

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) PAISLEY

Thursday 27th February 2013, 4.30pm, Level 1 Paisley Union building

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

1. Sederunt

Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Cameron Stewart	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Vice President Development Paisley/ Disabled Students STAR Group Co-Convener
Lauren Gilmore	Social Science/Secretary Women's STAR Group
Charleigh Burbank	Psychology/LGBTQ STAR Group Convener
Stephen Russell	Secretary LGBT+ STAR Group
Jack Douglas	Social Science/LGBT+ STAR Group
Bren MacNeil	Business Technology/Archery Club
Dhuwaraha Rajathelakan	Chemical Engineering/Society
Ali Arif	Chemical Engineering/Society
Azeem Khan	Chemical Engineering/Society
Zohaib Ali	Chemical Engineering/Society
Numan Ali	Chemical Engineering/Society
Donja Jafari	Chemical Engineering/Society
Umar Zainol	Chemical Engineering/Society
Chris Forster	Chemistry
Will Little	Biomedical Science
Gary Kyle	Biomedical Science
Ademola Obafemi	Business Technology
John Black	Social Science
Morgan McQueen	Social Science
Margo MacMillan	Social Science
Jade Gilchrist-McFarland	Social Science and Politics
Amanda Randos	Psychology

In Attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Rep Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)
Robert Forster	Vice President Education, NUS Scotland
Vonnie Sandlan	Ayr Student Rep/Communities Campaign Convener, NUS Scotland

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Blane Abercrombie	President
Heather Armstrong	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Women's STAR Group Convener
Stuart McCabe	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Disabled Students STAR Group Co-Convener
Ann Michell	Computing
Ali Tariq	Business Technology

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-

DPEW invites members to read through report and invites questions, there are none. Report accepted.

With President submitting apologies due to sickness, DPEW invites members to read through report. DPEW suggests that due to Presidents absence any questions from the last couple of months should be emailed via president@sauws.org.uk. Presidents report accepted.

Sports President invites members to read through report, adds that the Football team have won their league, as did the Hockey team, the Netball team went through to the finals of the cup. Sports President further adds that the University have secured £5000 for student athletes and have set aside a large amount of funds to develop facilities at Thornly Park. There are no questions, however members note well done for these achievements. Report accepted.

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) **Graduate Attributes Consultation**

DPEW outlines that revised Graduate Attributes (GA's) have been proposed by the University, explains that this is what our graduates should have when they graduate. Asks members to consider if these are correct, is the definition correct, Ademola Obafemi asks if employers want you to have these, DPEW states that we are defining UWS Graduates in comparison to others and that UWS believe that our graduates should have the same generic attributes and be digitally literate. Sports President asks what message we are sending out, we should be saying we are better/different. Chris Forster asks how others define this, DPEW suggests it can be vague.

DPEW goes through the set of GA's our graduates should have and asks for thoughts on these. Sports President suggests that if these are our GA's they should be clearer/more precise, if an employer asks about these it would be difficult to define for example Global Citizenship, Ethical and Social Awareness, how will students learn these and know they've learned them. Ademola Obafemi agrees as he goes to different meetings and see's what employers want, the University need to be clearer about where they come from. Margo MacMillan suggests that it doesn't read like it's transferable to the world of work, but is a bit of a tick box exercise. Charleigh Burbank requests if practical and application skills can be added.

DPEW then asks members to consider the implementation aspect of the GA's, suggests the University will need to increase staff awareness of these, including feedback and use of PDP. Sports President suggests we need to know where they come from and how we use them, it's a tick box exercise for example students can be working in a group with friends and it can be great, however then work with others who we don't know and the results are not so good. Margo MacMillan asks if the Uni should add some kind of record about where a student started from and ended up. Jack Douglas suggests that modules can be designed around this however it could turn into another PDP exercise. DPEW asks members if PDP should be rebranded. Will Little suggests this isn't necessarily something the uni should do, it can come down to society/club/volunteering activity, DPEW adds that it can include engagement with the SU. Sports President suggests there

is evidence that if students are involved with sports or societies, these skills can be developed and enhance self-awareness, evidence also shows that these members can get higher paid jobs.

DPEW thanks members for their input, states that SRCo-ord will email the GA's out for further comment, please get back to DPEW with any thoughts on dpew@sauws.org.uk.

(b) ELIR – Reflective Analysis – Summary

DPEW outlines that the ELIR (Enhancement Led Institutional Review) is coming up, this is an audit that all Universities have to have. As part of this a Reflective Analysis (RA) is developed, this is an opportunity for the University to sell itself on good points and improvements needed. DPEW reads through the sections of the RA and asks which parts students would like to feed into, some or all of it. Members would like to feed into all parts of the RA.

(c) Brief results from SAUWS Consultation – February meeting

SRCo-ord gives an overview of the results of the initial consultation into officer roles stating that further analysis is needed as students did not particularly like the proposal however did have some very good views as to what we could be doing with officer roles. Adds that once this is done a further consultation will be undertaken, most likely in April. Jack Douglas asks if we are looking to introduce an Executive Committee as well as have a Board of Trustees, SRCo-ord suggests that this is the case, adds that by splitting the representation and campaigning aspect from the Finance, reputation and strategy, this should help further the objectives of the organisation.

(d) Sports Union Constitution – Ratification

Sports President outlines what the Sports Union Constitution is, stating that Bylaws 11 and 12 have essentially been merged to make it more condensed and it will allow the sports union to make its own decision, adds that it has been approved by the Sports Union members at its General Council. Jack Douglas asks where the new Sports Union Constitution leaves Societies, Sports President states that Societies are mentioned throughout the new document. Cameron Stewart comments that Societies are not mentioned in the title, Jack Douglas suggests this can be changed later, Sports President agrees stating the title is not a big issue, it can be changed. There are no further questions or comments.

DPEW invites members to vote on ratification of the new Sports Union Constitution

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 6

Ratification accepted

7. Motions-

DPEW passes chair to Sports President.

Marking Boycott – SAUWS Stands Against

DPEW explains that this motion was submitted on time however it has not been noted on the agenda. SRCo-ord confirms this and apologises for its omission. Members would like to hear the case for the motion. Sports President allows the debate to proceed.

DPEW reads the motion for members consideration.

Speech for is taken by DPEW. Outlines that the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) are considering not marking student assessments as a method of strike action and that the Students Association along with the University should look into alternative arrangements should this action go ahead in order to negate any negativity caused.

Speech against is taken by Lauren Gilmore. States that the University is to blame for this action, during the last strike action the University docked lecturer's a day pay for a 2 hours of strike action, this should not be allowed to happen. Believes that the University can afford to pay lecturers more, outlines that in real terms lecturers have taken a 15% pay cut in the last 5 years, while the principle has had an 8% rise. States that we should support any strike action.

Sports President allows discussion

DPEW states the motion is simply for the boycott to be stopped as students may not graduate or proceed to next level of study should this go ahead. Jack Douglas asks how we can say we won't support strike action, DPEW reiterates that the motion is saying that a boycott in marking would be detrimental to students. Will Little suggests we should support lecturers as they do more than is required of them in their day to day jobs. DPEW suggests that not all lecturers are members of UCU and we don't know how many students/lecturers would be affected by this. John Black suggests that we should be asking the University to increase lecturers' wages. DPEW explains that wages/salaries are set at a national rate, it's not up to individual Universities. Member believe that external examiners should not be used as no other Universities would do this, DPEW state that external examiners are already marking work. DPEW adds that we are not saying that lecturers shouldn't strike, just that there are contingencies in place if they do.

There are no further comments, Council move to vote

*For: 3
Against: 15
Abstain: 4
The motion falls.*

The following motions have been submitted to NUS Scotland Conference

(a) Right to Education – NUS Motion

SRCo-ord explains that this motion has already passed at Paisley Council last year. Council accept this motion.

(b) 12 Months SAAS Payments – NUS Motion

DPEW outlines that the motion is asking for SAAS payments to be over 12 months however based on personal circumstances can have SAAS either through 12 months or 9 months. Jack Douglas explains that he plans on submitting an amendment to the motion which will ask that students should have additional support.

Lauren Gilmore asks if it is going to be a financial detriment throughout the year, DPEW suggests that we will lobby for more funding in general. Member asks if students can still work, DPEW suggests yes and it wouldn't affect this funding, adds that the motion asks to look at the viability of 12 month payments. Will Little asks if it is this possible to be implement this September, DPEW suggests possibly, we can try. Vonnie Sandlan suggests that the funding package is already on the table and currently there are issues with nurses and midwifery students as they are funded under

allied professionals they are not allowed to claim travel, discretionary funds or childcare. Adds that they are on placement for 6 months of the year and can't claim tax credits either as they're not considered working.

There are no further questions or comments, Council move to vote

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

The motions passes

8. Elections- None

SRCo-ord explains that one member of the committee has resigned from from the committee due to other commitments; therefore there is one student place for election.

Sports President outlines the duties of the Elections Committee and asks if any member would like to take part. Two members come forward. SRCo-ord suggests that Ayr and Hamilton Campus do not have any student member and would be willing to allow co-option of the two members. Council agree this would be good for when decisions need to be made. SRCo-ord explains that they're input will be valuable when considering changes to the rules and procedures of Elections.

Ordinary Member – Proposed Ademola Obafemi, Seconded by Will Little

Ordinary Member – Proposed Numan Ali, Seconded by John Black

9. AOCB-

Jack Douglas submitted an emergency motion on Safe Space and requests it to be heard. Council agree.

Jack Douglas states that the motion is stating that the safe space policy should apply to staff as well as students and is seeking for the Board of Trustee to review bullying and harassment of staff members.

DPEW asks if parts can be taken, SRCo-ord states that parts can be taken however only whole sentences can be looked at. Will Little suggests Council should go straight to vote on this.

There is no speech against and no questions, Council move to vote

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

The motion passes

DPEW states that Robert Foster, Vice President Education for NUS Scotland, has come along to hold a focus group on the 'Imagine Tomorrow' project. Requests members to stay to take part, adds that there is free pizza available for those who stay.

DPEW thanks members for their input.

Start: 16.45

Finish: 18.05