

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) AYR

Tuesday 15th April, 1pm, room GT1

In the Chair, Cal Reid, Campus President Ayr

1. Sederunt

Cal Reid	Campus President Ayr (CPA)
Blane Abercrombie	President
Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Vonnie Sandlan	BA Childhood Studies
Rebecca Skinner	MA Creative Media Practice/Vice President Sports and Societies Ayr
Herborg Hansen	Commercial Music
Kenneth Blair	Commercial Music
Jake Mackie	Commercial Music

In attendance

Claire Lumsden Student Representation Co-ordinator

2. Acceptance of Apologies

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

- (a) Matters arising from those minutes- There were no matters arising, minutes accepted

4. Acceptance of the report of the business of the Association

Campus President Ayr reads through report, states that planning and organising for the UWS Creative Festival is well under way, this is a week-long showcase of creative talent on the Ayr Campus. Informs members that the SAUWS elections have come and gone. We are working on better ways for candidates to present themselves during the election period, but as the Ayr campus is still relatively new there are still a lot of restrictions in place. There has been a delay in announcing the results as there is currently an investigation into some aspects of the elections. Results will be announced as soon as possible though.

CPA has also been reviewing Communications for Action seminars from the first month in office to try and compile a new communications strategy for commercial marketing of the union and also been preparing a document for future sabbaticals in Ayr to ease the transition from student life to full-time sabbatical employment, especially in those role which can be extremely challenging at times – even more so for students from a creative course who have no previous political experience.

CPA invites questions. Vonnie Sandlan raises issues with Union food prices, requests that these be reviewed and that the layering system is reviewed if possible as the current prices mean it can be

difficult to have a healthy and balanced meal. There is also no continuity across the Unions with regards to promotions. Rebecca Skinners suggests the Union could be opened longer to perhaps raise more revenue. CPA explains there are some financial issues with this, Vonnie Sandlan states that we should be pushing for a larger block grant, President informs Council that he has a meeting with the Principle to discuss this.

There are no further questions, CPA report accepted.

President reads through report. States that with regards to International students the Vice Principle Jeanne Keay has committed to fixing International Student fees for the duration of their studies at UWS. There is also a new Head of Human Resources and a name change for the department to People and Organisational Development. With the work of the UWS Labour Club, the university have reduced the number of employees on Zero Hour contracts from over 900 staff to around 300, meaning 600 staff are now on fairer, more secure contracts. In addition the Head of People and Organisational Development was shocked at the small number of professorships being applied for and taken up by women and has decided that the University would review why this is, which will be done in conjunction with the Women's STAR group.

President also states that he is putting a presentation together to try to increase in block grant which will enable greater activity from the Students' Association.

President invites questions. Vonnie Sandlan states that International Students have to sign into every class, home students don't need to do this. President states that he has been in touch with Student Services about this and how they interact with International students. A group was set up however they haven't met yet, Jeanne Keay who is responsible for Internationalisation and Global Citizenship Strategy has suggested however that it can be part of the overall International review. President also states that he got in touch with Christine McKay about the issue but has not heard back. Vonnie Sandlan suggests it would be a great win if it got sorted before next term.

There are no further questions, Presidents report accepted.

DPEW reads through report. Some key points are that extra resources have been allocated to the Libraries, including the use of eBooks however will keep going with it as IT stock is still lacking i.e. PC's and mobile pods. States that £2000 has been awarded by the University to do research into how to engage students in study outside of class time.

The University is being reviewed via the ELIR process (Enhancement Led Institutional Report). As part of this, students have been consulted and over 200 responses have been received, have now written a summary of the Reflective Analysis document which will be available on Moodle. We are also working with Mike Williamson from SPARQS on designing a questionnaire on what's important to students, what makes a good student experience i.e. should we rate the University on food or class sizes etc. we are waiting on ethics approval for the questionnaire.

With regards to Grad Point Average (GPA) we are working with the Higher Education Academy to implement this on a pilot project, this is moving along well, the Pilot project is looking at modelling grades and the impact it might have on students. With regards to Graduate attributes, students were asked to feed into what these should be and the feedback was that we should be bolder in what students can achieve.

Other projects we are working on include the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR), states that we have been feeding into what activities can be eligible for HEAR, including sports and societies, student rep activities and other volunteering activities. The Timetable Review Implementation Group work has been completed and from next academic year Wednesday afternoons will be free for Sports and Societies activities. The Learner Attainment project has been cancelled as ethics approval was not granted. The Village Digs project is currently on hold as we are waiting for the contract to be drawn up. DPEW is also designing a student partnership agreement between the University and SAUWS to improve partnership working.

Informs Council that the Learning and Teaching awards are at the end of month, the nominations were great and invites have been sent out.

States that he has also attended NUS Scotland Conference and the 12 SAAS payments motion passed and NUS Scotland and DPEW will outline the case for this to Mike Russell.

DPEW invites questions. Vonnie Sandlan asks about the Village Digs project, enquires why SAUWS is engaged with a commercial venture when no profit is being made and is this not what shelter does anyway, DPEW suggests the project isn't about finding accommodation but is about bills, repairs, other housing deals in the local area. Vonnie Sandlan suggests there is more work that needs to be done on this, DPEW agrees.

Vonnie Sandlan states that she was unaware of the Student Led Teaching Awards happening and suspects there wouldn't have been any nominations from childcare, teaching or nursing cohorts, this is also the case for the SAUWS Elections. DPEW suggests that all student emails were sent out and engagement staff were encouraging participation as well, states that he understands communication is a problem with students generally and we can look at how we improve this in future.

There were no further questions, DPEW report accepted.

Sports and Societies President reads through report, states that the Varsity event was great although we lost. Informs members that the Sports Ball is being held on Friday 25th April and tickets are still available. Adds that the Sports and Societies Union has achieved a lot this year.

Sports and Societies President invites questions. Vonnie Sandlan states that the Archery was good.

There were no further questions, Sports and Societies President report accepted

5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees

There are no reports, SRCo-ord states that the Elections Committee report has been delayed due to elections results being delayed.

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Graduate Attributes Consultation

DPEW outlines the University were consulting on its Graduate Attributes, these are skills that all students who attend UWS should have. States that he had to submit the feedback from the Paisley and Hamilton Councils, but can submit additional information from Ayr. DPEW asks member to read through the briefing and give comments. Asks members if they agree that the

GA's outlined are accurate. Vonnie Sandlan asks if anyone gets Employability Competencies like in teaching. DPEW states that Graduate and Employability attributes are included in all module descriptors. Members suggest the GA's are a tick boxing exercise or just buzz words. DPEW suggests UWS wanted a unique identifier for UWS students, Rebecca Skinner suggests we should have clearer GA's and the statement suggests we are not highly intelligent, would it be possible to remove the first line and perhaps change or rethink the word competency.

(b) ELIR – Reflective Analysis – Summary

DPEW outlines the work of ELIR and asks which parts of the Reflective Analysis (RA) students wanted to be consulted on, suggests that the feedback so far is all of the RA should be consulted on so that's what we will do. Council agree with this.

(c) Brief results from SAUWS Consultation – February meeting

President explains that we did a consultation on the SAUWS officer remits. We put a proposal out for discussion, part of it was asking if all Sabbs should be cross campus. The feedback was mixed, however students generally were not keen on it though. We are now looking at our governance structure, explains that currently we have a Board of Trustee only, but the general thought is that Associations should have an Executive Committee and a Board of Trustees. Should this happen the Board of Trustees would include external, student and Sabbatical membership.

(d) Sports Union Constitution – Ratification

Sports and Societies President outlines what the Sports Union Constitution is, stating that Bylaws 11 and 12 have essentially been merged to make it more condensed and it will allow the sports union to make its own decision, adds that it has been approved by the Sports Union members at its General Council and by Paisley and Hamilton Student Councils. We are now asking Ayr Council to ratify the new Sports Union Constitution.

There are no questions or comments.

CPA invites members to vote on ratification of the new Sports Union Constitution

*For: Unanimous
Ratification accepted*

The meeting became inquorate therefor was closed. Outstanding items will be brought to the first meeting of Council next academic year (Oct 2014)

(e) Feedback from NUS Conferences

7. Motions-

- (a) Their jobs; Our education
- (b) Defend the right of students officers to support strike action
- (c) Strike Action from UCU
- (d) Zero Tolerance for Zero Hours

8. Elections-

- (a) Disciplinary Committee (Depute Chair, 4 ordinary members)

(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)

9. **AOCB-**