**4/12/24 Student Council Minutes**

13:30 – 15:30 (5-minute break at 14:30)

Location: Teams

Total in attendance: 45

**Guest:** Colin Dewar, Student Advice and Development Manager

**Chair:** Sabina Lawrie, Student Voice Manager

**Sabbatical Officers:**

Omowaleola Adebayo, Union President

Timiebi Oyinpere, Vice President Education

Muhammad Rauf Saddique, Vice President Student Development

**Union Staff:**

David Devlin, Students’ Union Student Services Manager

Claire Lumsden, Students’ Union Representation Coordinator

Eilidh Riddell (Secretary)

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| **1** | **Welcome** *Union Chair and Student Voice Manager will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.* | **Verbal** |
| **2** | **Senior Manager Question Time** *Our guest will be Colin Dewar Student Advice and Development Manager* | **Verbal** |
| **3** | **Sabbatical Officer Question Time** | **Verbal and Paper 3** |
| **4** | **Student Council Consultation** | **Verbal and Paper 4** |
| **5** | **Review of Previous Minutes** | **Paper 5** |
| **6** | **Policy Debates** | **Paper 6** |
| 6.1 | The Doctoral College shall guarantee a 20-hour associate teaching role for PhD students each academic year, supported by a central budget. |  |
| 6.2 | I.T. Facilities need reviewed at Paisley Campus Library (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.3 | Stop Penalising Students Attendance (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.4 | Notifications for distance learning students (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.5 | Skolstrejk för klimatet (school strike for the climate) (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.6 | Stop advertising high interest private loans (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.7 | Mindfulness pods/rooms (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.8 | Mature Student Representation (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.9 | Why is UWS making it so hard to find a room to use? (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.10 | More Halal food options (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.11 | Lobby the university to give students access to more scientific journals through the university library (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.12 | Sell white poppies alongside red poppies (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.13 | Fix the SAUWS Policy Comments Board (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.14 | Eco cups at the Union (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.15 | Ensuring all vending machines offer card payments and/or on campus change giving (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.16 | Get alcohol license at Lanarkshire (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.17 | Reduce Stress (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.18 | Allow the Union bar to continue to be a safe space (Policy lapse) |  |
| 6.19 | All UWS campuses to campaign for White ribbon status (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.20 | Student Resources (Policy Lapse) |  |

***Close***

# 1. Welcome

The Student Voice Manager welcomed attendees to the meeting and explained that the Union Chair had given their apologies for this meeting.

# 2. Senior Management Question Time

The Student Advice and Development Manager introduced themselves and explained that their role consists of four teams Academic skills, Careers and Employability, Funding and Advice, and International Student Support. The Student Success Team, the Student Hub, and the Counselling and Disability Teams all work together.

The Student Advice and Development Manager is currently working with the Student Voice Manager, the Representation Coordinator, Sabbatical Officers and Careers and Academic Skills on micro credentials, which are short, flexible, student-focussed pieces of learning as a formal recognition for students’ extra-curricular work.

**Q:** Is the Student Success Team more relevant to younger students who are earlier in their career journey?

**A:** The Student Success Team is not only for students who are struggling on their course, but even students who are doing well on their course can benefit from careers or financial advice.

**Q:** A psychology student put together a proposal for a careers workshop.

**A:** Employability and development should be a core part of all programmes, and the Careers Team would be delighted to support such a workshop, but they do rely on the programme leaders to work together.

**Q:** A mature student was told by a Careers Advisor to add hobbies to their CV, which they thought was poor advice for their experience level.

**A:** The Student Advice and Development Manager professed that they liked reading CV’s with hobbies included as it shows the applicant’s personality, but reminded that the Careers Team does give advice, and you don’t have to take any advice you don’t agree with.

# 3. Sabbatical Officers Question Time

The Student Presidents gave a brief update on their reports. The Union President noted that UWS have confirmed that the free breakfast facilities currently offered on the Paisley, Ayr and Lanarkshire campuses will stop at the end of term two.

Members of the Council voiced their support to continue the free breakfast facilities, stating that the cost of lunch items is already too high, which Lanarkshire students are forced to pay due to lack of local options. One member also voiced concern that the process of receiving the free breakfast has been undignified. The Union President suggested creating a petition to save the free breakfast facilities.

# 4. Student Council Consultation

The Student Services Manager updated the Council on the second consultation on the Student Union’s democracy review, outlining the proposal to introduce a selection panel to screen potential candidates’ communication ability and previous involvement with the Students’ Union.

There was a small discussion on how many members should be on the panel, with the council in agreement that it should be an odd number to avoid ties, with most suggestions between five and nine members.

**Q:** How would School Officers be involved?

**A:** In the new system, the School Officers would be replaced by a Vice President of each school.

**Q:** You need to ensure that this is allowed by law.

**A:** Once the proposal is approved by students, it will be taken to the university’s legal team and will be legally vetted.

**Q:** Have you thought about how to make sure the panel is fair and representative of the whole student body?

**A:** There will be training given to the panel to explain what specific criteria they are looking for in candidates.

# 5. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved.

# 6. Policy Debates

6.1 The Doctoral College shall guarantee a 20-hour associate teaching role for PhD students each academic year, supported by a central budget.

This policy passed with nineteen votes for and one to abstain.

6.2 I.T. Facilities need reviewed at Paisley Campus Library (Policy Lapse)

This policy was lapsed with twelve votes for and six to abstain.

6.3 Stop Penalising Students Attendance (Policy Lapse)

This policy lapsed with three votes for, eleven against and five to abstain.

6.4 Notifications for distance learning students (Policy Lapse)

This policy lapsed with eight votes for, seven against and five to abstain.

6.5 Skolstrejk för klimatet (school strike for the climate) (Policy Lapse)

This policy lapsed with eight votes for, six against and four to abstain.

6.6 Stop advertising high interest private loans (Policy Lapse)

This policy passed with sixteen votes for and one against.

6.7 Mindfulness pods/rooms (Policy Lapse)

This policy has passed with seventeen for and one to abstain.

The rest of the policies will automatically lapse as they have been through two Student Council meetings without being voted on.

# Meeting Close

*End of meeting.*