

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Hamilton

Tuesday 15th November, 12pm, room A319

In the Chair, Samantha Phillips, Campus President Hamilton

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

Sam Phillips	Campus President Hamilton
Garry Quigley	President
Cara Lee	Depute President Education and Welfare
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Kirsty McKeown	BA Journalism
William McAllister	BSc Applied Bioscience
Robert Frame	Computer Networking
Thomas McLaren	Computer Networking
Frazer McChlery	Motorsports Design Engineering/Motorsports club
Andrew Gemmill	Sports Coaching / Men's football team
Calum Bruce	Sports Coaching
Gail Barrie	Netball Team 2 nd
Isla Todd	Netball Team 2 nd

In attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator
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2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Paul Friel	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Luke Smith	Applied Bioscience
David Paterson	Applied Bioscience
Ryan Woods	Cricket Club
Louise Riley	BA Journalism

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes-

-6 (b) 3rd paragraph should read 'weather' not 'whether'

-'Fraser' should be 'Frazer' throughout.

CPH feeds back matters from last council meeting – Smoking ban paper will be finished soon and will be sent to the Student Experience Group (SEG), it will also be emailed out to reps.

The webpage referring to the Presidents connection to the SNP – President noted he had submitted a complaint, however the article is still present on the website on the date of this Student council.

Minutes unanimously accepted

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

CPH outlines recent events stating that there was a Jungle party for Movemeber and cycle for smoothies i.e. electricity was generated through peddle power. CPH comments that her proudest moment as Campus President was the teenage cancer night which raised around £1,200 – there were plenty of prizes and a big thank you goes to all students for attending and donating. Children in need is on this week at each campus. CPH also comments that the Sports teams doing well.

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) UWS ICT Facilities

DPEW outlines that students have been complaining about the ICT facilities and wanted to ask council what their experiences are. Thomas McLaren suggests halls is ok, however the connection is slow. Frazer McChlery comments that he has complained about halls WiFi access and was told it was included in the price of halls but then told it was extra. Connection to WiFi in general on campus is not good, Isla Todd suggests she is unable to connect, Frazer McChlery has the same issues. There is uncertainty if the issues are with the computers themselves or with the software, some computers work others don't, but this is not restricted to any type. Frazer McChlery suggests there should be a separate network for Smartphone's. DPEW comments that SAUWS will be GOATing (Going Out and Taking) with questions on the use of Smartphone's. Gail Barrie comments that it would be useful to have a blackboard app, Thomas McLaren suggests there are too many infrastructure issues. Calum Bruce suggests that the system was updated in Halls a couple of weeks ago however there are still issues, CPH reminds students they can take their laptop to ICT to get fixed.

CPH asks about start up times etc for computers, Frazer McChlery suggests with so much software the computers can't handle it, Isla Todd suggests that Mac computers work fine. Thomas McLaren raised computing issues at his SSLG, specifically the lab computers on 3rd floor are not working, William McAllister comments that it takes too long for printing, Calum Bruce asks if it is possible to print from their own laptops, CPH suggests not as this would mean uploading connection to the printer, Thomas McLaren further suggests there are possible viruses on networks and this wouldn't be good for students own computers. Frazer McChlery suggests that he hasn't been able to access the H drive for 3 weeks. William McAllister suggests he has had to go to different rooms to get the software he needs as there are not enough computers for each student, adds that there are regularly cues for computers with the correct software he needs but they are slow. Thomas McLaren suggests he can't access PDP from his laptop, DPEW suggests this is changing to Campus Pack. William McAllister comments that it changed from last year and had to swap everything over. CPH asks if labs are open long enough, council members suggest they are not, Thomas McLaren comments that there are 24hr labs at Herriot-Watt University, why can't we have that, also notes that students are being asked to leave early from labs. Isla Todd specific software needed is available but is not always able to access it. Frazer McChlery suggests more should be published on how to sign on to the new system.

DPEW will take the issues to ICT and will email out any actions.

(b) RUK Update

President updates council on RUK Fees. States that UWS will be charging £7,250 per year for RUK students. We have few RUK students therefore those with more will be able to raise more and will be able to have better facilities. There is a need to redistribute the wealth so there are no further funding gaps. The SAUWS consultation response was sent to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), asks to free up resources for national research on why students drop out as UWS has the second highest drop-out rate in Scotland (21.4%), with only University of the Highlands and Islands higher. President suggests that he will be lobbying Unions, MSP's, NUS and other relevant organisations to gain support, the more leaders who back it the better. President also outlines that he has submitted an amendment to the NUS Scotland Plan of Work to include more on retention. Council members agree this is a good idea.

President asks if there are any questions. Andrew Gemmill what are the costs, President states they will be £7,250 fees and suggests there will be a proposal submitted to the Student Experience Group (SEG) to try to increase student support. Frazer McChlery suggests that the University should be paying for students utility costs particularly in halls with the price increasing, asks how they can warrant these prices, Thomas McLaren agrees. Gail Barrie comments that there are big differences between courses as some students are in for only a couple of days other students are in for 5 days. Calum Bruce suggests that it does depend on the additional reading and independent study time.

A general discussion took place with Council members noting the Hamilton Campus still feels like a collage particularly with temporary signage and the appearance of the buildings. Teaching needs to be more like a University rather than a college.

(c) Constitutional change

SR Co-ord outlines that the proposed motion is asking for By-law 11 to be removed completely from the SAUWS constitution as the General Committee of Clubs and Societies (GCCS) has not existed for a number of years, suggests that non-sporting clubs and societies would benefit from attending Students Council as it will allow them greater exposure and allow council to know what is going on. Further suggests Appendix 3 will be amended as appropriate and will also refer to the new Clubs and Societies Handbook which will be completed soon.

Sports President comments that Hamilton only has a couple of societies. There may be scope to rebuild the GCCS and for reps from it to attend Council, also notes that it is possible for sub-committees to be set up for specific activities if this is appropriate. There may also be a requirement in the future for reps from SRC to sit on sports executive. Isla Todd suggests it is a good idea to find out what's happening.

William McAllister left the room 1pm.

Sports president reminds Council about the Handbook being developed which would address different areas such as disciplinary, conduct and club/society committee elections.

Frazer McChlery asks when it will be finished, Sports President comments that there are a few issues which need to be looked at however now that the constitution is being reviewed it shouldn't be too long. Frazer McChlery comments that the Motorsports society is neither a club nor society, Sports President suggests it is classed as a society as an affiliate club to the GCCS and that they can apply to be a sports club next year, adds that the Sports Union constitution only covers weekly/monthly competitive sports.

7. Motions-

(a) Armed forces

Chair allows 1.30 for speeches for this debate

Speech for: President outlines that he doesn't agree with wars but in previous years the armed forces have not been allowed to recruit in our Union buildings and this motion is asking that they are now able to do so. Further states that students are mature enough to make decisions regarding this.

Speech against: Frazer McChlery states that he does support our armed forces however it is not acceptable to allow them to recruit as there are plenty of other outlets for recruitment, adds however that he does have lots of respect for armed forces.

A second round of speeches is requested. A vote is taken which unanimously passes

Speech for: President suggests that the Students Association is separate from the University and that the armed forces can currently recruit in the Almada building therefore students can still be recruited, this policy will bring both the Students Association and the University in line.

Speech against: Isla Todd suggests that at freshers fayres all organisations attending can be related to university in some way for example companies with University/student deals and the armed forces don't fit, adds that she agrees they need to recruit but not at University.

Council move to vote

For: 2

Against: 7

Abstention: 2

The motion does not pass

(b) Equal marriage

Chair allows 1.30 for speeches for this debate

Speech for: President outlines that there is currently a consultation for same sex marriage by the Scottish Government and that the Students Association should be supporting it. States that no-one should have a monopoly over marriage not even the church, but does respect the churches decision to not want to marry same-sex couples and the legislation will not force them to do so

Speech against is not taken

President asks if there are any question. Council members ask if churches will be expected to marry same-sex couples, president comments that they will not be forced to do this, however it does give them the choice.

Calum Bruce Comments that he believes in equal marriage, but not in forcing churches to marry same-sex couples

Council move to vote

*For: 9
Against: 0
Abstentions: 3
The motion passes*

8. Elections- None

9. AOCB-

President asks council how they found debating motions, Council members suggest they enjoyed it however it is too bureaucratic.

Calum Bruce comments that the cash machine is still regularly without cash. Also asks if it is possible to have fruit in vending machines, CPH will look into this. Calum Bruce also asks if the canteen in the union can be open later. CPH will look into this.

Gail Barrie comments that the lifts are broken as can't get up to the 8th floor, CPH will report this.

*Start: 12.05pm
Finish: 1.20pm*