

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) – AYR

Video Conference with Paisley, Ayr and Hamilton

Thursday 19th April, 12.30pm, Committee room 1

In the Chair Cara Lee, Depute President Education and Welfare
Deputy Chair Daniel Copithorn, Campus President Ayr

The meeting did not meet quorum therefore was cancelled, VC discussion took place with CPA input.

AGENDA

1. Sederunt
2. Acceptance of Apologies
3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting
 - (a) Matters arising from those minutes-
4. Acceptance of the report of the business of the Association
5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees- None
6. Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-
 - (a) Mitigation Policy review – Cara Lee (attached)
 - (b) Library fines amnesty update – Garry Quigley
 - (c) Annual report 2011-12 – Garry Quigley
 - (d) Student Association Priorities 2012-13 – Garry Quigley
7. Motions-
 - (a) Notice in terms of the Education Act 1994
 - (b) A Helpline on Student cards
8. Elections- None
9. AOCB-

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) AYR

Wednesday 21st March, 12.00pm, GT 46

In the Chair, Daniel Copithorn, Campus President Ayr

AGENDA

1. Sederunt

Daniel Copithorn	Campus President Ayr
Cara Lee	Depute President Education and Welfare
Tabita Witvliet	Digital Art
Paul Moran	Football team
Mathew Shields	Football team

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Garry Quigley	President
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Stewart McKay	Mental Health Nursing

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

Matters arising from those minutes- None

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

CPA reads through the report of business, outlines that elections open now and will close on Friday at 11am, adds that this will be further discussed later. States that he has been focusing on trying to get better living arrangements, held a meeting with Marcus Ross of Estates and Buildings department, suggests that the University are also trying to raise rent for next year, adds that a paper was sent to the Policy and Resource Committee (PRC) and held their first vote ever, however did not pass. States that the item will now be pushed up to be discussed at University Court, DPEW outlines that there is a petition going round regarding the state and price of Halls and encourages students to sign it whether they live in halls or not. CPA further outlines the next main activity for this campaign will be sending letters to court members outlining students views on the changes, all students need to do is sign the bottom of the letter, CPA asks council to look into the cost of living and what they get from SAAS and what their rent is. Students present who live in Halls at Ayr are not happy with the conditions as it is a brand new residence, Paul Moran comments that one student had to move rooms because the roof leaked and the heating didn't work properly. SR Co-ord suggests this can be further discussed below, council members agree to continue this later.

DPEW informs Council that the Learning and Teaching Awards are being held on Paisley Campus on Thursday 22nd March, explains that the awards recognise excellence and innovation in Learning and Teaching with lecturers being nominated by students.

There are no questions from the floor, report is unanimously accepted.

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Accommodation issues

CPA reiterates that he met with Marcus Ross in light of a recent disciplinary, adds that the Estates and Buildings department are looking through all complaints and are also looking into getting things fixed. CPA suggests Marcus Ross is commercially based and believes in a service with a good experience. Suggests there will be some policy changes and more information on how things work and what to expect e.g. providing the lease at the beginning of the online process instead of at the end, we are also looking to change the lease to read that students are bound by the lease up to the end of term. Paul Moran suggests that those on the Erasmus exchange programme had to pay for Halls accommodation up to the end of January but they are only there from September to December meaning the University are getting an extra months payment.

CPA suggests that we will also be asking for waiting list for those interested in staying at halls but who don't want to be tied into the lease, Council agree this would be good. Adds that finance and rent arrears information and advice on debt management will also be looked at to make them more student friendly, it will cover things like how to set up a payment plan, Council members suggest they didn't know how to pay the rent through the bank, Paul Moran explains that he had payed the rent but then got a letter saying he was in debt. Council suggest students really need more information, CPA suggests perhaps a letter sent to students close to payment day and have it better worded in order that students feel able to talk about their financial situation, Council agree these changes would be good.

CPA makes a final suggesting for improvements asking Council members if, when moving into halls, students should be asked to pay the 1st and last rent immediately as there is no deposit scheme, it can give halls residence a bit of leeway, Paul Moran comments that SAAS is not always processed in time for this, Council agree however that it is a possibility that should be look at. Paul Moran further comments that the University had somehow taken 2 months' rent out of his account at once and it took a while to get back

CPA outlines that the Students Association are also looking into welfare issues if there are emergencies, for example if a student has to leave halls or University due to unforeseen circumstances, we are looking into a way of appealing to not pay rent in this type of situation, notes that this would only be considered and accepted if there is a doctor's note and an academic reference backing up the students claims, adds that it will be looked at on a case by case basis. Council members agree with this, Paul Moran notes that when his colleague had to leave, they had to continue to pay rent.

Council members present who stay in Halls like it for the social aspect however recognise there is a real and urgent need to make available more detailed information early on in the application process for halls. Members also comment on the poor conditions of the new Halls of Residence at Ayr, state that it is a new building which is already crumbling to pieces, there was no common room until November, the washing machines keep braking and there are only 3 for what could be 200+ students, further note that it didn't look like the rooms had been cleaned before student moved in as there was dust everywhere. Also believe the windows were not fitter correctly, it was very cold as heaters didn't work until February, the Bathroom doors don't fit properly, the toilets

did not working properly in some rooms and the ventilation in bathrooms is poor as they are steamed up and stuffy for hours. In addition, keys did not work in some doors, fob entry system beeping is an annoyance and very distracting, also not allowed toasters, CPA points out that toasters can be used so long as they are PAT tested. Halls students also comment on halls staff and security coming into their rooms without giving the 24 hours' notice as required, state that they have also said they would come and then don't, but turn up a couple of days later. The internet does not work properly including the Ethernet points.

Council members conclude discussion by stating that halls are generally too much money for poor conditions and service. Reiterate that there is a real and urgent need for improvements, comment that if this was private letting, many of these issues would have been resolved.

(b) Student Elections

CPA outlines that this week Elections are open, explains that an email has been sent to all students' email accounts, this is where student get their unique username and password to access the election page of the SAUWS website. Elections will close on Friday at 11am and an announcement of those elected will be available later in the afternoon. Informs Council that SAUWS use transferable voting system which is used to allow for preference, i.e. give someone number 1 and someone else number 2 etc. Encourages Council members to vote and to get their colleagues to vote, adds that we are aware that some students have never accessed their student account, please encourage them to do so, it is how the university and the students association get vital information to students.

Council members comment that the Students Association should send out an email during elections as reminder. DPEW states that we can look into that's, also explains that we used to use paper ballot, it is now electronic to keep up to date with other institutions, this has resulted in a lower turnout.

(c) Student Association events/conference

SR Co-ord outlines that the 3rd annual Student Conference 'Student Learning in the 21st Century' is being held on Wednesday 28th March from 11am to 4.30pm at the Paisley campus, adds that there are still spaces left and to email studentconference@sauws.org.uk for a registration form. Details that travel expenses will be paid with receipt, there is authorised absence from class, a free lunch and a free hoodie for all those in attendance. Informs council the focus for this year is the curriculum as part of the new Enhancement Theme. Outlines that we will be asking student what they think the curriculum is and what should be included e.g. involvement in sports teams or societies and should this be credited, we will also be asking students what they think inclusivity and internationalisation are and how this should relate to the curriculum. This year we will also be holding a plenary session on what the quality framework is and how students can influence what and how they are taught. Adds that this conference will directly influence the university's policies and encourages students to come along, it is open to all UWS student.

DPEW outlines that this years' Sports Ball will be held on the 27th April at Paisley Campus Union, tickets will be on sale next week. Adds that it is open to all sports clubs and societies and anyone else who wants to come along. Tickets will likely cost £16, this includes a 3 course meal and drinks reception, a goody bag and a live band. The Sports Ball will also host the Sports and Societies Awards, email will be sent out next week on how to nominate. Informs Council that after the event there will be a Casino night on the 3rd floor, sports ball attendees will be given some free chips to play. Adds that all chips have the same value but there will be prizes with a leader board

and all money raised goes to Scottish disability sports hosted by Events students who are sports members. Players can also win prizes throughout the night.

(d) Constitutional change

DPEW states this is a discussion point and informs Council that consideration is being given to changing the setup of the Sports Union Executive. States that the Sports Executive meet each year, however the current constitution has a different breakdown of roles and would like to change these to fit how the Sports Union actually runs. Explains that the main changes would be the removal of some roles and the introduction of New Vice President roles for each campus who will assist clubs and societies on the Sports Presidents behalf and have 2-3 people from the sports teams to sit as reps on the executive. Adds that each month the executive will focus on something else, whether this is recruitment, development, finance etc. Sports President invites council to comment

Council members think this is a really good idea, Paul Moran states that he has wanted to meet with the Sports President on a couple of occasions however he was unavailable, having a VP on campus could benefit all sports and hopefully get more teams set up as well. DPEW also suggests that if the changes are implemented budgeting would be considered by a group rather than just the Sports President and there will be equal representation.

7. Motions-

(a) Armed forces recruitment

Speech for is taken by DPEW, argues that this was a policy lapse, the current stance is that armed forces weren't allowed into our unions for recruitment purposes, this motion asks for that to be changed so they can. Suggests it's the students' choice to join which is unlikely if they have just registered for Uni. The Armed Forces also have positions available for graduate students and hold summer placements/courses. Adds that the policy will only apply to the Union buildings, not campus.

Speech against is not taken

Council move to vote

For: 1

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

The motion fails

(b) Library Fines Amnesty

Speech for is taken by DPEW, argues that if students are in debt they can't graduate, the maximum a student could ever owe in fines to the library is £150 as 15 books borrowed at maximum of a £10 fine each. States that the amnesty would allow a 1 week period where books can be handed back with the amount owed being set to £0. If they don't return books during this period would need to pay. If the motion passes we would need to PR it properly with lecture shout outs, flyers etc., notes that this wouldn't happen every year and if it was requested the motion would need to be put to Council for vote again.

Speech against is not taken

CPA notes that students who have returned books and payed their debt, then find out there is an amnesty may not be too happy

Council move to vote

For: Unanimous

8. Elections-

Disciplinary Committee (Chair, Depute Chair, 4x Ordinary members)

Elections Committee (1x Ordinary members)

SR Co-ord outlines the roles and responsibilities of each committee however no Council members wish to take part. This will be taken to next meeting of Council

9. AOCB-

Paul Moran asks if Paisley Union is selling 99p drinks and states if so, this is not fair. Adds that the Ayr Union is very popular with halls students however notes it can be expensive. CPA suggests this is within the Presidents remit therefor he should respond to students regarding this.

Tabita Witvliet comments that the Décor in the Union is quite sterile, asks if it would be possible to put the murals back up from the old Union or make it more appealing somehow. CPA suggests this will be look at and if possible this can carried out through the summer.

Start: 12.10pm

Finish: 1.10pm

Campus President Ayr report - March 2012

The end of March marked many students getting in touch with me about Issues in the Halls of Residence, mainly to do with the lack of repairs and poor quality of the new buildings. I have since met with Dot Webster (Residential Services Manager) and have spoken about how to improve many areas of halls including how and when the lease is presented to students and further more payment plans and changes to the universities policies on rent and rent arrears letters. The complaints are being brought together and will be sent to the appropriate people in the university to deal with the multitude of issues. The other Sabbatical officers and I are working towards instating better quality assurance for any resident on all campuses and will continue to do so.

The SAUWS Student conference was on Wednesday 28th of March. It was a great event held at the Paisley campus to directly speak with students about internationalisation and Learning and teaching. It provided us with invaluable information about how students perceived the university and brought out what needs to change and what the university already do well.

Elections went well however we had a smaller turn out than on the previous year. Cara Lee (Depute President, Education and Welfare) Garry Quigley (president) and Alastair Adamson (sports President) all got re elected. Two new campus Presidents got elected in Ewan McCreath (Ayr) and Kate Shearer (Hamilton). Also elected as Ordinary Trustees were, for Paisley, Nick Targontsidis, Stuart McCabe and Jack Douglas, for Hamilton, Thomas McLaren and Dot Watson, and for Ayr, Liam Pollock.

There are still Ordinary Trustee positions available at Ayr and Hamilton campuses, a bye-election for these positions will be held at the start of academic session 2012-2013. If you are interested in running please visit our website for more information www.sauws.org.uk/elections.

A new campus director has taken post in Ayr. Gordon Hunt will now be managing the day to day direction of the campus and it is SAUWS' goal to work closely with him to make the most out of the building for staff and students alike.

UWS Mitigation Policy

The University is producing a new mitigation policy for the next academic year. They have asked for some feedback on what should be included and how the policy should work.

- One of the ideas put forward by the University is the idea that your mitigation form is signed off by either a personal tutor, module coordinator, member of the student services, member of the effective learning team or one of the counselling staff rather than supplying doctor notes. Whilst getting the form signed the idea is that the member of staff will discuss a support plan for you to help you to complete the assessment at the next possible diet. This support would come in learning agreement format and would be agreed by both the staff member and the student.
- The University also noted that there was a difference in the effect that mitigation/resits have on honour students as this is the only year that marks are capped. Due to this they wondered if honour students should be treated slightly different so they might need to hand in extra evidence for example like a doctor's note?

Your thoughts on this and any other ideas would be appreciated as well.

Motions

(a) Notice in terms of the Education Act 1994

Property of: Board of Trustees

The Students' Association is required under the terms of the above Act of Parliament to provide the following information.

At meetings of the Students' Councils a decision will be taken on continued affiliation to the under noted external bodies for 2012-13.

The National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS UK)/ NUS Services Ltd	£20,542.25
British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS)	£2,432.12
Scottish University Sports Institutional membership fee	£4,795.00
British Universities American Football League (BUAFL)	£605.00

The figures above were the fees payable in the last financial year.

Any member of the Students' Association who wishes to have the above affiliation reviewed by general ballot (referendum), must call for this as described in the Constitution of SAUWS, copies of which are available from:

SAUWS
The Students' Union
Storie St
Paisley
PA1 2HB
www.sauws.org.uk

A CALL FOR A GENERAL BALLOT REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF 5% OF THE ORDINARY MEMBERS OF SAUWS.

(b) A Helpline on Student Cards

Tabled by SAUWS LGBT Society (STAR Group)

Council Notes:

- UWS is one of the few institutions in the west of Scotland to have no helpline or emergency number at the back of their student cards.
- It is in the Student Association's and the University's best interest to keep students safe.
- Students are more likely to suffer from stress and other types of mental illnesses.
- Students in some social groups can be more unsafe than others, such as students who are woman, disabled, BME, LGBT and so on.
- Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonia University both have a contact number on the back of their student cards ran by nightline.
- Nightline is a confidential telephone and online listening and information service ran by trained students for the students of Glasgow Caledonian and Strathclyde Universities.
- On nightline you can discuss private issues, if you are stressed, in danger, if you are not coping or even just want a gab.
- The City of Glasgow College is also looking at becoming part of nightline.

Council Believes:

- Students' time spent at university is supposed to be some of the best years in a student's life, not the worst.
- By having a helpline or emergency number it will allow students to voice their problems.
- Any helpline or emergency number at the back of a students' card is better than no number at all.
- A helpline or an emergency number at the back of a student card will benefit ALL students.
- All new student cards should have an emergency number or helpline such as something like nightline, the police or an equivalent.

Council Resolves:

- For SAUWS to discuss with the people who run nightline, to see if it is possible for the University of the West of Scotland to use their number.
- For SAUWS to lobby the University of the West of Scotland to change the back of student cards to have an emergency phone number or helpline, such as nightline or the contact details for the police or something similar.