

MINUTES 17.04.14

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) PAISLEY

Thursday 17th April, 4.30pm, Level 1 Paisley Union building

In the Chair, Iain Shepherd, Depute President Education and Welfare

AGENDA

1. Sederunt

Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Blane Abercrombie	President
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Cameron Stewart	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Vice President Development Paisley/ Disabled Students STAR Group Co-Convener
Jack Douglas	Social Science/LGBT+ STAR Group
Stephen Russell	Secretary LGBT+ STAR Group
John Black	Social Science/LGBT+ STAR group Campaigns convener
Gary Kyle	Biomedical Science
Ali Arif	Chemical Engineering/Society
Bren MacNeil	Business Technology/Archery Club
Will Little	UWS Labour/Biomedical Science
Lauren Gilmore	UWS Labour/Women's STAR Group
Hugh McInnes	Law
Kevin McKinley	Science

2. Acceptance of Apologies

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

President reads through report. States that the Hamilton Campus Development Board is on-going, we have argued for a bigger union and think we have won this now. We are also in talks with the University about what we sell and not competing with each other too much. We have also had a focus group for the redevelopment and more will be organised.

With regards to the International Student experience, the University have agreed to fix fees for the duration of the degree, we are also working with the University on how they track international students.

There is also a new Head of Human Resources and a name change for the department to People and Organisational Development. With the work of the UWS Labour Club, the university have

reduced the number of employees on Zero Hour contracts from over 900 staff to around 300, meaning 600 staff are now on fairer, more secure contracts. In addition the Head of People and Organisational Development was shocked at the small number of professorships being applied for and taken up by women and has decided that the University would review why this is, which will be done in conjunction with the Women's STAR group.

President invites questions. Jack Douglas asks if the Citizenship budget will continue, President suggests he is in talks with the University about this, looking at getting it extended to next calendar year, the work Gillian Mackenzie has done this year has been great

There are no further questions, presidents report accepted

DPEW reads through report. Some key points are that extra resources have been allocated to the Libraries, including the use of eBooks however will keep going with it as IT stock is still lacking i.e. PC's and mobile pods. States that £2000 has been awarded by the University to do research into how to engage students in study outside of class time.

The University is being reviewed via the ELIR process (Enhancement Led Institutional Report). As part of this, students have been consulted and over 200 responses have been received, have now written a summary of the Reflective Analysis document which will be available on Moodle. We are also working with Mike Williamson from SPARQS on designing a questionnaire on what's important to students, what makes a good student experience i.e. should we rate the University on food or class sizes etc. we are waiting on ethics approval for the questionnaire.

With regards to Grad Point Average (GPA) we are working with the Higher Education Academy to implement this on a pilot project, this is moving along well, the Pilot project is looking at modelling grades and the impact it might have on students. With regards to Graduate attributes, students were asked to feed into what these should be and the feedback was that we should be bolder in what students can achieve.

Other projects we are working on include the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR), states that we have been feeding into what activities can be eligible for HEAR, including sports and societies, student rep activities and other volunteering activities. The Timetable Review Implementation Group work has been completed and from next academic year Wednesday afternoons will be free for Sports and Societies activities. The Learner Attainment project has been cancelled as ethics approval was not granted. The Village Digs project is currently on hold as we are waiting for the contract to be drawn up. DPEW is also designing a student partnership agreement between the University and SAUWS to improve partnership working.

Informs Council that the Learning and Teaching awards are at the end of month on 25th April at Paisley Campus Union, the nominations were great and invites have been sent out.

States that he has also attended NUS Scotland Conference and the 12 SAAS payments motion passed and NUS Scotland and DPEW will outline the case for this to Mike Russell.

DPEW invites questions, there are none. DPEW report accepted

Sports and Societies President reads through report, states that the Varsity event was great although we lost. Informs members that the Sports Ball is being held on Friday 25th April and tickets are still available. Adds that the Sports and Societies Union has achieved a lot this year.

Sports and Societies President invites questions, there are none. Sports and Societies President report accepted

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Changes to UWS Regulation 7 – Assessments

DPEW outlines that the University has changed the rules regarding non submission of coursework this year. Previously if a student did not submit work in a module they could re-submit or re-sit at the next available opportunity, now however, if a student does not submit work or attend for exam without mitigating circumstances, they will be given a re-attend decision. Put simply, this change means that if a student has no mitigating circumstances and chooses not to submit any work it will result in a re-attend the module decision rather than re-sit decision. The issue we have with the change is that we don't believe it was communicated very well. The University management have decided that due to the issues around the communication of the change, all those who received a re-attend decision would be reviewed. SRCo-ord reminds members that mitigation should be used if there are any personal worries affecting students' ability to attend class or exams or submit coursework and the Students Association can assist students through the process. DPEW states that the University Senate has asked for a review of each student with a re-attend decision on a case by case basis, decisions may be overturned depending on whether the student or lecturer has been informed properly of the change, students will be informed as appropriate.

Jack Douglas asks if the lack of communication regarding the change be grounds for appeal, DPEW suggests not as the communication of it has improved. For next year the SAUWS will work harder to promote and raise awareness of this at induction.

(b) Feedback from NUS Conferences

President informs members of SAUWS attendance at NUS UK and Scotland Conferences. States that the delegate's reports have been received and are currently being collated. The NUS Scotland conference was a great event and NUS UK conference was good. Scottish Conference is more progressive with educational aspects though, NUS UK now supports free education and not a graduate tax or contribution. Tony Pierce had been re-elected as NUS UK President and the Conference passed policy to ensure great representation for women students. Kevin McKinley asks what would happen if not enough women run to go to conference, President suggests we can re-open nominations and possibly send observer delegates. John Black asks how this will work for Liberation conferences, President suggests they set their own policy so won't have an impact.

7. Motions-

(a) Zero Tolerance for Zero Hours

Will speech for. Imagine if you are unable to budget for the month ahead because you don't know how many hours you'll have or being called and asked to come in with an hours notice, not knowing if you can pay rent or put food on the table. Zero hour contracts are in use at SAUWS and UWS. The University have agreed to cut the number of zero hours, SAUWS can do better and this

motion is asking for you to vote on what's fair, progressive and right. Within SAUWS there have been rumours of an increase in the number of zero hour contracts used within SAUWS, we know students are most vulnerable and these contracts don't look after the welfare of student. The motion should eradicate zero hours from SAUWS so the motion asks for these to be removed, and that shifts are given on a fairer basis. SAUWS can do better and should be doing better, voting for this will allow SAUWS to be a better employer.

There is no formal speech against however the Chair allows for questions and discussion.

Gary Kyle asks if the motion is referring only to SAUWS and UWS, Will responds yes, the motion is asking SAUWS to cut its zero hours, those who are employed by the University won't be affected, we can only pressurise them into cutting the numbers and we will continue to do this. John Black asks if this would this have budgetary implications, Will Little suggests we're not saying SAUWS should be giving out more hours, it's that they should be distributed more fairly.

There are no further points, Council move to vote

*For: 10
Against: 0
Abstentions: 4
The motion passes*

8. Elections- None

9. AOCB-

Jack Douglas asks with regards to elections for Ordinary Trustees for the campuses, why did some non Ayr students stand for OT position there. The trustee role is to look at the reputation, strategy and financial processes of the association, the role of a trustee is not to represent students, however are there to ensure student opinions are listened to, adds that the constitution allows it to happen. Every year we don't fill the positions available at Ayr and this year looked the same. John Black suggests it may make more sense to make the OT positions 'open places'.

Jack Douglas thanks the Board for their effort over the year.