Dumfries campus-related issues he has described.

P Aasen thanked D Huang for bringing these issues to Council and offered his assistance where needed.

- u) Law School Rep: Kirstin Mackay – n/a
- v) Life Sciences School Rep: Anna Makova – n/a
- w) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Damien Ealey – n/a
  
- x) Medicine School Rep: Lewis O'Connor

For the BMA, L O'Connor met with Tony Curtis, the Conservative Party councillor for Partick East/Kelvindale. T Curtis said he was willing to involve GCC in lobbying the University to take more action to address the mental health crisis.

S Kirby said that the SRC do not generally work with external organisations when it comes to lobbying the University, however, the matter could undergo further discussion.

K Summers asked L O'Connor if he has sent Medchir a request for an SRC representative to join their organisation.

L O'Connor said he has emailed Medchir but has not yet received a response. He is going to follow up with them.

- y) Modern Languages and Culture School Rep: Samantha Boyle –

L Brady asked if there had been any new information regarding what support systems Year Abroad have in place for students undertaking British Council activities.

S Boyle said no new information had as yet been received.

z) Social and Political Sciences Rep: Duncan Henderson

The Convenor of Politics 2A has advised that, due to UCU working to contract until May 2020, there may be an impact on the return of essay assessments for this class. D Henderson is informing Council of this to advise of possible similar disruptions to other subjects.

aa) Veterinary Medicine School Rep: Hannah Mylin – n/a

bb) First Year Rep: Angela Weihan Ng – n/a

cc) First Year Rep: Emma Lindquist – n/a

dd) General Rep: Avantika Bhardwaj – n/a

ee) General Rep: Luke McBlain

Personal safety on campus was discussed at length at the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee meeting on 12/12/2019, with positive mention of the student-led Glasgow University RouteBuddy Facebook group.

Work is ongoing with regards to the Reach Programme. This programme is designed to widen participation for local students from deprived areas, particularly those studying medicine and veterinary medicine. The programme is currently backed by GUVMA and there are hopes that the Vet School will also support it.

ff) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Patrick Aasen

P Aasen raised the subject of Peer Support at the CoSS LTC meeting as this is not being recognised/implemented at College level. The CoSS will now look at how Peer Support is embedded at School level, with a view to introducing it at College level.

T McFerran said Pamela Orr had confirmed that 70 new Peer Supporters are currently in training and that he had been given confirmation that Peer Support would be introduced across all Colleges.

L McDougall said there is some confusion between general understandings of the *term* 'peer support' and the actual CaPS-run



programme called Peer Support, due in part to inadequate communications between Schools, their Colleges and the University. L McDougall will continue to clarify this distinction in her new role within the CoSS and push for Peer Support to be introduced successfully at College level. She will follow up with Council on these efforts.

T McFerran said he will be meeting with P Orr again in the coming weeks to discuss the matter further and will propose improved communications between Schools, Colleges and the University so that Peer Support as a programme can be understood and implemented.

gg) School of Psychology Rep – Gregory Kokkinidis – n/a

hh) General Rep: Anastasiia Korosteleva – n/a

ii) PG Convenor Social Sciences – Ketong Zhang – n/a

5) AOCB

Council held a minute's silence to recognise the recent passing of former SRC President Breffni O'Connor. S Kirby expressed condolences to B O'Connor's family and friends and acknowledged the sizeable, lasting influence her work as SRC President has had on the SRC. There will be a memorial service held for B O'Connor in the University Chapel at 5.30pm on 13/12/2019.

6) Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019