

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) HAMILTON

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm, Committee Room 1 (Almada)

In the Chair, Samantha Phillips, Campus President Hamilton

### MINUTES

#### 1. Sederunt

Sam Phillips	Campus President Hamilton
Cara Lee	Depute President Education and Welfare
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Paul Friel	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Thomas McLaren	Computer Networking
Kirsty McKeowan	BA Journalism
Frazer McChlery	BSc Motorsports design/Motorsports society
Calum Bruce	Sports coaching/Football team
Johnathan Granstoun	Sports Development/badminton team
Conor Jackson	Social Studies
Jade McCarroll	Social Science
Jacek Niedzwiecki	Computing

#### 2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Garry Quigley	President
Siobhan Wilson	Mental Health Nursing/Netball 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Julie MacFarlane	MSc Biotechnology

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

(a) Matters arising from those minutes-

- Clarification...

6. (c) Reads 'President outlines that the Budget for 2011/12 has been approved'

-Add - 'in his opinion'.

-Add thereafter – 'Sports President Disagreed strongly with the president, stating that budgets were not officially approved and took until November to be discussed when the constitution states this should be done in July. Sports President further explains he believes budgets hadn't been approved because he had been asked for more detail and that would be difficult as clubs had started spending money based on the requested budget from 2011/12.'

Minutes unanimously accepted

#### 4. Acceptance of the report of the business of the Association (attached)

CPH talks through summary report for month, informs Council that she attended the social and economic justice meeting in Lanarkshire with local elections due there has been lots of campaigning for it. Also in attendance were groups from across sectors and charities/voluntary sector. The next meeting will be held in the council building in 2 weeks, anyone wishing more information or want to get involved please email [cph@sauws.org.uk](mailto:cph@sauws.org.uk).

St Patrick day celebrations went well with lots of people attending. Paul Friel asks if it will be possible to have more late night openings, CPH suggests yes hopefully. Sports President asks if it was busy all night, CPH comments that most stayed till end. Thomas McLaren asks about the available transport links for late night openings, CPH comments that they do provide taxi numbers but we can look into buses.

Sports President outlines that sports teams are developing well, particularly social sports such as Salsa, as is Dodgeball. Adds that training/meetings have been held on different days allowing people to organise as they wish and more students to get involved. Further states that the Motorsports society is doing well as is the football team, however they lost at semi finals, adds that most team members will be at UWS next year and is looking forward to seeing the team developing.

Also informs Council of the 5 aside football tournament this weekend on Saturday held at Thornly Park from 10am -3pm for Sports Relief, anyone is welcome to come along.

DPEW informs council of the Learning and Teaching Awards being held on Thursday at Paisley Campus Union, states that confirmations are still coming through but it should be a good night.

Report is unanimous accepted

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

**6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-**

**(a) Student Elections**

CPH 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.

CPH invites questions or comment on the elections, there are none.

**(b) Student Association events/conference**

SR Co-ord outlines that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Student Conference 'Student Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' is being held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 11am to 4.30pm at the Paisley

campus, adds that there are still spaces left and to email [studentconference@sauws.org.uk](mailto: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.

Sports president outlines that this years Sports Ball will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **(c) Constitutional change**

Sports President 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. Thomas McLaren asks if this is necessary, can we get sports teams to be more involved, Sports President suggests there is a need to change the constitution to make it more streamlined first and then get roles and remits filled, states that a new set up would work better, is more digestible with more effort in fewer tasks. Thomas McLaren further asks how and when it will be implemented. Sports President states that it is being worked on currently but will take effect for next year, it also needs to be passed at Council. CPH asks what will be the accountability of VP's if they don't perform their tasks, Sports President states that he would be accountable/responsible, adds that it is not a delegation of tasks, training will be undertaken and will allow more focus at the campus level, this can also be included in the new rewards and recognition scheme. Frazer McChlery asks if this is just passing tasks to others, Sports President states no, there should be a lot more students involved in the Executive as it is student led, also wants it to be fair and democratic. Frazer McChlery comments that he is the convener of motorsports society and deals with all issues, why do we need VP's, Sports president suggests it will be good to have a permanent contact on

campus. Adds that it is a volunteer position, VP's will be nominated and sports teams would vote on who they want in the positions. DPEW asks how the Sports Executive will ensure the finance and budgeting is fair, Sports President suggests it will not just be him making the decisions but a cross-campus representative group, adds that this will be useful for backing up budget requests.

There are no other questions or comments, Sports president informs council the next stage will be a consultation on roles with sports teams and societies.

## **7. Motions-**

### **(a) Library Fines Amnesty**

DPEW outlines the purpose of the motion, explains that at the moment students can borrow up to 15 books with fines capped at £10 per book totalling a potential £150 in fines. Adds that currently students can't graduate with fines/debt owed to the University, this can be a little as little as £10/£20 however to some students this is a lot. The amnesty is asking for a specific period of time when library fines will be set to £0 upon returning books, regardless of how much they owe in order that they can graduate. Comments that library fines are not part of the University's income as they don't know how much will be raised in fines, this would really be a good will gesture.

Speech against taken by Calum Bruce, argues that there are not too many books in library and some modules essential reading is not available a lot of the time, feels that this would just play into people's hands as they would just keep the books as they would think they could clear the debt during the amnesty.

A small discussion among members took place for clarifications, it was noted that this may not be a yearly or regular occurrence and it would only apply to a specific period of time which would include the promotion of the campaign. CPH adds that University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and UWS are merging the use of ebooks and other online resources to enable better access to library services.

Council move to vote

*For 8  
Against 2  
Abstentions 1  
The motion passes*

## **8. Elections-**

(a) None

## **9. AOCB-**

Frazer McChlery comments that he is not too happy about how finances are being split between the unions, believes there is an imbalance between Paisley and the other campuses, adds that the Hamilton Union needs a projector but have been told they can't have one, all finance should be split equally between campuses. Kirsty McKeowan comments that Paisley Union have a new lighting rig and PA system, DPEW suggests that these are not new, they have been repaired. CPH suggests Council mandate her to bring

this up at the next Board of Trustees. DPEW suggests that whenever any of the Unions need something new it goes to the Board to be discussed. Sports President adds that they don't need to wait for meetings if it's urgent, we can ask for it.

Frazer McChlery comments that Hamilton events are better than those held at Paisley Union and finances should be equally shared between the unions.

Sports President informs Council that anyone can look at the SAUWS accounts, to see them email [gm@sauws.org.uk](mailto:gm@sauws.org.uk). Frazer McChlery feels Hamilton is being left out and that there is disparity between campuses. Sports President adds that we can look into having a specific area for finance, Board of Trustee minutes and Council minutes on the SAUWS website.

Calum Bruce comments that SSLG's being carried out by the staff members of the same subject, he is studying Sports Coaching and feels the chair of the last meeting did not allowing student to speak freely feels that someone outwith the programme should be chair, SR Co-ord reminds Council that the University are in the middle of an SSLG review to look at the effectiveness of these, comments that this is a good suggestion and will be taken to the group for consideration.

Kirsty McKeowan enquires if its true Paisley is selling 99p drinks and if so have we considered the welfare effects of this promotion, DPEW comments yes however we have previously sold drinks for a £1 so it's really only a reduction of a penny. Adds that bar and security staff are fully trained to spot those who have had too much, we also give out water for free which sits in the Café so people can help themselves and we sell food. In addition the security team have to ensure taxis are called and there is a bus to take students to and from Thornly Park Halls. Kirsty McKeowan also asks what the drinks for 99p are, DPEW comments that the same drinks that were £1 are now 99p. CPH agrees with concerns of welfare and understands Hamilton students concerns.

Thomas McLaren Comments that there was an ICT meeting at the Paisley campus and asks if there can a similar one at Hamilton. Adds that one lecturer has complained about the log on times as this has seemed to increase recently. DPEW suggests that only 3 students went to the Paisley meeting and would students from Hamilton come if it was organised, approximately half of members in attendance said yes. Thomas McLaren outlines that he has also looked into figures of what the University pay for its network provisions and feels UWS is quite low compared to other institutions, Thomas McLaren asks if an all student email should go out for this, DPEW suggests we will look into this.

Conor Jackson comments that he wasn't aware of who the President or Depute President were as he has not seen them on campus. Adds that he has asked some of his colleagues and university friends about the elections and many didn't know about it. DPEW welcomes comments however suggests that it is not always possible to come over due to university committee meetings which are mainly held at Paisley. Sabbaticals will attend Council, which any student is welcome to attend to address any concerns, adds that students can get in touch with them at any point however and they don't need to wait for Council. Further states that there is no Campus President for Paisley and it is difficult to spread the time evenly. Conor Jackson further comments that he heard the President speak a lot about

paisley during recent Hustings but not so much about Hamilton or Ayr, this was disappointing. Jade McCarroll Enquires if it would be possible to have a Campus President Paisley, DPEW suggests that as we will be undertaking a constitutional review, this has been discussed and will be explored further as has been suggested.

Council members appreciate the difficulties however feel that the surgeries run by the President should be promoted better, further suggest that advertisement across the campuses in general could be better. DPEW informs council that there are unfortunately barriers to where and how we can advertise, use of eboards and TV's must be authorised by the Campus Directors. SR Co-ord informs Council of the Student Experience Group and the importance of what they have raised, suggests this will be brought up there and hopefully we will be able to better access to promoting our activities. Jade McCarroll suggests perhaps a petition should be used to provide evidence for improvements to this.

Kirsty McKeown reminds council that at it's first meeting she brought up a potential conflict of interest as the President was seen as supporting the SNP MSP Derek McKay in an article, in the capacity of President of SAUWS and that council and the President agreed that this should be taken down, comments that this has not happened even though the President had assured Council that it had been removed. Jade McCarroll also saw it last week and feels it should be removed, suggests it was on the NUS website and the Derek McKay website. Council members agree and suggest they would like to hold the President to account for this and issues discussed earlier.

SR Co-ord suggests that as the President is not present, it may be appropriate to allow him to defend his actions and be held to account in person. It is proposed to hold a vote to gather majority opinion on whether to hold a censure vote at this meeting or to postpone it to the next meeting of Council when the President will be present.

A vote is taken with the majority voting to hold the President to account at the next meeting.

Calum Bruce asks if DPEW is any further forward in looking into bus link to the Hamilton Campus. DPEW comments that it was brought up at the car parking meeting but is not confident it will go further than that, suggests it will be brought up with Claire Roxborough who is the Universities Environmental Co-ordinator, it is hoped that her backing and input will allow greater recognition of the need for effective bus links and services.

Council ask when the next Council meeting will be held, SR Co-ord suggests this will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April however confirmation will be made closer to the time.

*Start: 12.05pm  
Finish: 1.30pm*