**Student Council Minutes - 12.12.2018 – 2pm - 4pm**

In attendance:

Guests: Ehsan Mesbahi, Anthony Blackshaw, Jamie McDowell

Staff Support: Sabina Lawrie

1. Minutes from 07.11.2018 meeting approved without issue.
2. Deputy Principals Question Time – Ehsan Mesbahi answered the following questions:

*Q: Given that the university are introducing a 25p charge for single use cups – are there plans to introduce water fountains and filling stations to enable students to bring their own water bottles?*

*A*: The University is reviewing this situation continually, and is always trying to be greener.

*Q: Who are you and what do you do?*

A: Ehsan is the Vice Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor (academic). He began with a research and enterprise focus, and then had all things education added to his remit. He is responsible for delivering Student Success (through Education, Teaching and Learning) alongside his Research and Enterprise work. He also works for academic development.

*Q: Why are exams being held in Robertson Sports hall, which is a place we’ve never been, where we have to get buses out to exams and wait outside in the cold for a long time? This adds to the stress for students.*

A: The University is aware that anything before an exam can be disturbing – they try to balance timetables and make things as easy as possible for students. ACTION: Ehsan will follow up on this issue.

*Q: An Adult Nursing exam got cancelled yesterday – why did it happen and why was there no paper back up? The new date is after leave – will leave also be rescheduled also?*

A: Although Ehsan knew there was a moodle problem yesterday he doesn’t know about this particular case. The course was: Foundations of Life and Social Science for 1st year adult and mental health nursing students – the issues was across all campuses. It is noted that students feel there should have been a paper back up copy. ACTION: Ehsan will follow up on this particular case.

*Q: It emerged at an MCS education forum meeting that librarians were concerned that there is not the funding to buy the books we need – a large portion of course mates use Glasgow/Strathclyde libraries, and many books are in the wrong places for our course as they are at different campuses. What is being done about this?*

*Another student from digital marketing added that they have to buy lots of books, and that staff tell students that the books they need can’t be found in the library.*

A: We regularly make sure library stock is appropriate and relevant. No planning cuts recently. If it is decreasing it’s across the whole institution, rather than any particular cut. However what students are saying is concerning – there are processes to make sure students have access – in the module descriptor there is a part about the resources needed. We don’t approve a new programme without the books – and this should be checked – so something here is failing. These may be old modules but it looks like in places our checks and balances have failed. There are processes – where students can put in requests for particular journals or individual papers you need there is a university service to get the copy – if we are not subscribed you should be able to get them.

*Q: Is it only L10 L11 for getting access to those services? There are also problems with students not accessing certain software if they are not on site.*

A: The licenses are not the issue but an adequate technical platform is needed, however, there may be the facility to run those programmes remotely. If you access remotely with a dummy connection you can use the software – ACTION: Ehsan will follow this up to see if there is remote accessibility and if we have that facility.

*Q: At Lanarkshire there was a situation where students’ needed to be on two campuses within 30 minutes – just wanted to bring it to someones attention. Lecture 9-10 in Lanarkshire, and then a group who had a tutorial in Emerits in 10.30. It was raised with the course who then acted on this, but the rescheduling was also a mess.*

A: This shouldn’t happen. Lectures should finish 5 mins before and start 5 mins late so that there is a gap. It is not acceptable practice and will definitely follow up – and trigger a general sick note to all colleagues – this is absolutely inappropriate. The preference is of course that everything is nicely arranged and isn’t changed. It was the introduction to coaching lecture and then introduction to sports science at the Emirates Arena – two different modules. ACTION: Ehsan will follow this up and trigger a general sick note to all colleagues.

*Q: Within Financial accounting – report and essays and class tests have been due within days of each other multiple times. How is the scheduling of report dates organised? Can something be planned further out to give at least a week between submission dates?*

A: The message is that organisation and module planning need to be improved. The suggestion is if this happens to immediately inform programme leader and deans to make sure you’re heard. As a university we need to bring a blanket approach to make sure practices are not continued. But yes for it to happen twice it may be systemic.

*Q: A lot of companies use SAGE and SAM but this is not taught in financial accounting. A lot of students are looking to pay for a certificate – and the licence is £500. Wondering if it was something to introduce back into the module for financial accounting.*

A: The intention and request is for annual monitoring to catch these things. ACTION: Ehsan will follow up this particular case.

Ehsan finished by saying that the university can only do work if you tell us what the problems are – we are always listening and trying to sort out problems. Some stuff doesn’t get to their office so please tell them what is happening. And please offer a few solutions too!

1. Policy Debates and Voting (Paper 4) 34 in attendance so 18 votes required to pass.
   1. *Policies due to Lapse*
      1. *Auctions in Aid of Charity and SAUWS Student Groups* ***Lapsed 20/34 votes for lapsing***
      2. *Condemn the Actions of Some at NUS Demo –* ***Lapsed 32/34 votes for lapsing***
      3. *Poppy Scotland Appeal –* ***Stands – 10/34 votes for lapsing***
      4. *Right 2 Education Campaign –* ***Stands – 5/34 votes for lapsing***
      5. *Votes at 16 – Stands –* ***0/34 votes for lapsing***
   2. *New policies*
      1. *Gym funding should not fall –* ***Passes - 25/34 voted to pass***
      2. *Holistic Support for Care Experienced Students –* ***Passes 26/34 Voted to Pass***
      3. *Sign Off with Pronouns: Make Sharing Pronouns Common Practice* ***– Passes 22/34 voted to pass***
      4. *Speak to Everyone – Use Gender-Inclusive Language –* ***19/34 Voted to Pass***
      5. *Staff Should be Available to Students When Timetabled –* ***27/34 Voted to Pass***
      6. *Vegan Food Options –* ***32/34 Voted to Pass***
2. Review and approve new officer By Law (Paper 5) – Approved
3. *Election of School Officers (Note, three students had to leave early)   
   CEPS – Mark Robertson stood uncontested and was voted in with 30/31 Votes*

*B+E – Jakub Stefankiewicz stood uncontested and was voted in with 30/31 Votes*

*Education – Magdelena Preissler stood uncontested and was voted in with 31/31 Votes*

*HLS – Nicola Orr and Ethan Wilson stood, Ethan Wilson was elected with 29/31 Votes*

*MCS – Dan Hutchinson stood uncontested and was elected with 30/31 Votes*

1. Sabbatical Officer Question Time

*Q: Is there an update on the bus situation in Lanarkshire?*

A: SAUWS staff have been meeting with the bus company. ACTION: Sabina to get update from colleagues and share with council.