

## MINUTES

### **STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) HAMILTON**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, room A163

In the Chair, Kate Sharkie, Campus President Hamilton

#### **1. Sederunt**

Kate Sharkie	Campus President Hamilton (CPH)
Blane Abercrombie	President
Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Cameron Mathieson	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Dot Watson	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Connor Smith	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Kayley Richardson	Applied Bioscience with Forensic Investigation
Natalie Gordon	BA Law
Christopher Tracey	BA Law
Risa Kilikeviciante	BA Criminal Justice
Ann Michell	BSc Computing
Jade McCarroll	BA Social Science
Ruth Mathews	BA Social Science
Megan Mitchel	BA Journalism

#### **In attendance**

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)
Heather Armstrong	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Women's STAR Group

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

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
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#### **3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting**

##### **(a) Matters arising from those minutes-**

- i. CPH notes changes to the Election results as stated in the previous minutes, changes are: DPEW is Iain Shepherd, not Stephen Smith. Connor McRae should be Connor Smith.

Minutes accepted

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

CPH reads through report. States that the new Board of Trustees have gone through the NUS training for officers and this went well. Notes that Kate Tedford is now the Campus Director for Hamilton, Iain Patrick (former Campus Director) is now Director of College Partnerships. Fresher's events went well, planning for refreshers has already begun and would welcome any suggestions for events from students. Also reminds members that all money spent in the Union goes back into Students Association.

There are no questions, CPH report accepted

President reads through his report. States that he has been working on his manifesto pledges, comments that the Board of Trustees and some staff have been doing equality and diversity/liberation training which has gone really well. Also been working with the University on issues relating to international students, Student Administration are writing a paper on how the University interact with this group of students, adds that currently international students are expected to get a signature from the lecturer that they are in class as well as sign the class register and this is unfair. Also, if they need to be away from University for any period of time they must inform the Uni of this. The University suggest they are following UKBA guidelines on this however President believes these requirements are unnecessary as do NUS UK who are also working on improving the experience of these students.

There are no questions, Presidents report accepted.

DPEW reads through his report. States that he has been working on Pay Day Loans websites trying to get these blocked, Council members thank DPEW for this action as a positive step, DPEW asks if anyone sees anymore just get in touch and he'll ask ICT to block them. States that he has been meeting with banks and credit unions to help with the saving for summer campaign, which aims to encourage students to save money for the summer when SAAS is not paid. Adds that if external organisations can't accommodate, the other option is to get the University to assist with this. DPEW further states that he is also looking at the provision of the library service and how we sit with other institutions, a paper has been written and will go to the appropriate committee. Hopes that funding will be in place for next year to improve the access to power supply for students bringing their own computers as well as more computers generally, also looking at getting more books and improving the library buildings. DPEW states that he has also been meeting with relevant people regarding assessment methods and will get information from UWS on the different methods used and then look at other institutions to get examples of good practice to share. States that International events are on-going, has been encouraging international students to explore Scotland while here. Also has been lobbying the University for smoking shelters as can cause a lot of litter and students have to walk through smoke to get into campus which is part of why the ban was brought in in the first place.

There are no questions, DPEW report accepted

Sports and Societies President reads through his report. States that the Sports Union has been rebranded as 'Team UWS' and has received funding of £5000 from the University to get an official logo and to support the rebranding process of kits. SAUWS had a launch night in Paisley for this which was well received, there will also be a similar event held at Ayr and Hamilton. Adds that the affiliation deadline to Team UWS is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013, if sports teams or societies are not affiliated by that point we will need to check where they stand as they cannot run under Sports Presidents remit. Also states that the SAUWS constitution by-laws 11 and 12 are relevant to Sport and Societies and is being reviewed.

There are no questions Sports and Societies Presidents report accepted

*Cameron Mathieson requests the suspension of standing orders in order that motion 7. (b) is heard. This is seconded by Dot Watson. Council vote and is accepted. Council move to discuss Motion 7. (b) Keep the song 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke banned from our Unions.*

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

**6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-**

**(a) SAUWS Annual Report 2012-13**

CPH reminds Council that the SAUWS Annual report is available on the SAUWS website and encourages members to read this to see what we did last year and what we can build on for the year ahead. Reminds members that SAUWS won Students Association of the Year 2013 from NUS Scotland and Campaign of the Year 2013 for the campaign 'Retaining Scotland's Potential' run by the former President Garry Quigley

**(b) SAUWS Priorities for 2013-14**

CPH explains priorities for this year are to continue to work closely with union staff to build up trade as all money spent in the Union goes back into the Union, Connor has been a great help. Safe space campaign, every diversity of student is safe and able to feel comfortable in the union, with the wide student body this year,

President explains he will be working on his manifesto pledges. In particular will be looking at getting the travel expenses from SAAS reinstated and will be working with the National Union of Students (NUS) on student travel costs generally. Will be doing work around opening up the Students Association to be more accountable and transparent for students. Will also be looking at the Assessment methods used by UWS and will write a paper to evidence this and how we can learn from and share practice with other institutions. Also looking at the academic experiences of our international students as stated in Report of Business of the Association. The president invites questions from members.

DPEW explains his priorities for the year ahead are to look at the provision of the library, in particular the academic resources in terms of books and access to and condition of study areas as well as opening hours as stated in the Report of the Business of the Association. Will also be looking at getting more structured hours while at University so that students have timetabled study times. In addition is also working with international students on their cultural experiences while studying in Scotland and encouraging and supporting them to visit different areas. Also will be looking at the long term running of the Students Association with a view to enhancing the services we provide. Adds he will also be working on improving funding from SAAS, looking at the possibility of continuous funding for 12 months rather than 9 months. There are no questions from members.

Sports President explains that he is developing the Sports Union to run more efficiently, the system hasn't really worked in the past and he would like to see more students engaged in sports and activities as this is good for future employment. Also will be working with the University in looking at introducing Wednesday afternoons free, so far this has been well received as the consultation process for timetabling so far has been extremely positive. There are no questions from members

Ordinary Trustees introduce themselves and state they will be working with the CPH in executing her priorities.

### **(c) Timetabling of classes – UWS Consultation**

CPH informs members of the UWS timetable consultation being conducted at the moment. States the survey will close on Monday 28th October. So far there has been a good response from the student body. It has been suggested that the University will run staff-student focus groups on each campus to discuss the findings from the review. The dates and times which have been agreed with the Campus Directors are as follows:

Campus	Date	Time	Room
Ayr Campus	Tuesday, 12th November	12.00 noon	GT 25
Hamilton Campus	Wednesday, 13th November	11.00 am	C3.16
Paisley Campus	Thursday, 14th November	1.00 pm	D147
Dumfries Campus	Friday, 15th November	12.00 pm	TBA

The intention is that each of the meetings would last about an hour. It is expected that there will be around 12 members of staff to the campus meetings and there should be a similar number of Student Reps going along as well. We would encourage student reps to attend the meetings in order that the student view is considered. If you would like to attend please email [src@sauws.org.uk](mailto:src@sauws.org.uk) as soon as you know you can attend. We have been asked to forward the number attending for catering purposes. Although only 12 reps are required, if more than 12 reps wish to attend, the Students Association will ensure a good mix of programmes and schools are represented. Heather Armstrong states that she and the President sit on the project team for this and although 800+ students have answered the survey only around 40 staff have and points out that the focus groups is where issues or concerns may be made so it is essential that students put the date in their diary if they can attend. Staff are more likely to attend focus groups however in order to ensure an equal mix of views, we would encourage students to attend.

## **7. Motions-**

### **(a) Notice in terms of the Education Act 1994**

Cameron Mathieson disputes that the motion has been submitted by Board of Trustees and would like it to be withdrawn, the Chair agrees. SRCo-ord suggests that the motion was submitted to SRC by the 2012-13 President at the last Council meeting of that session. Council request that Cameron Mathieson check minutes from the relevant Board of Trustees meeting.

### **(b) Keep the song 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke banned from our Unions**

Speech for is waved by the President to Heather Armstrong. States that there is a need to ban this song, it is not about banning a sexist song because if it was we would be banning songs left right and centre. The reason this song was banned and should continue to be banned is to keep women and men in our unions happy and healthy. This is not about offending it's about protecting, protecting inspiring women at our university who have survived sexual violence. These women are some of the strongest people I have ever met but the lyrics are triggering their experiences of the violence they have been subjected to. Triggers are caused by a strong emotional response to depiction or description of past trauma without any notice. This may not be the case for all our women and men students but the fact is that as student representatives we have a duty of care to all our students. We talk about SAUWS being a safe space for everyone and promoting healthy minds, so why don't we practice what we preach, respect the amazing students who are willing to speak out about their experiences and vote for this motion, keep 'blurred lines' out of our unions.

Speech against: There is no speech against however CPH allows a discussion.

Ann Mitchell suggests that she doesn't feel there is enough information on why the song has been banned, DPEW suggests information has been sent out via several communication channels however clearly this has not been effective in informing students of the decision taken. President suggests the decision was taken to ban the song due to concerns raised by several students as well as the SAUWS Women's STAR group and that a blog will be written on why it has been banned, however adds that if Campus Council decides not to continue the ban the blog will still go out. Sports President states that students came to ask him about it before he knew, but more information needs to be given on why it should be banned. Cameron Mathieson suggests students should agree or disagree on the motion as it stands. Heather Armstrong asks Council what kind of information they would like as she is the convener of the Women's Group across SAUWS and also is on the NUS Scotland Women's Campaign Committee, CPH adds that the writer of the song has actually changes some of the lyrics due to the controversy around it. Jade McCarroll reinforces that the lyrics are deeply offensive and that it is not just about the lyrics, it's that students are finding this song triggering and can make them feel unsafe. CPH adds that the song was banned at Hamilton Union because women who came to her had been raped and the song had triggered memories of the abuse and they couldn't come in to the union in case the song was playing, adds that this action would be taken for any song which had this affect. Connor Smith states that he has conducted a survey of 40 students. Questions asked were - do you find the song offence, yes or no, 88% said they did not find it offensive, also asked was do you agree with the song being banned, yes or no, only 37% said yes, then students were asked given the circumstances of students finding the song triggering, should the song be banned, yes or no, 65% said no, the final question was did the banning of the song have a positive, negative or indifferent effect on SAUWS, 30% indicated it had a positive effect, 10% said negative and 60% said it was unaffected. CPH points out this was an independent survey and not one conducted by the Board of Trustees, states that the vote today will be final. Heather Armstrong states that we have a duty of care to our students and admits she likes the tune but not the actual lyrics, adds that if it has affected someone so much that they no longer want to come to the Union we must take a stand against it. Connor Smith suggests he is concerned about the ban and this may cause further issues to come to Council, where does the banning of songs end, it could lead to inconsistencies with safe space. President states that if any student comes to us with anything that upsets them or triggers negative experiences it makes our buildings an unsafe place for students then we should ban it, our unions should be a safe space for everyone, if another song upsets someone we will take it to Council also. Heather Armstrong points out that the song was banned due to safe space adding this didn't necessarily need to come to council as we have safe space and this is covered by that policy, the democratic process however is that this was asked to come to Council and therefore it came to Council.

CPH requests Council now take a vote.

*For: 11*

*Against: 0*

*Abstain: 2*

*The motion passes*

*Standing orders are reinstated, Council move back to order paper, Council move to agenda item 5.*

*Jade McCarroll and Ruth Mathews left the room: 13.03*

### **(c) Constitutional Change – Quoracy of Council meetings**

The motion has been withdrawn at the request of the proposer, Council vote and agrees to remove the motion.

**(d) Scottish Living wage**

The proposer of this motion has requested that it is left on the table until the next Council meeting which will be a Video Conference meeting, Council vote and agree to this request.

**8. Elections-**

**(a) Disciplinary Committee (Chair, Depute Chair and 5 ordinary members)**

CPH explains the purpose of the Disciplinary Committee and that it only deals with SAUWS cases.

Chair – Proposed Kayley Richardson, Seconded by Connor Smith

Ordinary member – Ann Michell, seconded by Cameron Mathieson

Ordinary member – Risa Kilikeviciute, seconded by Ryan Wood

Ordinary member – Natalie Gordon, seconded Blane Abercrombie

Two places remain vacant

All vacant positions will be tabled at the next meeting of Council

**(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)**

Both positions remain vacant, this will be tabled at the next Council meeting.

**9. AOCB-**

Cameron Mathieson requests that agendas be sent out two weeks in advance of meetings, SRCo-ord suggests this is not possible however notification of the date, time and place of Council can be and will endeavour to do this in the future

Natalie Gordon suggests that the Hamilton Campus refuse bins are being emptied just after 1pm and is disruptive to the class as they can't hear lecturer, adds that the tutor has to halt the lecture. CPH will contact the Campus Director and Estates and Buildings regarding this.

CPH thanks to members for attending.

SRCo-ord states a notification of the next meeting will go out early week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October.

*Start: 12.30*

*Finish: 13.30*