

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) AYR

Wednesday 18th March 2015, 12.30pm, GT7

In the Chair, Cal Reid, Campus President Ayr

AGENDA

1. Sederunt

Cal Reid	Campus President Ayr (CPA/Chair)
Jack Douglas	President
Herborg Hansen	Commercial Music/CPA Elect
Megan Mitchel	Journalism

In attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator
David Devlin	Membership Development Manager

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Lauren Miller	Depute President Education and Welfare
Ryan Wood	Sports President
Michal Sestak	Computing

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes- None

Minutes accepted

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

CPA reads through report. States that the riverside lighting campaign is still on going, Ayrshire road alliance have suggested promoting the path as a cycle path as this may get things done quicker. The University have also agreed to pay for half of the work in lighting the road however Ayrshire Council have still not agreed to the lighting. As this is the last SRC for Cal as CPA (finishes up at end of week) the Environment Team will be taking forward this campaign, there is a SurveyMonkey to gain opinion and quantitative information on the pathway's safety as the petition didn't get the response needed to escalate the issue. CPA further explains that due to his early resignation there will still be caseworkers on Wednesdays and Thursdays and committee work has been handed over to the other Sabbatical officers, also Ayr council are keen to meet CPA Elect, Herborg Hansen. CPA invites questions, there are none. President extends a thank you to Cal Reid for his work over the last 2 years and wishes Cal the best for the future, members extend this gratitude and best wishes. CPA report accepted.

President reads through report. States that students voted yes to the referendum which is a positive result, also the mass membership survey response was great with over 2200 responses which will inform our work in future, including safety issues. States that the Big Awards nomination

process will stay open until the end of the week (closing on Sunday 22nd March in the evening). There are awards to be won for students, teaching staff and support departments at the University, encourages students to nominate, please go to <http://www.sauws.org.uk/bigawards/> for more information and online nomination forms.

The Housing campaign is on-going, a big win for the campaign so far is that there is now provision in place for students in hardship, they can stay in halls at a reduced rate or free if they are at risk of homelessness. In addition the Wifi has improved as there is a separate Wifi for Halls students now which allows students to play games and watch films, this is due to new funding and a new director of IT.

The Summer Safety Net campaign is also going well, Angela Constance, Education Minister for Scotland will be meeting with colleagues and students to discuss any shortfall in funding, however the campaign itself needs a Scotland wide collaboration of the issues therefor a motion has been submitted to NUS Scotland Conference to ask for FOI's from all institutions regarding their dropout rates and times of when students are more likely to drop out. President invites questions, there are none. Report accepted.

CPA informs members that due to the DPEW and Sports President's absence their report cannot be accepted, however if any members have questions about their work to please get in touch.

5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees - None

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) SAUWS Constitution Summary of Changes

President informs members that SAUWS has been running a series of consultation events at each campus looking specifically at the main changes to our Constitution and in particular the Governance of SAUWS. President informs members that new Constitution forms a major part of our restructuring and meeting the needs of our members and talks through the changes as follows.

States that the new governing document (Constitution) is simplified and clearer, giving members control at the grass roots level including Dumfries and Collaborative Colleges. The most prominent changes include a system focused on the Governance:

- The strategy level will sit with the Board of Trustees
- The operational level will sit with the Executive Committee
- The political level will sit with the Students' Voice

For example, a motion on removing Zero-Hour Contracts would be proposed at Students' Voice (to be passed or rejected), if passed the Executive Committee would decide how this would be run as a campaign, then the Board of Trustees would decide if and how much funding would be given to the Executive Committee in executing the campaign.

President explains the changes proposed to Students' Council, the new document refers to Student Voice. The current system restricts membership of Council to Student Reps only, the new Students' Voice will be more like an AGM in that anyone can come, we will also be using more Video Conferencing facilities therefore Dumfries students and students at Collaborative Colleges and Distance Learners can join in via video link. The new system will also generate more referendums which will be binding for passing policy. Essentially we are removing barriers to engagement and participation. President adds that the reason behind the change is so that particular issues can be discussed by the people who it affects. We have used the principle of one member one vote, this is

so that all students can have a say on how we run and what we campaign for. It is intended so that there are no barriers to involvement, it is open and accessible.

President informs members that the Board of Trustees (BoT) should be apolitical and this has not been the case in the past. The BoT is there to look at the wellbeing of the organisation, including the finances and strategic decision making. The BoT membership will be made up of the five Sabbatical Officers via elections (as is current practice) with the rest being made up of 4 Student members (one from each Campus) and 4 External members (with specific knowledge around for example Finance, Human Resources etc.). These members will apply for the role and will be appointed by an Appointments Committee who will look at the skills of applicants using a 'skills matrix' to bridge skills deficiency, adds that appointments in this way are standard in charity organisations. To sit on the BoT there will be an application process which will describe the skills needed for the role and an application form, the Appointments Committee will be made up of the President as head of the organisation, the chief of staff (General Manager) and a representative from the University who will be an impartial person. As usual however, full training will be given to all trustees. Adds that all appointments will require ratification by the Students' Voice, there is also room for referendums on removing an appointment.

For the Executive Committee we have used a hybrid model to reflect campuses and diversity and all positions will be elected. There will be two Campus reps from each campus (totalling 8 campus reps), four liberation officers (representing women, LGBT, black and minority ethnic and disabled students), a Societies Officer and a Care Leavers Officer, the 5 Sabbatical Officers will also form the Executive Committee. The Societies Officer has been introduced so that Societies can develop more as they need different support than sports teams and they would also have a separate funding stream from Team UWS.

President also informs members of a new addition to our accountability in the form of a Union Chair. This is an impartial person elected from the student body (in the same way as the Sabbatical Officers) for a one year term of office who would hold officers to account on their decision making, they can attend any meeting of the Association except reserve business such as Staffing. The Union Chair will also act as Chair to Students' Voice meetings which will allow Sabbatical officers to argue from a political stand and put their views forward, currently this is difficult when acting as Students' Council Chair.

There are no questions around the new document or structure however members support the changes as they feel these are positive and long overdue.

President requests that Council move to discuss Motions as the next item of Business. Members unanimously agree to this. Council therefore move to discuss agenda item 7.

(b) General Election information

President informs members that we are working with other Students' Unions in the West of Scotland and NUS Scotland to look at General Election asks, i.e. what do students want out of the General Election manifestos for students, this will go to the Glasgow Student Congress being held next week.

Members respond as follows:

- Free education and financial support all year round – members feel the current system is not effective in bringing students out of poverty and the financial burden is not made a big deal about it and should be more publicly known, the loan system doesn't support students

properly. Universal funding could be looked at, the Danish system allows this and support through the summer, they can still work but this may affect funding amount, there is an understanding however that SAAS take account of parents income rather than the students income.

- Housing – student housing in Glasgow is unaffordable, landlords are putting rents up and the standard of accommodation is poor compared to some other countries, in addition it can be difficult for international students to get accommodation due to no guarantor and would need to pay a large amount to get a flat to show they can pay the rent.

The Glasgow Students' Congress event will take place on Wednesday 25th March, starting at 12pm at the Glasgow City Chambers, if anyone would like to attend there are 20 spaces for UWS students, the Students' Association will pay for travel, email src@sauws.org.uk to book a place.

(c) Elections and referendum results

President informs members of the election and referendum results. States that this year received the most votes ever at 1500 (exactly) meaning the votes are 13% up from last year and students were voting for most positions as well rather than one or two. We had the most number of women candidates and votes as well this year which is great.

The sabbatical officers for 2015-16 are:

President: Jack Douglas

Depute President Education and Welfare: Lauren Miller

Sports President: Simon Cain

Campus President Hamilton: Douglas McWhirter

Campus President Ayr: Herborg Hansen

The NUS Scotland Conference Delegation are:

Jack Douglas (automatic place)

Lauren Miller

John Black

Iain Shepherd

Rebecca Skinner

Ashley Forrester

Kevin McKinley

The NUS UK Conference Delegates are:

Jack Douglas (automatic place)

Lauren Miller

John Black

Heather Armstrong

7. Motions -

(a) Student Voice– Constitutional amendment to bye-law 6

President proposes Procedural Motion 1 (a) to remove this motion as it is no longer relevant, seconded by Megan Michel.

Speech for removing the motion is taken by President. States that this was the proposed change to Students' Council, however it is superseded by the next 2 motion.

There is no speech against removal.

Council move to vote.

For: Unanimous

(b) SAUWS Constitutional referendum

Speech for taken by the President. States that this motion is asking Council members to honour the referendum result as currently Council can still vote against the new document as referendums are non-binding according to the current constitution. Adds that by passing this motion it will become Association policy.

There is no speech against.

Council move to vote,

For: unanimous

(c) Referendum result – ratification

Speech for taken by the President. States that this motion asks for Council members to ratify the referendum results, in total 453 students voted – 85.4% voted for yes, 9.3% voted for no and 5.3% voted to abstain.

There is no speech against.

Council move to vote,

For: Unanimous

Council moves back to item 6 (b).

8. Elections -

(a) Disciplinary Committee (4x Ordinary Members)

(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)

The positions noted above remain vacant and will be tabled at the next meeting of Council.

9. AOCB-

President informs members of the NUS Scotland candidates for President and VP Education. Asks members to read through their manifesto's and give a steer for a vote. Members indicate that Vonnie Sandlan would be preferable for President and Rob Henthorn for Vice President Education.

President once again thanks CPA for his efforts over the last 2 years.

Chair thanks members for their input to Council over the time he has acted as Chair and wishes everyone at SAUWS and UWS the best. Chair declares the meeting closed.

Start: 12.45pm

Finish: 1.45pm