

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) HAMILTON

Tuesday 14th February, 12pm, Boardroom 1 (Almada)

In the Chair, Samantha Phillips, Campus President Hamilton

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

Sam Phillips	Campus President Hamilton
Garry Quigley	President
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Thomas McLaren	Computer Networking
Kirsty McKeowan	BA Journalism
Andrew Gemmill	Football Hamilton 3 rd
Kayleigh Rennie	Applied Bioscience with Forensic Investigation
William McAllister	Applied Bioscience with Forensic Investigation
Stephen McCormack	Applied Bioscience with Forensic Investigation
Thomas McLaren	Computer Networking
Siobhan Wilson	Mental Health Nursing/Netball 2 nd
Jason Fernandes	MBA Programme
Tanveer Hameed	MBA Programme

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Cara Lee	Depute President Education and Welfare
Fraser McChlery	BSc Motorsports design/ Motorsports society

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 outlines the report of business. States that there is now an Xbox in the union for students to play with, this was asked for in the suggestion box just before Christmas break by students. Informs council that Refreshers events have been very successful, lots of students signed up to join our sports clubs and societies and we gave away lots of freebies. Also informs Council that the SAUWS website has been redeveloped and is now live, available at www.sauws.org.uk.

Sports President states that Hamilton Campus based teams are coming on well. The football team is in the quarter finals of the cup, our indoor athletics participants came 3rd in the championships, Netball and Basketball are also doing well, as is the Motor Sports Society. Also informs Council that Salsa classes have now started and are held on Fridays 5pm-6pm.

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Car Parking Ballot

The new car parking criteria is outlined and Council is asked to comment on what they think of it. Council agree that the criteria is generally ok, however feel that a first come first serve policy should be used thereafter. Council members feel that spaces being reserved for staff is unfair if students are in Uni before staff members, members find it frustrating when they can see parking spaces but are refused entry, President agrees with this point. Members also feel that one university wide policy will not work and that campus specific policies should be used to take account staff and student numbers. There are also concerns for students on placement who may only attend University regularly for 1 trimester. There are further concerns about the Travel Route criteria as Council members feel that some students and staff may take advantage of this by claiming to be further away than they are.

(b) NUS Scotland Motion

President outlines the motion put forward to NUS Scotland Conference. States that it was formed through discussions with council throughout the year and explains that UWS is a widening access University but has poor retention rates, states that to gauge Scottish retention rates in general Freedom of Information requests were made to all Universities to ask for retention figures for the first 8 weeks of term, they are currently requesting clarity of a few points, any information will be shared at future Council meetings. President has met with MSP's and wider government to discuss particular issue however feels there is now a need for national support. Outlines that the research project we asked for will not be commissioned therefore we believe NUS must assist with this. President states that he hopes the motion will be passed at conference. There were no questions however Council agree this is a good area to focus on.

(c) SAUWS Strategic Plan

President outlines the strategic plan stating that he hopes the plan will give a bit of consistency within the Students Association. A numbers of questions were posed to the President with regards to Sports and Societies, and investment in these

Siobhan Wilson outlines questions regarding the Plan, in particular concerns were raised about the impact any changes will have on our Sports Clubs and Societies.

President outlines that the Budget for 2011/12 has been approved and the Association has started looking at next year's budget. President further suggests that sending staff members to conferences and investing in staff training needs to be done to ensure we have good staff support and are up to date with the national picture, adds that networks created do benefit the Association, suggests that SAUWS has only spent £3,500 for training and conferences which is a 30% reduction in costs from last year.

Sports President suggests that the 2009/10 budget was agreed however this changed at Christmas to £25,000 as teams at Hamilton Campus could not get started as there was not enough money to push teams, this is being redressed this year. Further suggests any student looking at accounts will see the past and current Sports President felt it had been agreed with £900 less than last year, if the Association wants to increase participation, money needs to be invested as societies are for all students and we shouldn't have to turn students away. Sports President also points out that sign ups and teams have almost doubled this year, as such the Sports budget may be over which may be a hindrance for next year.

President outlines that the Board of Trustees make decisions on budgets and in theory the Association is insolvent, however we are in debt to University and any money we generate through commercial services goes towards paying off that debt. Further explains that the Association has gained much respect from the University, President has met with the Principle to discuss our debt and agreed to negotiate repayment of debt, which included devising a business plan to keep a percentage of money raised, with the rest being paid back to the University to clear the debt. Sports President suggests that more information on a financial plan is needed in the strategy and should show what it's for, in addition a commercial services plan should be developed.

Andrew Gemmill Left the room: 12.42pm

Thomas McLaren asks where the funds come from for Association activities, President outlines that 89% comes from the University in the form of a block grant with 11% coming from commercial services. Thomas McLaren enquires if we can get funding from elsewhere, President suggests yes and that we are looking into this, Council will be informed of any developments as they arise.

Council members feel that if the plan takes 4 years to implement, students won't notice any changes, President agrees to some extent, however outlines specific changes that may occur including an increase in the number of sports clubs and societies, improvements to the Union events and buildings etc. Council members also enquire if the timescales can be achieved, President suggests the plan is a vision and every attempt will be made to keep to the timescales outlined.

Siobhan Wilson suggests that as the Association is a non-profit organisation we wouldn't get funding from some sources, also suggests that we should be challenging the University more when it comes to funding and paying off our financial debts to them, President agrees and believes the Association is underfunded however there is a need to prove this. Sports President agrees that there is a need to challenge the University more, Siobhan Wilson comments that in 2008/09 a detailed plan of Sports and Representation had been submitted to the University which has not been taken on or implemented, President suggests this may be due to the Association losing money at that time.

Jason Fernandes and Tanveer Hameed left the room 12.47

Council Members also enquire about the UWS Transition activities suggesting there are duplication of activities wasting time and money on campaign. SR Co-ord inform Council that the funding for the Transition team did not come from the Association, rather it was a bid for specific activities and is a project many universities have undertaken, also stated the we have no control over transition activities, however we have benefited from them as they have raised the profile of the Association as a whole.

Council members also ask if the Association consulted with students on campaigns for 2011-12, President outlines that the Accommodation campaign was voted for by students last year, however others had been chosen by the Board of Trustees and presented to Council for comment, at these Council meetings no members objected to the campaigns for the year ahead. President further outlines that GOATing has been done in connection with these campaigns and will be done in future for other campaigns.

President thanks Council members for their input in this discussion and reminds members that the plan should be challenged and is glad students are taking the time to ask questions.

(d) Post-16 Response

President outlines that this document was attached to the Agenda email sent to Council members and states that it is for information only, however if Council members have any questions or comments to get in touch him on president@sauws.org.uk.

(e) Student Led Learning and Teaching Awards

CPH outlines that the Student Led Learning and Teaching Awards are now open for nominations. States that this is the 3rd year of it running and invites Council members to participate by voting for their favourite member of teaching staff. Awards titles are – Best Personal Tutor, Fantastic Feedback Award, Promoting Employability and Personal Development, Best Supervisor, Be Inspired Award, Promoting Inclusive Learning, and the 21st Century Teaching Award. Also encourages Council Members to ask their classmates and university friends to vote as well. Reminds Council that there will be an awards ceremony held towards the end of March, with free food and free bubbly included.

7. Motions- None

8. Elections- None

9. AOCB-

Members were asked to email CPH with any other business they would like to discuss as time had run out for this meeting due to room restrictions, members were informed that in future, rooms will be booked until 1.30pm to accommodate lively discussions and debates.

*Start: 12.05pm
Finish: 1.10pm*