**23/03/23 Student Council Minutes**
(13:30 – 15:30, five-minute break at 14:30)
Location: Teams

59 total in attendance

Guests: Emily McIntosh & Colin Dewar

Sabbatical Officers: VP Education
Chair: Union SR&PC

1. ***Welcome*** – *Union Chair and SR&PC will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.*
2. ***Senior Manager Question Time*** – *Our guests will be Emily McIntosh and Colin Dewar from the Student Success Team.*
3. ***Sabbatical Officer Question Time***
4. ***Review of Previous Minutes.***
5. ***Second Court Representative***
6. ***Policy Debates***
6.1 Let's Find Out What’s Going on in Our Library (Policy Lapse)
6.2 Notice Boards at the Lanarkshire Campus (Policy Lapse)
6.3 Student Cards – Why Do They Cost So Much? (Policy Lapse)
6.4 Recognition of persecution of the Uyghur Muslims (Policy Lapse)

6.5 First Bus to Reschedule Their U1 Lanarkshire Service (Policy Lapse)

6.6 Help Students in Crisis (Policy Lapse)

6.7 McGill's Buses-Give Mature Students the Student Day Tickets (Policy Lapse)

6.8 Right to Drinking Water on Campus (Policy Lapse)

6.9 Holding Sabbatical Officers to their Manifestos (Policy Lapse)

6.10 Introduction of Liberation Groups on All Campuses (Policy Lapse)

6.11 Mandatory Consent, Bystander, and Mental Health Training for Society and Liberation Group Leaders (Policy Lapse)

6.12 Plastic Straws: Environmental Sustainability and Disability Inclusion Do Not Contradict One Another (Policy Lapse)

6.13 A Holistic Approach to Care Experienced Students No Matter Their Age (Policy Lapse)

1. ***Close –*** *Date of Next Meeting: --/--/--*
2. **Welcome** – *Union Chair and SR&PC will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.*

Jørgen informs the council that the Union Chair was not able to attend at the last minute, so distributes a poll to ask the council whether they consent to proceed with himself as chair. A majority is reached and so the meeting proceeds with Jørgen as chair.

Jørgen welcomes our guests Colin and Emily, as well as all members of council to our virtual room.

1. **Senior Manager Question Time -** *Our guests will be Emily McIntosh and Colin Dewar from the Student Success Team.*

Emily says it’s lovely that she can be back at a council meeting for longer than last time. She explains that she is still new to the University herself and is enjoying her time here and meeting new people. She goes on to explain the Student Success Team in more detail stating that it is their job to take ultimate responsibility for student welfare issues. She highlights the importance of student representatives spreading the word about what the Student Success Team is to other students. Emily has been working with Sammy on a student insight group which will provide paid opportunities for students to figure out how we can best support students – more information will be released soon so watch this space!

Colin says it’s lovely to be here and starts by clarifying that the Student Success Team services is made up of six different teams – the careers service, academic skills, international students, counselling, disabilities **(and one more, oops!)**. He touches on ongoing initiatives within some of the teams: the counselling team have been redrafting the students in distress procedure, making staff aware of the steps that can be taken and support that is available in supporting students in crisis. He gives an update on the Safezone app, stating that there will be a single security number that will pick up which campus you are on rather than having different numbers for each campuses. The disability team are looking into early intervention to make sure that disabled students get support early. The international team are planning for a term three welcome and have just welcomed a new staff member on the London campus. Voke is working with them on an event for recent graduates who are not in the place they would like to have been after finishing university.

*Questions for Colin and Emily:*

**Q:** During a day on campus we had a fire alarm went off and I can’t use a lift, a fire marshal came back to discuss if they had a PEEP who said this would be the responsibility of the disabilities team to complete but have not had a response since before Christmas.

**A:** Colin: I know that the disabilities team would be happy to do that if you get in touch with me or the disabilities team leader.

**Q:** I don’t need this anymore as I am almost finished my course and won’t have to be on campus again.

**A:** Emily: We encourage students to declare disabilities so that we can support them from the beginning of their studies, it’s an interesting case when a disability develops during the course of your studies. There is work in the pipelines to survey students throughout their studies about updates to their needs.

**A:** Colin: The easiest way for students to contact the disabilities team is through the hub and you will get a quick appointment with them.

**Q:** At the last council meeting it came out that the UWS Safe Zone app was not safe – what updates are there?

**A:** Emily: I got feedback about that – I can confirm that the IT and health and Safety departments have said it is available to all students on all campuses and that it absolutely covers all students. The alert button could have been compromised by different numbers for security but IT and health and safety departments are looking into this.

**Q:** Some students were asking if there are security cameras in the Ayr car park as their cars were broken into, and were asking how they should report such an issue?

**A:** Colin: I was not aware of that – the report and support app is more for bullying or violence, estates and risk teams would control the cameras and make sure any issues are solved.

**A:** Emily: We will follow this up with the director of estates.

1. **Sabbatical Officer Question Time**

VPED

Subuola says hello to the room. Firtsly, the model and transport part of her manifesto has been sorted and we are having a focus group to discuss how to prevent those problems in the future. Her proposal has now been approved to allow undergraduates to take part in paid research – schools will be in charge of this research on any topic. She is also working on giving students who have failed courses alternative options for core modules. We have been helping students with the cost-of-living crisis by providing free breakfast on campus and free use of microwaves and tea and coffee facilities – the breakfast used to just be two days a week but the sabbs worked to get it everyday in Paisley, Ayr and Lanarkshire. There are also free sanitary products available to order online thanks to our partnership with *Hey Girls*. A final reminder that Subuola is still doing her Education Tuesdays series on Instagram so everyone should follow her!

*Emily and Colin thank everyone for having them at the meeting and leave.*

*Questions for VPED:*

**Q:** Thank you for the cost-of-living initiative – have you had any feedback about the free breakfast and if you have, have you looked at ways of improving the food?

**A:** Students have fed back that the reason they do not use the free breakfast is because of the time it is available since they are in classes – reps need to provide feedback/evidence from students of what kind of food they would like to see.

VPSD

**Who I am**

Hello, I am Voke Adamatie, Vice president of the Student Development 2022/23 session at the university of the west of Scotland. I’d like to thank everyone who participated in the elections (candidates and voters) and to thank you for re-electing me, giving me the opportunity to continue on projects I have been working on for the past 8 months. Please accept my apologies as I cannot be with you today due to a very crucial event I am hosting on Employability.

**Key manifesto points/my priorities**

* create and promote all-inclusive community-based events
* Create, source, and promote student opportunities
* Promote mental health awareness creatively
* Organise workshops to improve student opportunities.
* Accommodation

**What I’m working on/Achieved**

* On accommodation, I have achieved a rent freeze on all University Halls for the next three years ending in 2025.
* There is an increase in over 20 new societies across the university due to the encouragement and support provided.
* Currently working to partner with charities, social enterprises, and companies to create job opportunities for students.
* Represented the University at the NUS conference.

This year, I will be focusing on employability, career, and social events necessary to be successful in and outside university. I will be working with groups and the student community to create opportunities. Also, to mention that I have been awarded a TEDx License for UWS. We will be hosting TEDx in one of the Scottish campuses and in London.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Exciting times ahead guys, Stay Winning.

1. **Review of Previous Minutes**

Chair asks if anyone wishes to raise any inaccuracies in the previous minutes. No responses and minutes are approved.

1. **Second Court Representative**

The president is automatically on court along with one other sabbatical officer. The new sabbatical team decided that Subuola should sit on court with the president, as she has experience of sitting on court already and can help to guide the new president, who will be new to this kind of experience.

Subuola is officially voted in as the second court representative.

1. **Policy Debates**

The meeting chair explains that the policies being voted on today were put in place five years ago, and thus need to be reapproved by the current student council to avoid being lapsed. A voting form is sent into the chat box of the meeting for attendees to vote to either pass, reject or abstain each of the following policies as they are discussed. Each policy is introduced by the VPWE, except policy 6.9 which is introduced by chair.

6.1 Let's Find Out What’s Going on in Our Library (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 96%
* No:
* Abstain:4%

6.2 Notice Boards at the Lanarkshire Campus (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 80%
* No: 4%
* Abstain:16%

6.3 Student Cards-Why Do They Cost So Much to Replace? (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 80%
* No: 8%
* Abstain: 12%

6.4 Recognition of persecution of the Uyghur Muslims (Policy Lapse) - **Rejected**

* Yes: 48%
* No: 4%
* Abstain: 48%

6.5 First Bus to Reschedule Their U1 Lanarkshire Service (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 88%
* No: 4%
* Abstain:8%

6.6. Help Students in Crisis (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 84%
* No:8%
* Abstain:8%

6.7 McGill's Buses-Give Mature Students the Student Day Tickets (Policy Lapse) - **passed**

* Yes: 100%

6.8 Right to Drinking Water on Campus (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 84%
* No: 4%
* Abstain: 12%

6.9 Holding Sabbatical Officers to their Manifestos (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 88%
* No: 0%
* Abstain: 12%

6.10 Introduction of Liberation Groups on All Campuses (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 60%
* No: 8%
* Abstain:32%

6.11 Mandatory Consent, Bystander, and Mental Health Training for Society and Liberation Group Leaders (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes:72%
* No:20%
* Abstain:8%

6.12 Plastic Straws: Environmental Sustainability and Disability Inclusion Do Not Contradict One Another (Policy Lapse) - **Rejected**

* Yes: 0%
* No:80%
* Abstain: 20%

6.13 A Holistic Approach to Care Experienced Students No Matter Their Age (Policy Lapse) - **Passed**

* Yes: 85%
* No: 4%
* Abstain: 12%
1. **Meeting Close**

Chair/SR&PC and ST&RC thanks reps for their commitment to SC this past year and for their flexibility in accommodating last minute changes like the change in meeting chair.

Link to feedback survey is sent out and all reps encouraged to complete it.

*End of Meeting.*