

## **MINUTES**

### **STUDENTS' COUNCIL HAMILTON**

**Thursday 11 April, 12.30pm, Boardroom 2 (Almada Building)**

In the Chair, Garry Quigley, President.

Depute Chair, Kate Sharkie, Campus President Hamilton

#### **1. Sederunt**

Kate Sharkie	Campus President Hamilton (CPH)
Dot Watson	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Thomas McLaren	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Cameron Mathieson	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Connor Smith	Applied Bioscience
Zoheb Khalid	Law
Steven Davidson	Law

#### **In attendance**

Michaela Little Woodhouse Union Manager Hamilton

#### **Video Conference Sederunt**

##### Paisley

Garry Quigley	President
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Jack Douglas	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Heather Armstrong	Social Science
Cameron Stewart	Social Science
Jamie Kinloch	Social Science
Konstantinos Zidianakis	Information Technology
Lisa Jackson	Human Resource Management
Laura McCartney	Web and Mobile Development

#### **In attendance**

Claire Lumsden Student Representation Co-ordinator (SR Co-ord)

##### Ayr

Ewan McCreath	Campus President Ayr
Pearl Willis	Ordinary Trustee Ayr
Karen Little	Adult Nursing
Heather Armstrong	Social Science (Paisley)

#### **In attendance**

Heather Weir General Assistant Ayr

## **2. Acceptance of Apologies Hamilton**

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Callum Bruce	Sports Coaching/Football Team Representative
Will McAllister	Applied Bioscience
Geraldine Brown	Applied Bioscience
Blane Abercrombie	Sports Coaching and Development
Magdalena Bieniasz	International Financial Management

## **3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting**

**(a) Matters arising from those minutes- None**

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

CPH reads through report as submitted, however also outlines that work was done on introducing a Halls Surgery in Halls of Residence or in CPH office, A meeting with Halls manager to finalise this will take place in due course. CPH has also attended the Subject Health Review for School of Computing and attended a Nursing Assessment Working Group. CPH states that notes on all points can be found in the CPH report or on request from CPH. CPH also attended the Board of Trustees meeting.

Cameron Mathison noted a thank you to CPH on behalf of Hamilton SRC for SAUWS work done to date and congratulations on re-election. Unanimous applause.

*VC discussions begins*

President talks through report, explains that following the meeting with the Chief Executive of SAAS there is now a new website for SAAS to make things clearer for students when applying. For students who have supporting documentation, this can now be scanned and submitted via the website to SAAS rather than posting. In addition, some sabbatical officers across the west of Scotland will receive training by SAAS to go through some of the main errors which are made by students in an application. Adds that last Friday there was the launch of an awareness campaign - 'Sun, Sea and SAAS' - to get returning students to apply early for their awards meaning that students going through clearing and late applicants should get a better and quicker service. President is hopeful that this progress will make things better for students.

States that the next Principal of UWS has been announced, this will be Professor Craig Mahoney from the Higher Education Academy. Informs members that Professor Mahoney has previously worked with institutions on the Learning and Teaching awards which most Scottish Higher Education Institutions now have. President explains that as a member of the Interview Panel he supports this appointment as Professor Mahoney is very student focused. President adds that he is also involved in interviews for the next Depute Principle and would be keen to see this person also have a focus on student's needs.

Informs Council that the University are going ahead with developments for a new Hamilton campus which both the Campus President Hamilton and the President Elect will be involved with.

President informs Council that with regards to accommodation, the University want to increase costs by 3%, President and Campus President Ayr submitted a paper to the UWS Policy and Resource Committee standing against this increase, the decision has now been delayed and SAUWS have set up a survey to gather experiences of those living in halls, please encourage any

colleagues/friends living in halls to complete it. The survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NG6CGXY>.

President also informs Council that SAUWS won campaign of the year for 'Retaining Scotland's Potential' and Higher Education Students Association of the year during the recent NUS Scotland Awards, President extends his thanks to everyone who gets involved in campaigns and with the Students Association, particularly to our past sabbatical officers.

President invites members to ask questions. Jamie Kinloch comments that we should be incredibly grateful to the President for all that has been achieved with regards to SAAS, adds that no-one else has grasped the issues and made this happen. Council members agree with this.

President's report unanimously accepted.

Sports President gives a verbal report, states that since the last Council meetings the Sports Clubs season has been finishing up, progression for teams this year has been very good with many finishing in the highest league positions ever, the Hockey team in particular have performed very well to win their league.

Outlines that Societies are still developing, the computer networking and computer games society over in Ayr have been doing well. The Health Body Health Mind campaign is also finishing up, we have managed to secure a gym card referral for any student who visits the Counselling team as there is a proven link between good physical health and positive mental health, there is also meditation sessions at Paisley Campus and we are looking to organise something similar for Ayr and Hamilton. There are also 'walk to swim' session held at Ayr and Paisley Campuses. Sports President also informs members of a Wrestling taster session which is open to all students, this is for students to have fun with and for showmanship, this forms part of a full event being held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Sports President reminds Council of the Sports Ball being held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, this is open to all students and tickets are £20 which will cover the full event including a 3 course meal, the event itself, a band and the after event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Union. Also informs members that this year there are new awards and a bigger committee to select the winners. Adds that before the next meeting he will try to organise the Sports Executive and Sports and Societies President Elect to begin planning for next years running of sports and societies.

Sports President invites members to ask questions. Heather Armstrong asks if the Wrestling match was a Board of Trustees decision or a commercial one, Sports President states that the Students Association in general are looking for different events to do, this event has been done in the past during fresher's and was well received, the Association were approached by the company again and asked to do a taster session alongside the main event. Essentially it was a commercial decision however the Board had asked the Commercial Manager to look at events for a Saturday Night and felt this would be good, adds that this event is not costing SAUWS anything and students have discounted tickets for the event.

Cameron Stuart asks for clarification on the new Sports Ball awards, asking if there is a Sports Team of the year, Sports President clarifies that the new awards are Society of the Year, Progressive club of the Year, New Student Club of the year which is open to sports teams and

societies, adds that Colours are open to all and blues are for Sports teams which is in line with all other Sports Unions.

Sports President Report unanimously accepted.

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

**6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-**  
**(a) ICT issues**

Scott Knox, representative from ICT Services is invited into the room for this discussion. Scott Knox introduces himself and invites members to ask questions or give comments about the services provided.

Ian Shepherd asks if the printers are being replaced by touch screen printers, Scott Knox responds yes they will all eventually be replaced adding that Students in Ayr already have this system in place and they are multi functioning, Paisley's touch screens are a test at the moment to see how well they are received by students but we can't give a timescale of completion, asks members how they feel about them. Ian Shepherd states that he understands it allows people to scan and print but it can be confusing and sometimes the buttons don't seem to work when pushed, Scott Knox states that by default these are lower specification than in Ayr at the moment but we would like to make more use of them, adds that ICT are not responsible for them though, it is printing services who own them. States that ICT will assist students with any issues, but the machines will be replaced with faster ones in due course. Scott Knox invites Ayr Campus members to give their thoughts on the touch screens, Pearl Willis states that the system there went down on Tuesday and that students were distressed as to the effects this would have on printing out coursework and the possibility of losing marks due to late submission, President suggests that students in this situation should contact him for advice. Scott Knox informs members that all the ThinClient systems went down from Monday evening until Tuesday evening and this had to be resolved by an external organisation as it is out with the control of ICT. Jamie Kinloch states that the key pads for log in are not appropriate as they are not suitable for disabled students. Scott Knox suggests that this can be looked at however there are alternatives that can be introduced such as fobs or a security strip on student cards, adds that for students with physical difficulties they and ICT can go to enabling support to assist students. Ian Shepherd comments that there is a technical issue with the printers, he was told that if a student logged out before the printing had finished they don't get charged, Scott Knox states that ICT and Printing services are aware of the issue and are trying to resolve it. Heather Armstrong asks if the system is being rolled out did they ask students what they thought of them, Scott Knox states that ICT are not responsible for the system, it is Printing services. Heather Armstrong also asks if there is a point of contact at Enabling Support for ICT and Printing issues. Scott Knox suggests that if a student says they can't use the system they could get in touch with Enabling Support and they would contact ICT/Printing to resolve any issues. Jamie Kinloch comments that students should not have to go through this route as it is disablist.

Thomas McLaren asks why the touch screen printers haven't been implemented at Hamilton Campus yes, Scott Knox states that this is up to printing services to do.

Jack Douglas states that with regards to the Wifi there are gaps in the service if using your on computer, it depends where you are on campus as to whether it will work or not, adds that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't, the advice he is given is often just to keep trying. Scott Knox states that there are a number of issues here, for example there is

a finite number of IP addresses and they can get really busy at lunch time blocking the IP. One thing we could do is put in more WiFi access points, however more money is needed to do this and to improve the system in general, adds that there are access points across all campuses though.

Pearl Willis comments that the WiFi in Ayr Hall of Residence has a poor connection and has been told to use the Ethernet connection, Scott Knox states that he was at Ayr campus recently and has staff going over in the next couple of weeks to test the access and pass this over to the support team, adds that the issue is the number of people trying to connect at any one, this time could be students doing coursework but may also be students playing games online or using consoles with online functions, again there is a finite bandwidth but were are looking at how this can be improved. Adds that the system is an academic provision so we have to be careful about what we're allowing for use, WiFi accommodation issues will be sent to the Policy and Resource Committee

Thomas McLaren asks if the access can be increased, Scott Knox states that this will cost money but don't think we can do it anyway.

Ian Shepherd states that some of the computers have UWS desktop ThinClient and windows login, asks if this is going to be rolled out one way or the other. Scott Knox states that there are the same devices at Paisley and Hamilton, the ThinClient device experience of logging in is different and there are no plans to replace all the machines with one system. Adds that they can't be put everywhere though as some of the courses require specific computers.

Konstantinos Zidianakis states that many of the computers in the J101 labs are not fully working, students see they are not working so move to a different one and no one is reporting them, asks if ICT can put up signs to direct students on how to get issues fixed. Scott Knox states that ICT find this frustrating as well, ICT would like to do more maintenance however the staffing resource isn't there, but will take this forward as priority. States that when students or staff get in touch this is logged with a reference number and any changes or maintenance will be noted. Encourages students to report issues either by visiting the ICT reception at the relevant campus or via email at [helpdesk@uws.ac.uk](mailto:helpdesk@uws.ac.uk) or phone them on 0141 848 3999.

Sports President states that the University are using Facebook and Twitter more often and asks if ICT could advertise on these as well, Scott Knox suggests this will be looked into.

Council thank Scott Knox for his time, he then leaves the room.

#### **(b) SAUWS Election results**

President states that the Elections this year had a good turn out with more than 800 students voting. The elected Board of Trustees for Academic session 2013-14 will be:

- President – Blane Abercrombie
- DPEW – Stephen Smith
- Sports and Societies President – Ryan Wood
- Campus President Ayr – Cal Reid
- Campus President Hamilton – Kate Sharkie
- Ordinary Trustee Ayr – Niall McGeachy, Pearl Willis
- Ordinary Trustee Hamilton – Cammie Matheson, Dot Watson, Connor McRae
- Ordinary Trustee Paisley – Heather Armstrong, Stuart McCabe, Iain Shepherd

President congratulates those elected and wishes them a successful term in office.

### **(c) NUS Scotland Conference Report**

President outlines the NUS Scotland Conference, states that Jamie Kinloch was running for NUS Scotland President and put in a fantastic effort, however was just short of winning by a few votes. The NUS Scotland President for session 2013-14 will be Gordon Maloney, Robert Foster is elected vice-president (education) and Sinead Wylie is elected vice-president (communities). SAUWS would like to wish them all the best in their roles.

Policy passed at conference included the introduction of a Sections conference – this means that NUS Scotland will now host conferences for Mature, Part-time and International students. Access and retention - this motion called for an independent widening access retention unit in Scotland, and mandates for further research of access and retention for liberation groups, care leavers, access to professions and postgraduates. Improving SAAS – the motion called for NUS to take hold of SAAS issues and look at ways to further improve the system for Colleges and Universities. Policy was also passed which mandates NUS to stay neutral for the Scottish referendum debate.

President invites questions or comments from Council.

Jack Douglas states that delegate places for conference and travel costs money and sometimes people don't turn up on the day meaning we can't be reimbursed or elect another person, adds that if an elected delegate knows they can't go they should inform the Returning Officer as soon as possible so that the place might be given to someone else or we may be able to get reimbursed. In the past both ordinary students and elected member haven't gone to conference and these students should be held to account by Students Council or referred to the SAUWS Disciplinary Committee to be reprimanded. SRCo-ord informs members that currently disciplinary action is not possible, all that Council can do is hold those students to account, suggests that this can be looked at however via the constitutional review.

Cameron Stuart states with regards to National Conference, Council should condemn the actions of those who cheered the death of Margaret Thatcher on Conference Floor, President states that he supports the statement by the National President which was made at conference condemning the action as disrespectful.

## **7. Motions- None**

*VC discussion ends*

### **Hamilton Campus only**

#### **1. Elections**

CPH outlines the positions for the Disciplinary Committee and Elections Committee.

-Disciplinary Committee

Zoheb Khalid and Steven Davidson proposed for Disciplinary Committee members, seconded by Dot Watson and Thomas McLaren

-Elections Committee

There are no candidates.

Unfilled positions on these committees will be taken to next meeting of Council.

Cameron Mathieson sought clarification on role of Trustees for the Disciplinary and Elections Committees members. It was noted that the Board of Trustees are the Appeals route for students who are not satisfied with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and therefore no member of the Board should be a member of the Disciplinary Committee. For the Elections Committee the constitution does not allow for any member of the Board to sit on the Elections Committee.

## **2. AOCB-**

Connor Smith states that Halls students are unhappy about costs and would like a breakdown on all costs involved in their rent payments – what are we actually paying for? Students would like a meeting to discuss a 'Halls Working Group'. CPH will report to the next meeting on any developments.

Cameron Mathieson would like it noted that feedback on why Hamilton Halls student opinion was not sought by President as per last SRC. Hamilton Trustees sought opinion as President did not. CPH talked on a point on behalf of Calum Bruce as follows – A request for University holidays to coincide with School holidays due to lack of childcare funding. It was stated that there are various Schools and districts to consider and that not all dates would be met. Students would like a childcare fund introduced. CPH to look into this and report back. Students not happy attending classes when their children are on holiday as they don't have the funds to afford childcare.

Dot Watson stated that the advertising of a 'childcare fund' is misleading and needs addressed with Student Services. CPH to seek guidance on financial assistance form UWS on this matter. Cameron Mathieson noted that the SAUWS President Elect has pledged a solution to financial assistance in his manifesto for 2013/14

KD noted that access times have been cut to the Engineering labs which is affecting students studying and assessment submission. Students have to request extensions when they cannot meet deadlines through not being able to access the labs. Students have complained to the Dept. but nothing changed as yet. CPH to contact Engineering Department to outline concerns and seek solution to access times.

### Police Liaison Committee meeting (PLC)

- CPH reported that Estates are to move the large container outside the Union
- Estates to redirect the CCTV cameras to cover the Union and surrounding area.
- CPH noted that UMH had attended PLC to report on Third Party Hate Crime Reporting. SAUWS Hamilton is now a TPHCR site open to students. CPH thanked UMH for attending and reporting back.

*Start: 12.30pm*

*Finish: 2:15pm*