

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) PAISLEY

Thursday 19th February 2015, 4.30pm, Level 1 Union Building

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

1. Sederunt

Lauren Miller	Depute President Education and Welfare
Jack Douglas	President
Iain Shepherd	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Cameron Stuart	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
John Black	LGBT+ STAR Group Convener
Fraser Ellis	Post-graduate STAR Group Convener
Scott Barbour	Computer Networking
Heather Armstrong	Women's STAR Group Convener
Gary Kyle	Biomedical Science
Tsitsi Simango	Social Science
Jamie Ross	Information Technology
Shelby Deboar	Law
Astrid Goetz	Forensic Science
Sarah-Jayne Stevenson	3D Computer Animation Digital Art
Lawrie Thomson	Computing
Mark Williams	Computer Games Development
Tomas Zenik	BA Business
Robert Downie	Social Science

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Chukwumela Okoroma	Civil Engineering
Amanda Randos	Psychology
Mari McLean	Politics
Melissa Ross	Psychology
Kaitlyn Main	Tourism
Siyong Chen	English as a Second Language

**3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting
 (a) Matters arising from those minutes-**

There are no matters arising, minutes accepted

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

President talks through report. States the Union Survey will be launched soon, the survey will ask lots of questions on what students deem most important to them and comment on the work of SAUWS and building a better union. Also working on the awards, the 'Big Awards' merge the Learning and Teaching Awards and the SAUWS Student Awards, we are currently working on the

promotion of this. States that work has continued on the Summer Safety Net campaign which will be discussed at Scottish Government in the coming weeks, states that this is a great result, adds that there will be dedicated staff from the Government working on this. Also informs members of the consultation on rent caps and legislation relating to private landlords and working with John Stevenson from the University's Accommodation services on implementing emergency rooms for students who find themselves homeless while studying at UWS. President invites questions. John Black asks why the award for 'STAR group of the year' has been removed, president states it hasn't been removed completely it's embedded in the 'Student Group of the year' award, we felt that this would mean more to the group that wins and break down barriers. DPEW adds that in previous years it was the same groups that were nominated, this way will place more emphasis on all non-sporting groups. Member asks what is the end objective is for membership survey, President suggests we are trying to develop SAUWS and its profile as there has been a large focus on commercial areas in the past with the membership department being missed, hopefully this will make SAUWS and our activities more relevant to students. MDM suggests we need a steer from students on what direction to take the organisation as a whole, although we understand it may not be the best time for another survey with the NSS, NSSE etc. President adds that responses will also contribute to the new Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the University this will look at, for example, expectations around coursework feedback, more social events etc. It will also shape the Student Representative Policy. President report accepted.

DPEW talks through report. States that SAUWS now has Mental Health Ambassadors who will be receiving training on mental health awareness and campaigning, this is part of the MIND your Health campaign. So far activities of the campaign have gone down very well with students. There are also a number of institutions working together on this. The Paws Against Stress event went really well in Paisley and is now coming to Hamilton on 2nd March in the Sports Hall, the Campus President Hamilton will be attending, students who wish to attend should book their 'slot' from between 11.30am and 1.30pm, this can be done by emailing dpew@sauws.org.uk, there are 15minute slots available. DPEW informs members of the 'flipped classroom' idea which is aimed at changing the dynamics of the classroom and how we learn, the approach encourages more partnership working alongside peer design and support. Informs members that the Chinese New Year celebrations are this week and encourages students to get involved. Also, further explains the SPA and the principle of how we can work together, focus groups are being set up encourages students to tell us what they want from it. It is important that the document is produced with students as well as staff. DPEW invites questions. Fraser Ellis asks if the SPA will go forward to SPARQS as part of the conference, DPEW suggests yes we can do this, President adds that we have been working with them on this anyway.

Sports President was not present therefore report was not heard

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers- None

(a) SAUWS Constitution Summary of Changes

President informs members that SAUWS has been running a series of consultation events at each campus looking specifically at the main changes to our Constitution and in particular the Governance of SAUWS, we now want to run it by Council. President informs members that new Constitution forms a major part of our restructuring and meeting the needs of our members and talks through the changes as follows.

States that the new governing document (Constitution) is simplified and clearer, giving members control at the grass roots level including Dumfries and Collaborative Colleges. The most prominent changes include a system focused on the Governance:

- The strategy level will sit with the Board of Trustees
- The operational level will sit with the Executive Committee
- The political level will sit with the Students' Voice

For example, a motion on removing Zero-Hour Contracts would be proposed at Students' Voice (to be passed or rejected), if passed the Executive Committee would decide how this would be run as a campaign, then the Board of Trustees would decide if and how much funding would be given to the Executive Committee in executing the campaign.

President explains the changes proposed to Students' Council, the new document refers to Student Voice. The current system restricts membership of Council to Student Reps only, the new Students' Voice will be more like an AGM in that anyone can come, we will also be using more Video Conferencing facilities therefore Dumfries students and students at Collaborative Colleges and Distance Learners can join in via video link. The new system will also generate more referendums which will be binding for passing policy. Essentially we are removing barriers to engagement and participation. MDM adds that we are also looking at investment in 'dial-in' meeting technology.

Member suggests that the visibility of reps is not always clear to students and they don't always know who their rep is, the new Student Voice may further exasperate this, MDM suggests that the Course Rep will still exist however political decisions can now be discussed by all students and not a selected few. President adds that the reason behind the change is so that particular issues can be discussed by the people who it affects. We have used the principle of one member one vote, this is so that all students can have a say on how we run and what we campaign for. It is intended so that there are no barriers to involvement, it is open and accessible.

President informs members that the Board of Trustees (BoT) should be apolitical and this has not been the case in the past. The BoT is there to look at the wellbeing of the organisation, including the finances and strategic decision making. The BoT membership will be made up of the five Sabbatical Officers via elections (as is current practice) with the rest being made up of 4 Student members (one from each Campus) and 4 External members (with specific knowledge around for example Finance, Human Resources etc.). These members will apply for the role and will be appointed by an Appointments Committee who will look at the skills of applicants using a 'skills matrix' to bridge skills deficiency, adds that appointments in this way are standard in charity organisations. To sit on the BoT there will be an application process which will describe the skills needed for the role and an application form, the Appointments Committee will be made up of the President as head of the organisation, the chief of staff (General Manager) and a representative from the University who will be an impartial person. As usual however, full training will be given to all trustees. Adds that all appointments will require ratification by the Students' Voice, there is also room for referendums on removing an appointment.

For the Executive Committee we have used a hybrid model to reflect campuses and diversity and all positions will be elected. There will be two Campus reps from each campus (totalling 8 campus reps), four liberation officers (representing women, LGBT, black and minority ethnic and disabled students), a Societies Officer and a Care Leavers Officer, the 5 Sabbatical Officers will also form the Executive Committee. The Societies Officer has been introduced so that Societies can develop more as they need different support than sports teams and they would also have a separate funding stream from Team UWS, Sports President states that he agrees with this new position. MDM adds

that societies are developing and getting bigger so the potential is there however greater resource could assist the growth.

Members ask with regards to Dumfries representation, how will we ensure that other institutions don't get involved or use our resources (as the campus is shared with Glasgow University, UHI and SRUC), President states that we will be using banner ID's for verification and only UWS students would be invited along using Banner ID's.

President also inform members of a new addition to our accountability in the form of a Union Chair. This is an impartial person elected from the student body (in the same way as the Sabbatical Officers) for a one year term of office who would hold officers to account on their decision making, they can attend any meeting of the Association except reserve business such as Staffing. The Union Chair will also act as Chair to Students' Voice meetings which will allow Sabbatical officers to argue from a political stand and put their views forward, currently this is difficult when acting as Students' Council Chair. MDM clarifies that this position could be seen as similar to Presiding Officer in Scottish parliament.

President states that in moving forward, we will have a final document to go for referendum which can be voted for at the same time as electing officers, we want a yes and no side to encourage debate around the changes, adds that resources will be made available to both sides. The current BoT and Students Association Staff are in favour of the changes however. President also adds that the Students' Council will be asked to ratify the result of the referendum, the Constitution will then go to the University's Court for their ratification, provided all goes well, the new document should be in place for July and we will hold a second round of election for the new positions.

Member asks if the no campaign will need to have their materials approved, MDM suggests this is the case, anything related to SAUWS must be approved, however there will be room for appealing any decisions via the University however factual inaccuracies will not be tolerated.

Jamie Ross and Fraser Ellis left the room 5.15pm

(b) General Election information

President informs members that we are working with other Students' Unions and NUS to look at General Election asks, i.e. what do students want out of the General Election manifestos for students. Members respond as follows:

- Jobs/employability – looking at industry and opposing Government plan for privatisation and to make voluntary work experience compulsory for under 25's
- Nationalisation of public services i.e. transport
- Constitution – continue to campaign for an independence for Scotland
- Student support – look for alternatives to the current system and re-introduction of student grants
- Campaign for Free education and better College funding
- Immigration policy – look at the implications of policies for international students

Iain Shepherd left the room 5.30pm

(c) Elections Information

President states that an all student email has been sent out to inform students of the Union elections and encourage everyone to stand and vote when voting opens, adds that all the

information is also online at www.sauws.org.uk. A change this year however, to comply with the Education Act, is that all Sabbatical Officers are now elected by a cross campus ballot, for example students in Hamilton can now vote for the Campus President Ayr, etc. Reminds members that there is remuneration for Sabbatical positions. Also reminds those who are standing to ask the current Sabbatical Officers questions about their role.

7. Motions –

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

President proposes Procedural Motion 1. (a) to remove this motion as it is no longer relevant, seconded by Cameron Stewart.

Speech for removing the motion is taken by President. States that this was the proposed change to Students’ Council, but it is now redundant due to current review.

There is no speech against removal.

Council move to vote.

For: Unanimous

(b) SAUWS Constitutional referendum

Speech for is taken by the President. States that there is a referendum taking place for the new SAUWS Constitution, however currently referendums are non-binding and Students’ Council has the power to refuse the new Constitution, even if a referendum says yes. This motion is asking for Council to accept the decision of the referendum regardless of whether it is a yes or no vote.

Speech against is not taken.

Council move to vote.

*For: 12
Against: 0
Abstain: 1*

Heather Armstrong left the room 5.45pm

8. Elections- None

9. AOCB-

President informs members of the Principles statement on tuition fees, given that the Principles career has always been in education and we are widening participation the Students’ Association finds the statement a bit hypocritical. MDM suggests there are a number of options for action including a petition of no confidence in the principle. MDM also ask if there is a policy regarding free education, SRCo-ord will look into this.

Gary Kyle raises further issues with Accommodation, states that there are regular fire drills, however recently there have been two or three held in one week, believes that this may desensitise students to the fire safety procedures. DPEW will look into this, there is policy within UWS for fire drills, but not to be held that often, we would need to determine if they were drills or real. DPEW will report back to Council on findings.

DPEW passes Chair to President

DPEW left the room 5.55pm

Robert Downie requests that we inform the Uni that there are concerns over the cleanliness of some areas of the Uni, particularly the toilets. President informs members that the Uni are in the process of improving and renovating some of the buildings on campus, however asks members to email president@sauws.org.uk with any specific areas they are concerned with.

Start: 4.40pm

Finish: 6.10pm