

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 16th JANUARY 2020 AT 6 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: T McFerran, G Kokkinidis, J Quinn, L McBlain, A Nikolaou, J Newton, D Huang, W Ng, B O'Hare, P Everingham, C Hughes, M Daniel, F Shoughari, L O'Connor, E Lindquist, M Serneabat

Attending: P Swinton, G Connor, G McGinn

1. Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt
2. Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

L McDougall asked if there would be a presentation from the Sabbatical Officers providing further context on the various transformation projects and areas of work that are involved in the formation of the University Strategy, as was mentioned at the last Council meeting.

S Kirby said this presentation would be delivered at the next Council Consultation session.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

3. Accounts – Gina Connor

G Connor delivered a review of the SRC's accounts for the year ended 30th June 2019.

Overall income in the year increased by 10.7%, with this mostly being due to the SRC receiving a 10% increase in its block grant to help support the development of GU Volunteering.

The SRC also received an additional £22k for Mind Your Mate training sessions of which there were two lots within the last financial year.

Expenditure rose by 9.5% in line with the increase in income, with this being the offset of the additional costs for the volunteering service and Student Wellbeing Workshops.

This year the SRC is reporting a surplus of £18,190. This was expected due to the £25,000 received from the strike fund to assist additional support costs for student wellbeing over the next three years. This would reduce the surplus to (1,524).

The SRC currently holds free reserves of £455,232, however, it would aspire to have reserves of £550,000. This amount would allow the SRC to stay operational for 6 months and pay off all of its debts if suddenly it was no longer in receipt of any funding.

P Aasen asked for clarification on why the SRC holds £169.00 in stock.

G Connor said the term 'stock' covers a wide range of things, but that the stock in question referred to the balance on the SRC's post-franking machine.

P Aasen asked, with reference to the 'Reconciliation of operating cash flows' detailed on p50 of the Report and Financial Statements, why the Net movement in funds is considerably higher than in 2018.

G Connor said this relates to the change in accruals – accruals which are considerably higher this year and which explain the higher Net movement in funds. G Connor said she could provide an explanatory breakdown of this if desired.

P Aasen said he would appreciate a rough breakdown.

P Aasen noted a typo on p56 of the report. This will be amended accordingly.

P Aasen asked why the advertising income of the SRC student media departments was so low compared with their expenditure.

G Connor said this was due mainly to Glasgow Guardian and GUM being costly to produce, and the fact that these media are not always able to generate enough marketing revenue to cover their production costs. With this being said, however, Subcity Radio and GUST have both had surpluses this year and last year.

D Henderson asked for clarification, with reference to p56, on why the SRC would have 'Bad Debts.'

G Connor said this is not a common occurrence, however, the 'Bad Debts' stated relate to two companies who booked Freshers' Fair stalls and did not pay for them. The SRC took appropriate legal action against these companies, however, a decision was ultimately necessary on how cost-effective it would be to continue funding the pursuit of these funds, with the outcome being the SRC would continue to pursue payment but would no longer direct any money towards this pursuit. The SRC discuss with its auditors where there is a risk of not being paid for services, and this is shown in the accounts. If the SRC does manage to attain payment, this will show as a 'positive' in the accounts next year.

P Aasen asked what events led to the SRC being featured in the media.

L Mcdougall said the SRC received media coverage in the previous academic year for numerous reasons. These included the National Lottery funding for the Mind Your Mate campaign, the affiliation of student society Glasgow Students for Life, and an article in The Times written about the University Rector. The SRC was also mentioned in numerous articles in the local press for its general activities, including coverage of the Mind Your Mate and Let's Talk About Sexual Violence campaigns.

S Kirby said that any further questions pertaining to the SRC's Annual Report could be brought to him outwith Council.

T Banos proposed the accounts for approval.

D Henderson seconded the above.

The accounts were approved.

A Neilsen proposed Alexander Sloan Accountants and Statutory Auditors for continued appointment.

P Aasen seconded the above.

Alexander Sloan approved for continued appointment.

D Henderson proposed Govan Law Centre solicitors for continued appointment.

D Ealey seconded the above.

Govan Law Centre approved for continued appointment.

4. Council Reports:

a) SRC President: Scott Kirby

At a meeting of the University Court on 10/12/2019, a new working group was approved which will investigate the University's possible divestment from investments in the arms trade. This follows on from the efforts of the Arms Divestment Coalition (ADC) and should hopefully prompt at least a reconsideration of how the University invests ethically. The SRC's hope is that the University will divest from arm-based investment entirely, in alignment with the demands of the ADC .

The University's Sustainability Strategy was also discussed, with near-unanimous agreement that the University should work towards a target of carbon net-neutrality by 2030, rather than the previously suggested target of 2035. This is a positive step forward given the SRC's continued campaign for more ambitious sustainability targets.

Also discussed at Court were the incidents of sexual assault which took place on/around campus in October of last year, and the resulting discussions between the SRC and the Police. The SRC is confident that it will be able to develop a meaningful relationship with the Police, with the hope that they will fulfil some of the measures they have stated they will undertake in response to these incidents.

S Kirby stated a correction with regards to a figure mentioned in his Council report detail of a meeting with David Duncan on 16/12/2019. The available money from the Strike Fund will be roughly £500k as opposed to £100k. The Sabbatical Officers are looking in to how this money can be best spent.

The Student Experience Away Day took place on 17/12/2019. The action plan which informs the SEC's actions to improve the student experience was discussed, with several proposed changes to help re-invigorate the plan in a way that will help it best serve students. As the results/outcomes of the day are still being formulated, S Kirby will inform Council members of these in due course.

Council members are encouraged to engage in potential Leadership and Development training opportunities. Following a discussion with Senior Management, there would be opportunities for Council members to receive training from experts within the University, covering such topics as leadership skills and conflict management. Such training could potentially improve Council members' employability prospects, so anyone interested is encouraged to feedback to S Kirby, who will endeavour to organise the sessions.

D Ealey asked, regarding discussions with the University and the Police surrounding the recent sexual assaults on/around campus, if a statement was going to be released by the SRC updating students on the outcomes of these discussions.

S Kirby confirmed a statement would be released soon but due to the fact that the SRC's discussions with the Police contain sensitive, as-yet-unconfirmed information, a statement cannot be made until it is clear that it would not affect legal proceedings.

S Kirby said the SRC are also in discussions with the University regarding moving forward with a wide-scale campaign on tackling gender-based violence.

L McDougall asked if starting a new University-wide campaign to tackle GBV would be a worthwhile pursuit given that the SRC are currently lauded as having one of the most effective (and one of the first) GBV campaigns – Let’s Talk About Sexual Violence. L McDougall suggested reviewing and evaluating LTASV, with the view that this approach would identify areas where it could be improved upon, rather than beginning a new, similar campaign which may threaten LTASV’s existence.

S Kirby clarified that rather than a brand new campaign, this campaign would aim to consolidate the University’s existing efforts in tackling GBV, with LTASV being brought in as part of this.

A Makova asked if discussions regarding the restructuring of PGR representation would extend to include representation of PGT students, as these students also experience issues with representation.

S Kirby said as things currently stand, the SRC is working to find out how PGR representation works within the University’s research institutes. Once this information has been gathered and actions have been taken to improve PGR representation, issues facing PGT students’ representation will be addressed.

b) VP Student Activities: Kirsty Summers

The SRC’s ‘Take a Break’ campaign ran from the 9th to the 20th of December 2019. The two-week campaign was successful and K Summers would like to thank all Council members who helped to run stalls and events. Useful feedback has been generated for the campaign’s next run, including ideas for new events and an understanding of the need for greater cross-campus responsibility. Council members are encouraged to devote a small amount of their time to help run the next campaign.

The SRC’s RAG committee is organising a Burns Night Ceilidh which will take place on January 24th, 2020. Attendance is encouraged and Council

members are asked to help publicise the event online and to fellow students.

Event plans are currently being finalised for RAG week, which will take place the first week in February (w/c 03/02/2020). There will be numerous opportunities for Council members to help out at events so participation is encouraged.

RAG are also working with GU Charity Fashion Show to host 'Pre-Loved Pop-Up' events, where students can buy and sell clothing to help raise funds for charity.

Refreshers' Week is currently underway. K Summers would like to thank everyone who has helped out as the week has been a great success thus far, with well-attended events being delivered across the student body. Council members are also encouraged to attend and publicise 'The House Would Have a Working Rector' debating event taking place in the GUU on 17/01/2020, during which D Henderson and T McFerran will be representing the SRC.

K Summers' Council representatives will receive an email shortly regarding dates for their next monthly catch-ups.

Council members are strongly encouraged to publicise the upcoming VCS awards and to nominate peers who have done outstanding work in their volunteering project/club/society.

L McDougall asked what the SRC's position in the GUU debate would be.

D Henderson said the SRC has been asked to argue for a 'symbolic' Rector in the debate.

c) VP Education: Liam Brady

L Brady and S Kirby have been attending various College LTC meetings and hosting Q&A sessions with a view to easing staff apprehension to the opt-out Lecture Recording Policy, so that there will be a smooth transition to the policy within all Colleges. Talks have already taken place with the Colleges of Art and Science and Engineering, and will continue with CoSS and MVLS. The hope is that the policy will be taken to Senate in February and have a soft-launch soon afterwards, before being rolled out properly in the next academic year.

The Class Representative Conference will take place on February 10th, 2020. Council members are asked to inform their Class Reps of this date. The conference will focus on the various transformation and strategic projects being undertaken by the University, and will give Class Representatives an opportunity to voice their opinion on these subjects. Council members are also welcome to attend.

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

S Kirby encouraged all Council members to engage pro-actively with the nomination process for the STAs and VCS Awards as these projects, whilst constituting a significant part of the SRC's core activities, allow staff and students the opportunity to be recognised for their work in a prestigious and meaningful way.

d) VP Student Support: Tom McFerran

L McDougall asked if the fact that T McFerran and S Kirby were the sole attendees at the 'Finalising definition of student support and wellbeing' meeting on 18/12/2019 had been fed back, given the significance of this meeting in relation to student welfare and wellbeing.

S Kirby said that this meeting would likely need repeated as a result of poor attendance and that he would feed back that minimal engagement at this level is unacceptable given the gravity of the subject matter being discussed.

e) Disability Equality Officer: Rachel Symon

The dates for the next Disability Drop-In Sessions are now confirmed and will take place throughout January, February and March.

f) Gender Equality Officer: Julia Hegele

Plans for International Women's Week are underway with events planned in collaboration with Glasgow Women's Library, as well as plans for a Decolonised Feminist Panel event. GUEST will also be screening a film about eco-feminism and STAG are planning a panel event relevant to the week. A meeting is scheduled with GUSA to organise a Safe Space Gym Time event on the Tuesday of IWW.

Events will also be run in conjunction with SWAG, including a HIVE night which will aim to raise donations for Glasgow Rape Crisis. A meeting is scheduled with GUM to organise a poetry/music night to close out the week involving Laura McKinnon. There will be 2 events per night, with a few room bookings still to be confirmed. The focus will now be on publicising the events to generate as much engagement as possible.

K Summers asked if J Hegele could provide some more information on eco-feminism.

J Hegele said eco-feminism involves looking at waste-reductive alternatives to tampons and sanitary towels.

K Summers said T McFerran is working on similar initiatives with Hey Girls so she will arrange for these efforts to be combined.

L McDougall said this is the largest line-up she has seen for IWW and thanked J Hegele for her efforts in organising it.

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

h) LGBTQ+ Officer: Indigo Korres Nte Paoula

Plans are currently underway for LGBT History Month. There are nine events planned, including an open music night, panel events, a poetry evening and a graffiti wall at the University. There is also a collaborative event planned with the Scottish Queer International Film Festival, wherein SQIFF will screen a film followed by a Q&A session with its director. Any Council members who wish to collaborate on an event for the month are encouraged to approach I Korres.

H Mylin asked if I Korres was able to get in touch with the vet school regarding collaboration on an event.

I Korres said a meeting is scheduled with the LGBTQ society from the vet campus to organise a pop-up art exhibition which will take place there and across the University as part of LGBT History Month.

i) Mental Health Equality Officer: Teresa Banos Garcia

T Banos and T McFerran attended the NUS Think Positive Panel to offer feedback on which workshops should be chosen for inclusion in the 2020 Student Mental Health Conference.

S Kirby thanked T Banos for her valuable contributions at the meeting of the University Court in December.

j) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Hardy – n/a

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

l) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Harry McLachlan

H McLachlan was unable to attend the CoSE LTC this week but will contact the meeting clerk for the relevant information.

m) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Patrick Aasen

P Aasen attended the CoSS L&T Strategy Consultation on 15/01/2020. Discussions at this meeting will be brought to the Class Rep Conference in February.

n) PG MVLS Convenor: Hannah Baer

H Baer has recently been asked to deliver a talk at an upcoming PGT induction. Any suggestions on content from Council members who have spoken at inductions are welcome, as is information on general SRC activities.

Work on Eco Groups is moving forward with representatives from different institutes becoming involved in plans for recycling and sustainability. H Baer has also spoken to K Summers regarding involving the Learning and Teaching Hubs going forward.

L Brady asked if the PG drop-in sessions in the Gilchrist Seminar Room would continue to run in the new semester.

H Baer said she expects they will.

o) PG Convenor Social Sciences – Ketong Zhang

The 27th of January will mark the start of Chinese Culture Week - a week-long celebration of Chinese New Year. Events will take place in the Gilchrist Postgraduate Club and these will include opportunities to have your name written in Chinese, as well as the gifting of small Chinese lucky charms.

p) PGR Convenor – Jamie Quinn -n/a

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

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

s) Critical Studies School Rep: Annabel Bowen Nielsen

A pilot of online educational platform Aula has been met with strong opposition from staff in the School of Critical Studies. Whilst relatively popular with students and in other departments, staff in the School of Critical Studies have not taken to the platform and have experienced a lack of communication from Aula themselves, with important information not

being moved onto the platform from previously used services. Staff have been unable to communicate with students using the system, which is something the system is supposed to simplify. As a result, staff-student and student-student communication is not being facilitated. Any Council members with experience of the system are welcome to offer feedback on how these problems might be addressed.

H Baer said during an MVLS LTC a staff member related a very positive experience of using the platform. H Baer will pass on the staff member's contact details to A Neilsen.

P Aasen asked if Aula was being piloted on a specifically departmental level or if the University planned a widespread implementation of the service.

A Neilsen said, to her knowledge, the service was currently only being piloted in certain Schools/classes.

L McDougall said that there was mention at the CoSS LTC of piloting Aula within one of the College's Schools.

A Bhardwaj asked if the switch to Aula from previously used services was an abrupt one or whether students/staff were given guidance/support during the changeover process.

A Neilsen said not much had been offered in terms of guidance/support.

A Bhardwaj suggested a workshop to help staff/students get to grips with the service.

S Kirby said that this would be followed up on to ascertain what the issues with the service are, what the ideas behind the pilot are and why staff are rejecting it when students are engaging with it. Council members who can provide feedback on this should contact S Kirby.

L McDougall asked for more information on the 'Seven Minutes' event mentioned in A Nielsen's Council report.

A Neilsen said this event features staff and PG students delivering quickfire 7-minute talks to the University populous on a variety of topics.

- t) Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Beth O'Hare – n/a
- u) Engineering School Rep: Temisan Atsegoh – n/a
- v) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Sam Malis

S Malis has provided students with guidance on navigating Glasgow's bus system after being approached for help with this.

S Kirby said, with regards to the campaign to reinstate the bus service between the Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses (a campaign which the SRC was part of), that now this route was being expanded to include stops it previously did not include.

- w) Humanities School Rep: Austen Waite – n/a
- x) Law School Rep: Kirstin Mackay – n/a
- y) Life Sciences School Rep: Anna Makova – n/a
- z) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Damien Ealey – n/a
- aa) Medicine School Rep: Lewis O'Connor - n/a
- bb) Modern Languages and Culture School Rep: Samantha Boyle - n/a
- cc) School of Psychology Rep – Gregory Kokkinidis – n/a

- dd) Social and Political Sciences Rep: Duncan Henderson

D Henderson reminded Council members of the debate he will be engaging in at the GUU on 17/01/2020 and encouraged members to attend to support the SRC.

- ee) Veterinary Medicine School Rep: Hannah Mylin

H Mylin met with staff from the Hunterian Museum to discuss how its collections can be further utilised on courses at the University. This looks to be a long-term project also involving the National Museum of Scotland, so any Council members who are interested in being part of these discussions next year should contact H Mylin.

K Summers asked for clarification with regards to the section of H Mylin's report detailing the University offering courses which it does not have the staff power to provide.

H Mylin said this refers to courses such as extra-honours courses in the Vet School which the University is keen to offer, however, the staff within the

school are already so busy that the courses ultimately end up being cancelled.

K Summers said if this issue progresses to the extent that student learning is being impacted, please inform her so that the SRC can intervene.

L Brady said, regarding the section of H Mylin's report dealing with the Vet School's queries on lecture recording transcripts, that the provision of transcripts of lecture recordings is being discussed in colleges such as the CoSE.

H Mylin said staff at the Vet School are waiting on further guidance from the University before implementing this.

ff) First Year Rep: Angela Weihan Ng -n/a

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

hh) General Rep: Anastasiia Korosteleva –

L McDougall said, referencing the section of A Korosteleva's report regarding possible improvements to the University Barclay Medical Practice, that work has already begun in this area. As of this year, the University are conducting a closer dialogue with BMP, with a number of significant changes now in effect, including the provision of Skype appointments, a counsellor and the introduction of increased staff.

S Kirby said discussions regarding improvements to the BMP are ongoing and that T McFerran is involved in these discussions.

ii) General Rep: Avantika Bhardwaj

A Bhardwaj said the new SRC newsletter will be named 'SRC Scoop.' She is currently in the process of writing articles for the newsletter and would encourage any member of Council who would like help publicising an event/activity/campaign they are working on to contact her.

S Mason asked if the newsletter would relate only to internal SRC activities or cover wider University activity.

K Summers said the newsletter would only cover SRC activity and began as an idea to condense correspondence with SRC-affiliated clubs and societies into one easily digestible source of information.

A Bhardwaj said the newsletter would be 1 to 2 pages in length and would include specific sections highlighting different areas of the SRC's activities, thus eliminating the need to send numerous emails to inform students of updates.

K Summers said the newsletter will hopefully be in a format in which it could be shared on social media, as well as via email.

jj) General Rep: Luke McBlain – n/a

AOCB

1. S Kirby encouraged any Council members who are considering running in the SRC Spring Election, particularly for a Sabbatical Officer position, to speak to the current Sabbatical Officers for guidance and advice on the requirements of the role.
2. S Kirby reminded Council members that Rector Nominations close on the 27th January. A discussion ensued amongst Council members regarding the nature of the role of Rector.
3. The Cross Campus Dinner will take place on February 7th, 2020 and will cost £18.00 per ticket. The event is an opportunity for the members of the boards and Council of all four student bodies to meet each other, so attendance from SRC Council members is encouraged.
4. An item on the agenda for the next Council meeting is the proposal to change the names of a small number of Council positions to names which better reflect the responsibilities of the role.
5. The next Council Consultation will take place in the Williams Room at 5.30pm on January 30th, 2020. This meeting will deal with the University's efforts to develop a strategy for improving its accommodation provisions. Topics of discussion will include the current halls of residence at Wolfson, the proposal to build halls on campus, as well as the possibility of nomination agreements with local private accommodation providers. S Kirby will also deliver a short presentation on where things currently stand with regards to the SRC's involvement

with the various transformation projects and areas of work that are involved in the formation of the University Strategy.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 13th February 2019