

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Paisley

Tuesday 15th November, 4.30pm, Level 1 Union Building

In the Chair, Cara Lee, Depute President Education and Welfare

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

Cara Lee	Depute President Education and Welfare
Garry Quigley	President
Scott Winchester	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Nick Targontsidis	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Lee Burrell	BA Psychology
Mark Dunlop	BSc Business Technology
Jack Douglas	BA Social Science
Jason Dowd	BA Business Technology
Jacqui Holroyd	BSc Midwifery
Sabha Rafiq	BSc Midwifery
Emma Love	Events Management
Ross McNaughton	BA Computing
Kazim Ali	BA Law
Suzette Somuah	BSc Civil Engineering
Frederick Atiso	BSc Civil Engineering
Andrew Bladworth	Web Development

In attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator
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2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Mary Buchanan	BSc Business Technology
Parvinder Kaur	BSc Business Technology
Pradeep Varre	UWS Indian Society

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes- None

Minutes unanimously accepted as accurate

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

DPEW outlines the air conditioning is fixed, buses from halls to the Union are back on and the new commercial manager has started. President hosted the Entertainments committee, some comments that came from it included the bar being too expensive, some of our events are dated and computer games are outdated. We want to continue to improve our entertainments, we have the quiz on Mondays, karaoke on Tuesday and free pool on Wednesday. Jason Dowd enquires about what's on a Thursday night, DPEW suggests they are generally live music/acoustic nights. President suggests we struggle to get people in to these events sometimes, Nick Targontsidis stresses the importance of the PR staff in promoting such events. Jason Dowd suggests last year the games night was on Wednesday and enquires if poker is still played. DPEW suggests yes poker is still played.

With regards to the Healthy body healthy mind campaign, the union had mental health groups in and a comedy in the dark night. There have been lots of signups for sports teams who have now started training and participating in matches with high attendance. Nick Targontsidis asks how well attended feel good week was, DPEW suggests it was good overall, the Wii competition and obstacle course were good and the stalls went well.

DPEW outlines committees attend. Learning Teaching and Assessment Board (LTAB) – the mitigation process will see an internal audit and policy may change to be more positive. The 3 hours for accounts exams won't start until next year. The Enhancement theme for this year is 'Supporting and Developing the Curriculum' – there is a committee and a plan of work, being chaired by Desmond Nicoll head of Quality Enhancement Unit (QEU), the committee is currently looking at the use of smart phones and ipods by the student body – consideration will be given to the use of apps for blackboard and the library, the Students Association is currently GOATing (Go Out and Talk) for this. Sabha Rafiq suggests there are apps available for blackboard but doesn't work for UWS. President suggests it would be handy to have apps, Jason Dowd suggests that ICT are slow with these things, Nick Targontsidis suggests it would be good to find out what students think, Jason Dowd comments that students do use social media regularly.

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) UWS ICT

DPEW asks council members to tell us their experiences with using ICT facilities. Jason Dowd comments that Christie Street has no access at all which is not good when preparing for dissertation or exams, Nick Targontsidis suggests the University are in breach of their own accommodation contract by not providing internet access at halls, DPEW suggests that internet access is a token gesture, but there should be internet connection of some kind. Jason Dowd suggests the WiFi investment should be more emphasized by students. Ross McNaughton suggests UWS advertise as having WiFi, Nick Targontsidis suggests that because Thornly Park is so far away not having internet connection is not helpful for coursework. President suggest that students raised issues with ICT regarding internet in halls and is the same argument for the 4 years he was a student, suggests that students and the Students Association needs to up the game with it, Jason Dowd agrees particularly with RUK fees from next year. President asks if the transition to windows 7 has helped, Lee Burrell suggests not, states that the computers work intermittently and a lot don't support

software needed with some programmes, some are also incompatible. Lee Burrell further notes that one of her colleagues had lost all her work on one of the university computers and suggests there is no point in giving credit for printing if people can't even use the computers. Also states some lecturers have refused to have windows 7 as it has wiped all old information on their computers, if the faculty are not willing to have it why should it be imposed on the student body. Jason Dowd suggests that ICT need to be more aware of the issues and understand that student have deadlines, they also need to be more helpful in general.

Ross McNaughton suggests that printers still charge for printing even if the printers are not working correctly e.g. when there is lack of toner. Jason Dowd suggests there should be a refund policy but notes that students don't really want to hassle them, also comments that when it's a large document it can be a huge loss. DPEW has held a meeting with ICT who suggested many of the issues brought up last year from Council had been sorted, DPEW states however she will organise another meeting and will take minutes from all Council meetings as evidence. DPEW suggests that students should email any other issues that arise to her on dpew@sauws.org.uk and will feedback outcomes to the next meeting of Council.

Jason Dowd suggests that there should be internet settings in labs across all campuses, Nick Targontsidis agrees suggesting there should be posters on walls. Jason Dowd enquires why the university are spending money on changing blackboard and not on improving ICT issues. Also suggests they have to fix the internet problems as without it students can't get access to anything else. Emma Love suggests some WiFi areas don't accept vista. Scott Winchester has resorted to using his own internet on his Smartphone. Jason Dowd suggests all servers are stored at Hamilton and asks if Moodle will actually save money, Lee Burrell suggests some of her friends use Moodle and have suggested it is a poor platform. Jason Dowd comments that he is not sure how students will take to the new system and enquires about guidance and support for students. President suggests this has been raised at Senate, it has been suggested full training and support will be given to all staff and students, further notes that the Moodle changeover is now in trimester 3 and that this may not be good timing as there will be exams. Also notes that it is not compulsory for lecturers to attend training and that the communications strategy starts in January. Scott Winchester asks if the ICT staff will be trained, President suggests yes but its lecturers that are of more concern. Scott Winchester also suggests that ICT reception staff can be unhelpful, Jason Dowd agrees adding they can be rude. Nick Targontsidis suggests that a motion can be submitted to which expresses this.

DPEW asks if there are any further questions or comments regarding ICT, there are none.

Jack Douglas requests council move to discuss motion 7(b). A vote is taken, unanimously passes.

Council moves to item 7(b)

(b) RUK

President updates council on RUK Fees. States that UWS will be charging £7,250 per year for RUK students. We have few RUK students therefore those with more will be able to

raise more and will be able to have better facilities. There is a need to redistribute the wealth so there are no further funding gaps. The SAUWS consultation response was sent to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), asks to free up resources for national research on why students drop out as UWS has the second highest drop-out rate in Scotland (21.4%), with only University of the Highlands and Islands higher. There is already research in England which needs to be done here. The Depute Principle of UWS suggests they will be looking into retention. President suggests that he will be lobbying Unions, MSP's, NUS and other relevant organisations to gain support, the more leaders who back it the better. President also outlines that he has submitted an amendment to the NUS Scotland Plan of Work to include more on retention. Council members agree this is a good idea.

President asks if there are any questions. Jason Dowd outlines the Routes for All project which encourage school leavers to come to university, also states this needs to be wider advertised. On his course all graduates got jobs and if they can get jobs in today's market, UWS is doing something right which is good. President suggests that UWS has a good record on graduate employment but not all graduates are necessarily getting jobs in their area of study.

(c) CONSTITUTION

SR Co-ord outlines that the proposed motion is asking for By-law 11 to be removed completely from the SAUWS constitution as the General Committee of Clubs and Societies (GCCS) has not existed for a number of years, suggests that non-sporting clubs and societies would benefit from attending Students Council as it will allow them greater exposure and allow council to know what is going on. Further suggests Appendix 3 will be amended as appropriate and will also refer to the new Clubs and Societies Handbook which will be completed soon.

Jason Dowd suggests they should be separate so that Council is not over-run with Society business, SR Co-ord suggests that part of the motion asks for a sub-committee to be set up to avoid this from happening. Nick Targontsidis comments that part of the motion suggests cutting funding to these clubs and societies if they do not attend Council, this may not be fair as they already do not have a lot of cash and funding is higher for sports clubs, President agrees with this. Council members however generally agree they should be attending Students Council but that cutting funding if they do not attend may not be appropriate.

SR Co-ord suggests the proposed motion may be changed, however informs Council that amendments can be submitted before the motion is heard and that parts can be taken during the debate of the motion. Further reminds Council members to get in touch on src@sauws.org.uk if anyone has any questions or needs any help with motions, amendments or parts.

7. Motions-

(a) Armed Forces Recruitment

Chair allows 1.30minute speeches for this debate

Speech for: President outlines that he doesn't agree with wars but in previous years the armed forces have not been allowed to recruit in our Union buildings and this motion is asking that they are now able to do so.

Speech against is not taken

President asks if there are any questions, Council asks why they were not allowed. President suggests it could go against the safe space policy.

Council moves to vote

*For: 9
Against: 1
Abstention: 4*

(b) Equal Marriage

Chair allows 1.30minute speeches for this debate.

Speech for: President outlines that there is currently a consultation for same sex marriage by the Scottish Government and that the Students Association should be supporting it. States that no-one should have a monopoly over marriage not even the church, but does respect the churches decision to not want to marry same-sex couples and the legislation will not force them to do so.

Speech against: Andrew Bladworth, states that equal marriage is a nice idea, the problem is marriage is state sponsored and is an institution reflected in culture all over the world. However it does exist independently of religion. In theological way if absolute views regarding religion isn't it better to talk about civil partnership state sponsored anyway.

Second round of speeches is requested, unanimously accepted.

Scott Winchester states that the motion is not just asking for same sex marriage but also mixed sex civil partnerships for those mixed sex couples who may not want marry. The changes will mean equality for all.

Speech against is not taken, council move to vote

*For: 7
Against: 2
Abstention: 6*

Jack Douglas left the room 5.05

Council return to agenda item 6(b)

8. Elections-

(a) Disc

Chair – Proposed: Andrew Bladworth (Seconded by Garry Quigley)
Andrew Bladworth is duly elected.

Depute Chair – Proposed Fredrick Atiso (Seconded by Nick Targontsidis)
Fredrick Atiso is duly elected.

Ordinary Members –

Proposed – Ross McNaughton (Seconded by Jason Dowd)

Proposed – Emma Love (Seconded by Sabha Rafiq)

The above proposed are duly elected.

(b) Elections

Proposed – Jason Dowd (Seconded by Ross McNaughton)

Jason Dowd is duly elected

9. AOCB-

Lee Burrell notes that students on her programme are being disciplined as a result of comments on facebook regarding online enrolment. President suggests they can be held accountable for their actions, particularly now that the Fitness for Practice policy has been extended to the whole of Faculty for Education, Health and Social Science. Jason Dowd informs council that one of the projects he is currently doing looks at social media strategy as there is a need for it, but hopefully we can make it better.

Ross McNaughton comments that the fire alarm went off twice on campus and that when leaving he was advised by staff in Querties not to use a certain fire door, President suggests he will look into this.

Scott Winchester reminds council that the equal marriage consultation from Scottish government is on facebook with a link and is open for responses up to 6th December.

Start: 4.35pm

Finish: 5.40pm