

STUDENT VOICE AGENDA

Wednesday 26th October 2016, 2pm.

Venues:

Ayr – Committee room 1

Dumfries – R217

Hamilton – A216

London – TBC

Paisley – P118

In the Chair – Michael Wilson, Union Chair.

1. Members Present

2. Apologies

3. Chair's Notice

The Chair of student voice will give notice that committee elections will take place in this meeting. There will be two sets of elections; one for the SAUWS Disciplinary Panel and its members and the other for the two positions on the Appointments Committee. Members should be aware that the appointments committees remit is still subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. As such, it may not meet until the second trimester at the earliest.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a) Matters of accuracy
- b) Matters arising

5. Items of Business

- a) Constitutional Review – Change overview
- b) Motions
 - i. SAUWS Affiliations – Ratification
 - ii. The Fight Until We Are Fee Free
 - iii. Monitoring the Prevent Agenda at UWS
 - iv. TEF Off!
- c) Disciplinary Committee elections
- d) Appointments Committee Elections

6. Any Other Competent Business

STUDENT VOICE MINUTES - Wednesday 30th March 2016, 2pm.

Venues:

Ayr- LT1

Dumfries- R217

Hamilton- A216 (moved to A220)

Paisley- P118

In the Chair – Ann Mitchell, Union Chair

1. Members Present

Ayr

Alanna Simpson Information Technology

Dumfries

Sam Glendinning Executive Officer Dumfries

Hamilton

Simon Cain Sports President
 Rachel Taylor Sport and Exercise Science
 Francisca Bonato Events Management
 Joseph Hill Computing Science

Paisley

Jack Douglas President
 John Black Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
 Bren McNeil Information Technology
 Heather Armstrong Social Science
 Rachel Smith Social Science
 Euan Stobbs Chemistry
 Matteo Paviza Computing

In attendance

Claire Lumsden Student Representation Co-ordinator (in Hamilton) (SRCo-ord)
 David Devlin Membership Development Manager/Deputy Returning Officer (in Paisley) (DRO)
 Rebecca Calvert Website, Digital Media and Communication Co-ordinator (in Ayr) (WDMCCo-ord)
 Janine Hunt Chief Executive (in Paisley)

2. Apologies

Kerri McIlwraith	Adult Nursing
Elaine Walker	Adult Nursing
Caitlin McNeil	Adult Nursing
Anna Anderson	Mental Health Nursing
Katherine Hart	Mental Health Nursing
Neil Adams	Mental Health Nursing
Helen Thomson	Midwifery
Fiona Abbey	Business
Laura McGeehan	Business
Gemma McLeish	Human Resource Management
Debbie Melville	Marketing
Pamela Burke	Marketing
Samantha Mathieson	Finance and Accounting
Sakib Khan	Accounting
Cathy Holmes	Education
Lori Anne Torney	Education
Gillian Caitens	Education
Valerie O'Hara	Childhood Studies
Julia McCrum	PGCert Child Protection
Sean Murray	PGDE Secondary Physical Education
Kayleigh Walsh	PGDE Secondary Modern Foreign Languages
Leanne Austin	Integrated Health and Social Care
Jodie Murdoch	Computing Science
Nikki Muldoon	Sport and Exercise Science
Margo MacMillan	Social Science
Michelle Burton	Social Work
Paula Thompson	Psychology

Union Chair facilitates a change in agenda to allow the Election of the Senior Student Representative and Second Court Representative to be moved forward.

Union Chair introduces the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) who will run the election, please see item **4. b)** for minute of proceedings.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising (attached)

a) Matters of accuracy

- i. SRCo-ord was in attendance at Paisley Campus, not Hamilton Campus.

There are no other points of accuracy, minutes approved.

b) Matters arising:

- i. Hamilton Campus Development – central online information
Union Chair explains that there are lots of different places to find information however it was requested for this to be put into one central place, Chair informs members that Paul Martin, UWS Deputy Principal, is the UWS staff lead for the development and has indicated there will be a central point available to both staff and students in due

course, we have also been assured that students will receive regular updates on the development via Moodle, UWS intranet and UWS public website. SAUWS will attempt to bring all the information together and put it in one place on the SAUWS website, please look out for this.

There are no further matters arising.

4. Items of Business

a) Update on SAUWS activities – President

President updates on SAUWS activities to date. States that the Election of the Sabbatical Team for 2016-17 is now complete and the new Sabbatical team is as follows:

- The President of Education is John Black
- The President of Societies & Citizenship is Heather Armstrong
- The President of Sport & Wellbeing is Johnathan Cranstoun
- The President of Student Support is Lisa McCusker

President congratulates Presidents Elect and wishes them well in their roles. The new Presidents will take office from 1st July 2016.

Adds that the election was challenging due to the new roles and we didn't manage to beat our target of votes compared to last year but the overall engagement was very good. President explains that during the Election, ITDS reset student passwords and as such many students were unable to enter the voting pages however we had around 3000 hits to the election pages (non-logged in users). This issue has been raised with the University and procedures will be put in place to ensure it doesn't happen again.

President informs members that SAUWS was represented at the NUS (National Union of Students) Scotland Conference held on 18th and 19th March. The motions which SAUWS submitted were passed by Conference meaning the NUS Scotland Executive will be working on support for Carers, Nursing students and Summer Support next year along with lots of other work.

At NUS Scotland Conference, SAUWS won Higher Education Students' Association of the Year which was a great win; President thanks everyone who's been involved in any way. President also informs Voice that SAUWS won NUS Disabled Students Campaign of the Year for the 'breaking down the wall of stigma' campaign during freshers. This campaign saw students breaking down the wall of stigma brick by brick to reveal a message which read 'At SAUWS, we operate a zero tolerance policy on bullying and harassment. SAUWS aims to cut out the stigma relating to mental health illness and ensure that all students who have mental ill-health feel safe whilst at UWS'. President thanks everyone involved and who took a brick down.

President informs members that the Board of Trustees will be going ahead with a new strategic plan and are currently recruiting an external market research organisation to undertake the market research to inform the strategic plan, this is to ensure we are doing what students want.

SAUWS was present at the NUS Scotland Demo held on Wednesday 23rd March, the demo was to tell MSP's what students want to see them working on if elected, including a right to improved bursary support for College/FE students, all year round support for University/HE students with increased grant support and reduced debt, and finally, better support for students with mental ill

health. The day was a great success, SAUWS members spoke with some of the MSP's talking about the student body we have at UWS and what support is needed.

President informs members of a Hustings event being hosted by SAUWS on Tuesday 12th April, there will be free food and you can question the parties represented, email dpew@sauws.org.uk in advance of the event. Full details of the event can be found at: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/ents/event/785/>

Sports President informs members that Team UWS is level on BUCS (British University and College Sports) points this year from last year with a couple of games left to play, we are confident we can get more points and beat last year's points. Adds that Team UWS have been very active this year through the Executive Committee and have more members and volunteers than ever before but we are always looking for more members.

b) Elections

- i. Senior Student Representative (SSR) & Second Court Representative (SCR).

DRO introduces the election of the SSR and SCR, states that each have specific responsibilities in addition to their role remit. The Single Transferable Voting system will be used and members will be invited in due course to vote via the Tablet.

DRO introduces the candidates which are the President Elects and allows 2 minutes speech each. Heather Armstrong goes first, followed by John Black, Johnathan Cranstoun was absent however submitted written statement which was read out, Lisa McCusker did not submit a statement.

Members were invited to vote using the tablets provided by staff. DRO informs members that the result will be disseminated as soon as possible.

5. Any Other Competent Business

- i. Chair allows an emergency motion, detailed below.

Emergency Motion

Title: Continue Summer Safety Net Campaign

Proposed by: Jack Douglas, SAUWS President

Voice Notes

1. One of SAUWS' major campaigns has been to increase the Summer Support that UWS students get.
2. We have recently been informed that one major political party will endorse these asks. In addition to this two other potential Holyrood parties which are close to backing these asks.
3. Recently we have seen politicians side with the recommendations in our report, they have held the Scottish Government to account over the report and it's even been debated in the Scottish Parliament.

Voice Believes:

1. Because political commitment has been made, it is important that the next SAUWS team continues to work on this.
2. We are closer in achieving Increased Summer Support than we ever have before.

Voice Resolves:

1. To continue to treat The Summer Safety Net as one of the SAUWS priority campaigns for the academic year of 2016-17.
2. To make sure that politicians who have committed to our asks and recommendations stay advocates of the campaign and continue to push for it's aims.

Speech for is taken by President: States that following the Summer Support Report, SAUWS should continue to work on the Summer Support Campaign for next academic session. Adds that SAUWS is in a great position to take the work forward and push for change.

Heather Armstrong requests Parts be taken on Voice Resolves 1 - 'To continue to treat The Summer Safety Net as one of the SAUWS priority campaigns for the academic year of 2016-17.'

Speech for removing Parts is taken by Heather Armstrong. States that the Summer Support Campaign was the Presidents Campaign and the Executive Committee should decide their own priority campaigns.

Speech for keeping Parts is taken by President. States that Student Voice should decide if the campaign continues.

Speech for removing Parts is taken by Heather Armstrong. States that this isn't students deciding, this is a Sabbatical who is asking for this as it was a Sabbatical who submitted the motion

Speech for keeping Parts is taken by President. States that the motion was submitted to allow Students Voice to decide not the Sabbaticals.

There are no further rounds of speeches

Chair invites members move to vote. Clarifies that if voting for - this means removing the parts, if voting against - this means keeping the parts.

- For: 2
- Against: 10
- Abstain: 1

The parts stay

There is no speech against the motion as it stands.

Chair moves to vote

For: 10

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

The motion passes

- ii. Heather Armstrong states that the NUS Scotland Liberation and sections Conferences are being held soon, registration closes soon as well, if you'd like to attend please get in touch with SAUWS.
- iii. Jack Douglas reminds members that the nomination period for next year's Executive Committee is now open and encourages students to stand in the Election to represent their campus. Also thanks all members from all Voice meetings for their contribution and encourages them to attend Voice next session.
- iv. Chair informs members of the Accountability Sessions they have been holding, these are recorded and can be found at: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/union/exec/>. If you would like to ask any of the Sabbatical officers a question, please go to: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/union/exec/question/>. Any questions submitted will be asked to the relevant Officer at the next Accountability session.
- v. Chair thanks members for their contribution and informs them that this was the last meeting of Voice for this academic year. Dates for next year's meetings will be published as soon as possible on the SAUWS website

Chair closes the meeting and wishes everyone the best for the future.

Start: 14.15

Finish: 15.20

4. Items of Business

a) Constitutional Review – Change overview



Introduction

This paper outlines the proposed changes to our officer structure and the reasons for the proposed changes. The paper also highlights things that will not change during this process.

Changes	Reason
Removal of all references of SSR and replace with a full sabbatical President position	The Senior Student Representative position is a large remit on its own. It prevents the SSR from focusing on their elected mandates. There is consensus between the University, the SAUWS Board and the Sabbatical Team that this position should be replaced by a Sabbatical President
Consequences	All references to the SSR will be deleted from the constitution. Student Voice will no longer elect an SSR The President will be elected by cross campus ballot in the same manner as all other sabbatical elections. SAUWS constitution will be realigned with the University constitution The President position will automatically be the chair of the SAUWS Trustee Board, Executive Committee and attend all committees that the President is entitled to attend within UWS.

Changes of title from “Presidents” to Vice Presidents	The existing Presidents will have their titles changes to Vice Presidents remits will remain the same. We are still looking into the number of sabbatical officers that we will need.
Consequences	Clearer structure to students, staff and external partners Hierarchy restored to Sabbatical Officers

Things which will not change:

Election of the Second Court Representative	SCR will continue to be elected by Student Voice. This remains allowed by the University Constitution
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Next Steps:

Once the above changes have been agreed, the Membership Development Manager of SAUWS will draw up the necessary constitutional changes.

SAUWS will need to inform OSCR of the changes to the constitution, within three months of the changes being approved by the University Court. We do not require prior consent for these changes.

Once the changes have been approved by Court, SAUWS can proceed with their elections schedule.

b) Motions

i. SAUWS Affiliations – Approval

Proposer: Board of Trustees

The Students' Association is required under the terms of the Education Act 1994 to provide the following information.

SAUWS affiliates to the following organisations at the cost stated.

Organisation	Cost of Affiliation (2016-17)
The National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS UK)/ NUS Services Ltd	£30,889.67
British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS)	£2,755.89
Scottish Student Sport (SSS)	£4,680 (2015-16)
Trellis	£75

Any member of the Students' Association who wishes to have the above affiliation reviewed by referendum, must call for this as described in the Constitution of SAUWS, copies of which are available online from: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/union/constitution/>

Or by post from:

SAUWS

The Students' Union

Storie St

Paisley

PA1 2HB

www.sauws.org.uk

ii. The Fight Until We Are Fee Free

Proposer: Heather Armstrong – Senior Student Representative

Voice Notes:

1. Universities across the UK have begun announcing fee increases from £9000 to £9250 in 2017 for RUK (Rest of UK) students.
2. The University of Edinburgh is one of these universities.
3. EUSA* and NUS Scotland have come out publicly condemning this move.
4. Fee increases in England are linked to the TEF, but will led to a sector norm across all of the UK.
5. International students already pay high fees to attend UWS.
6. SAUWS already holds free education policy but it does not set out any policy stances on the rising of fees until they are scrapped completely.

Voice Believes:

1. Increases to fees are linked to a market driven approach to education which we fiercely oppose.
2. The poorest and most marginalised students are the worst hit by fee rises.
3. These students are more likely to be debt aware and decide against accessing university, especially following the scrapping of Education Maintenance Grants in England and Wales.
4. UWS is a widening access university and any rises to fees at UWS is in complete contradiction to this.

Voice Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to fight any rises to fees for all fee paying students.
2. Publicly support other student associations/unions' in campaigns against fee rises.
3. Continue to work with NUS on campaigns which are in relation to the fees being charged to students.
4. For the SAUWS Executive to discuss sending a delegation to the NUS United for Education demo on the 19th November.

* Edinburgh University Students' Association

iii. Monitoring the Prevent Agenda at UWS

Proposer: Heather Armstrong – Senior Student Representative

Voice Notes:

1. The UK government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on public bodies and 'specified authorities' – including universities – to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and to implement the 'Prevent' agenda.
2. The Act poses a number of measures that were built upon decades of previous 'anti-extremism' legislation that has served to legitimise mass surveillance and erode the civil liberties of people in the UK.
3. The Scottish duty on Prevent is slightly different to that of the rest of the UK but still cause for concern.
4. Under Prevent, lecturers across the UK have been known to report students as being 'at risk of radicalisation' for merely taking an interest in political affairs in class, or for observing their religion more closely, whilst politically active students have found themselves visited by counter-terrorism officers.
5. The National Union of Students (NUS) has policy opposing the Act and Prevent.
6. As a Charity, we as an Association are not legally bound to engage with Prevent.

Voice Believes:

1. The Government's counter-terrorism/security policy is fundamentally flawed in its approach; its operant concepts of 'extremism' and 'radicalism' are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends.
2. Islamophobia is massively on the rise across Europe, is state-sponsored and legitimised by the mainstream media.
3. The government's identified 'warning signs' of "radicalisation" problematise and renders suspect towards those with mental health difficulties.

4. That the Act could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is 'anti-radicalisation' initiatives, resulting in further alienation and disaffection.
5. The Act further criminalises Muslims and Black people, and comes amidst a campaign of fear and demonisation from the government.
6. The Act discourages free expression and analysis of ideas. Academics, as well as anyone in a public sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.
7. We fundamentally believe that universities and colleges are places for education, not surveillance
8. The implementation of the Prevent Strategy on campus may not only isolate Muslim and disabled students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.

Voice Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to use a position on the 'UWS Prevent group' to monitor and challenge, when appropriate, the implementation of Prevent agenda at UWS.
2. To seek out campus Trade Unions' stance on Prevent and work with them, where appropriate.
3. For SAUWS officers and staff not to be included in any training on the Prevent agenda, which is not in line with the beliefs held by the Association.
4. To lobby the university to be open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives. This involves demanding the publication of how the policy is operating within the university and access to materials used to train staff and students.
5. Calling for UWS to hold consultations with the student body regarding how the implementation is affecting students.

iv. TEF Off!

Proposer: John Black – President Education

Voice Notes:

1. The UK government has introduced the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) as a means of measuring the quality of education at Universities across the UK
2. That in Scotland, we have the Quality Enhancement framework (QEF), governed by an independent body (Quality Assurance Agency Scotland) to ensure quality of education at Scottish Universities
3. That as of October 2016, UWS has no official position on adopting TEF at the university
4. That in England and Wales, TEF ratings will allow institutions to raise tuition fees
5. One of the metrics of TEF is 'non-continuation rates' which measures the retention rates of universities.
6. UWS has had a historical problem with retention of students

Voice Believes:

1. Scotland has traditionally been much better at quality enhancement than the rest of the UK.
2. That some of the metrics that are used to measure quality of education are inadequate as they do not measure quality but measure satisfaction through NSS data
3. That raising fees in England and Wales will have consequences for RUK student studying in Scotland.

Voice Further Believes

1. That TEF is being used in a way which will have negative consequences for all students in the UK.
2. Retention being used as a measurement of success may result in Universities being closed off to students who are from widening access backgrounds.

Voice Resolves:

1. That the Association is vocal in their opposition to TEF.
2. The Sabbatical Officers lobby the University's Principal and senior management team not to adopt TEF at UWS
3. That the Association works with the NUS in Scotland and the UK to prevent TEF from being rolled out in the Scottish HE sector.

c) Disciplinary Committee elections

The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for upholding the Code of Discipline as set out in by-law 4 of the SAUWS constitution. Fair and equal treatment is expected at all times and full training and support will be given to aid the running of the committee. Being a Committee member can be recorded as part of your Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Positions available: Chair x 1, Deputy Chair x 1, Ordinary Members x 5