

**STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) PAISLEY**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 4.30pm, Level 1 Paisley Union

In the Chair, Lauren Miller, Depute President Education and Welfare

**AGENDA**

**1. Sederunt**

Lauren Miller	Depute President Education and Welfare
Jack Douglas	President
Ryan Wood	Sports President
Iain Shepherd	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Cameron Stuart	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Heather Armstrong	Women's STAR Group Convener
Gary Kyle	Biomedical Science
Connor Smith	Biomedical Science
Chantelle Donnelly	Chemistry
Okoroma Chukwumela	Civil Engineering
Tsitsi Simango	Social Science
Daneil Shields	Accountancy
Angela Castellano	Web and Mobile Development
Kieran Thomson	Web and Mobile Development
Charles Macharia	Music Technology
Scott Barbour	Computer Networking
Rebecca Miller	Social Science
Ademola Obafemi	Business Technology
Kieran Donahoe	Anime and Manga
Sarah Anderson	Social Science

**2. Acceptance of Apologies**

Stuart McCabe	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Aimee McGarrigle	Music Technology
Mari McLean	Politics and Social Policy
Kirsty McLean	BA Law and Business
Ceara Holden	Events Management
David Dunnett	Business Technology
Sarah Hill	PG District Nursing
Jamie Ross	Information Technology
Kathleen Mathers	Social Work
Leva Dovyde	Events Management
Margo MacMillan	Social Science

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

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

There were no matters arising, minutes accepted.

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

DPEW reads through report. States that she has been working on two campaigns, 'Mind your Health' and 'UWS Goes Global', these are progressing well, more information given later under Campaign's section. States she has also been working with the Citizenship Co-ordinator and Campus Presidents on the international welcome day at each of the campuses. Has also been looking at ways of recording lectures as part of 'e-learning' and looking at a partnership approach with curriculum design so that students can have more input into what is being taught and how. Adds that the Student Fellows are now in place, this is a research based post within each School which will look at results of different surveys on the Student Learning and Teaching Experience to enhance how we do things. DPEW states she has also organised a Breast Cancer awareness session and volunteer fairs as well as visiting the other campuses. DPEW invites questions. DPEW invites questions. Gary Kyle asks where the Mind your health information was circulated, DPEW states that it was promoted via Facebook, Twitter, leaflets and posters around the campuses also during Freshers. Member asks what Student fellows will be doing, DPEW explains the pilot project was funded by the University and they have been appointed to work within the Schools working on enhancement with staff and is research based. There are no further questions, DPEW report accepted

President reads through report, states that he will be getting involved with the NUS housing campaign called 'The rent is too damn high' and will also be working with the University on accommodation issues particularly the rent for Halls. President states he is also raising awareness of the NUS national demo being held on 19th November, any student wishing to go down should contact him on [president@sauws.org.uk](mailto:president@sauws.org.uk). Has also been working with 'Villigedigs', one of the organisations we're working with, to better promote their services. Adds that he has also been consulting with PhD students on the introduction of completion fee by the Uni, we believe this is not a fair fee. President invites questions. Ademola Obafemi asks what the completion fee is, President explains it's a fee PhD students need to pay once they've finished their work, although we are trying to get the fee removed, this may not be possible therefore a payment plan set up with the University for students struggling to pay the fee. Presidents report accepted

Sports President states that he is looking at how we reward volunteers and provide development for students involved with Sports and/or Societies. Informs members that Team UWS have been awarded an additional £26,000 for coaching development. Sports President invites questions, there are none however Heather Armstrong extends congratulations to Sports President for the additional funding received. Sports President report accepted.

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

*Sarah Anderson entered the room 4.50pm*

### **6. Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-**

#### **(a) Campaigns 2014-15**

President introduces the 'Summer Safety Net' campaign, states that in the summer there is a spike in dropouts and we believe financial support is the reason as students are not entitled to support from the State. The campaign is running at Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley campuses however all our students should benefit from the outcomes. Around 500 students from Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley

got involved by taking a picture with a sign saying "we need a summer safety net" and we're in the process of making a collage with these. The next step is getting detailed information from the University on trends in support and dropouts, we will also be asking students what support they have, if they have a backup plan should anything go wrong during the summer with their finance e.g. an unexpected bill and what support they want so they feel supported. President invites questions about the campaign. Ademola Obafemi asks if travel expenses will be reinstated as part of the campaign, President suggests we can speak to local transport companies. Sports President adds that the Glasgow Student Forum had spoken to the transport organisations to get better discounts for students following the removal of travel expenses from SAAS contributions, most of them didn't want to do it as they only do it as part of a government incentive. Iain Shepherd comments that the problem with travel companies is they are a monopoly and they know we won't stop using them, the government won't budge on their policies either. Heather Armstrong suggests it may make more of an impact to send the photos from the campaign to all MSP's, President will look at doing this.

DPEW introduces the 'UWS Goes Global' campaign; this campaign is trying to encourage students to consider studying abroad and helping international students settle here for their time at UWS. We've held some international events, including trips and film nights which have gone down well. In November there will be a session put on for students to ask questions about studying abroad and the support available to help students who are going abroad. We are also working with ChildReach and Exchange Scotland to raise awareness of the support available for studying abroad.

DPEW introduces the 'Mind your Health' campaign, this is to raise awareness of students mental health and has set up a group for students to join, get in touch with her for more details on the group activities. As part of the Campaign, there will be a de-stress festival in November which will include massages, Therapet Paws (go to pet a dog!) and bubble football during which we will be fundraising for a mental health charity, there will also be activities during exam times. DPEW adds that she is also trying to organise Mental Health First Aid Training for students to attend, this will be provided by an external organisation.

### **(b) UWS International Advisory Committee – Student reps needed!**

President states that at the recent International Advisory Committee there was agreement that there should be co-opted student representatives. We need one undergraduate, one postgraduate and one research student to participate in the committee. It's not a huge time commitment but is a very important committee in which student input will be very useful. SRCo-ord points out that currently in the new School structure there is a 'School International Forum' which has no student representation on it, whereas the other School forums do, any student who is elected/nominated to sit on the International Advisory Committee should be pointing this out and trying to get it changed so that all forums have student representatives as full members. Please get in touch with Jack on [president@sauws.org.uk](mailto:president@sauws.org.uk) if you are interested and would like more information.

### **(c) New staff and staffing structure**

President informs members that SAUWS are looking at how we do things and how best we can support our students. As such, our staffing structure has changed and we are in the process of recruiting new staff. New roles include a Membership Development Manager who will line manage most of our non-commercial activities, including a new Website Development, Digital Media and Communications Co-ordinator and 2 new student advisors/caseworkers to work across Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley to give students a more extensive representational service. Currently, we have appointed the membership Development Manager and are interviewing for Website Development co-ordinator next week. In the coming weeks we will also be recruiting for Student

Engagement Staff which are part-time and very flexible around students class time, if you are interested please keep checking the SAUWS website [www.sauws.org.uk](http://www.sauws.org.uk) for more information and application form.

**(d) National Demo – Against Cuts to Education**

President informs members that on Wednesday 19th November there will be a national demo in London against cuts to education, although Scotland gets free education when England cut their budget for education it can affect us here in Scotland. States that there are 10 student places on the bus going down, this is in partnership with Strathclyde University and Glasgow Caledonia University Students Associations. President asks anyone interested in attending to get in touch with him at [president@sauws.org.uk](mailto:president@sauws.org.uk).

**7. Motions**

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

DPEW explains this is a motion for affiliations to NUS, BUCS and SSS. President explains that NUS assist us with campaigns, resources and national lobbying for Education and the student experience. Sports President explains that BUCS and SSS are external bodies who assist with sports fixtures and sports related campaigns, adds that BUCS is a UK wide organisation who helps us with competitions and elite sports, SSS assist more with health and wellbeing activities in Scotland.

Scott Barbour proposes that Council should vote separately on each organisation, DPEW allows members to vote on this.

Council are asked to vote on whether to vote on each organisation separately,

For: 3

Against: 14

Abstain: 2

The proposal falls

There is no speech against, Council move to vote

*For: 14*

*Against: 0*

*Abstain: 5*

*The motion passes*

*The following are Constitutional amendments*

SRCo-Ord informs members that as these are Constitutional Amendments, they require 2/3's majority in favour at each Campus to pass and be implemented.

**(b) Student Voice– Constitutional amendment to bye-law 6**

Speech for taken by President. President submits procedural motion 1(b) that the motion be left on the table, this is agreed by Council. President explains this is in order that focus groups or workshops can be set up to discuss the changes outside of Council and allow members to suggest amendments to strengthen the principle of what is being proposed. Adds that this request was made by a Council member at Hamilton Campus and feels this will allow greater discussion.

SRCo-ord suggests the motion and bye-law can be email out with a deadline for comments and a workshop to discuss what the comments were and then develop an amendment. Council agree to this course of action.

Council move to vote for Procedural motion 1(b)

*For: 18  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1  
The procedural motion is carried*

**(c) Let's show we care-Care Leavers STAR Groups – Constitutional amendment to bye-law 13**

Speech for is taken by Chantelle Donnelly. States that she is a first year student care leaver and has been in different care homes, she feels that care leavers are under-represented in society as a whole not just at University and this is why the group should be a STAR group, adds that we are the first to propose this. States that only 2% of care leavers actually graduate however the number of looked after young people going to University is reducing therefore something needs to be set up to help care leavers while studying but also so that they can support each other as most have no family support at all. The University have also been encourage more care leavers to come to UWS so there has to be something in place to support this group of students as they face specific barriers to entering education and graduating.

There is no speech against, Chair allows discussion. Iain Shepherd states there are lots of issues from care leavers so hopefully this group will start to explore some of these and provide support and campaigns to overcome the issues. Heather Armstrong asks if we can explain what a STAR groups is, President explains that they are a mix of Liberation groups and Peer Support groups which represent the under-represented and campaign on behalf of those who identify as belonging to a group, adds that Liberation includes the Womens Group, LGBT+ Group, Disabled Students Group and Black Students Group, Peer Support groups include Post-grad students, Mature Students, Part-Time students and International Students.

There is no further discussion, Council move to Vote

*For: 18  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1  
The motion passes*

**8. Elections -**

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

Chair – Proposed Heather Armstrong and Charles Macharia, both are seconded therefor DPEW calls an immediate election. Requests each candidate to give a statement to a maximum of 1 minute on why they should be elected and we will then call a secret ballot to elect the Chair.

Each candidate gives their statement, Council members are asked to write on a slip of paper which person they would like to act as Chair and hand this to SRCo-ord.

SRCo-ord counts votes in front of members with DPEW acting as witness, Ballot results are:

*Charles Macharia – 12*

*Heather Armstrong – 5*

*Spoilt votes – 2*

Charles Machoria is duly elected Chair of Disciplinary Committee

Depute Chair – Proposed Ademola Obafemi, Seconded by Heather Armstrong

Ordinary Members:

Proposed Chantelle Donnelly, seconded by President

Proposed Heather Armstrong, seconded by Ademola Obafemi

Proposed Rebecca Miller, seconded by Iain Shepherd

Proposed Daniel Shields, seconded by Kieran Thomson

Proposed Gary Kyle, seconded by Daniel Shields

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

Ordinary Members:

Proposed Sarah Anderson, seconded by Heather Armstrong

Proposed Tsitsi Simango, seconded by Sports President

**9. AOCB-**

Heather Armstrong informs members of the NUS Scotland event being held on 8<sup>th</sup> November to elect the NUS Scotland Disabled student Officer, encourages any student who self-define as disabled to let us know, email [president@sauws.org.uk](mailto:president@sauws.org.uk) for more information.

Gary Kyle raises accommodation concerns related to the security and privacy of halls students, states that the university carry out spot-check inspections of all student accommodation to ensure that facilities are properly maintained and that there has been no destruction of property, theft, etc. Students are normally provided with prior warning that these inspections will be carried out however many of these checks occur when the occupants are not physically present. Therefore, whilst students are attending classes authorised strangers are allowing themselves into the accommodation and wondering around freely. Students are concerned that their privacy and security are compromised as a result. Furthermore, there have been reports that the university permits external contractors access to accommodation to carry out maintenance work, one student reported that there was a plumber walking in, sometime after 8:30am, to a flat where two female students lived and were, at the time, asleep. On this occasion, there was not sufficient warning provided. As a result, I suggest that negotiations are made with the university to come to a compromise where spot-checks and maintenance works are continued however providing sufficient warning and ensuring that at least one of the occupants is present at the time of inspection to provide peace-of-mind for students' privacy and security. DPEW states she will speak to the halls manager regarding this and find out what the policy is on notifying and entering student accommodation owned by the University.

Connor Smith asks if the motion past last year on banning 'Blurred Lines' as part of the safe space policy was extended to the Robertson Sports Centre as he was in changing rooms and it came on, asks if we can get the University to be on board with this. Ryan Wood explains that the motion was only concerned with the Union spaces, the sports hall is owned by the University, President states we can make a request.

There is no further business, DPEW thanks members for their contribution and declares the meeting closed.

*Start: 4.40pm  
Finish: 6.10pm*