

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) PAISLEY

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

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
John Black	LGBT+ STAR Group Convener
Heather Armstrong	Women's STAR Group Convener
Mark Williams	Computer Games Development
Scott Barbour	Computer Networking
Gary Kyle	Biomedical Science
Jamie Ross	Information Technology
Tomas Zenik	BA Business
Chukwumela Okoroma	Civil Engineering
Kevin McKinley	Physics
Andrew King	Music Technology
Charles Macharia	Music Technology

In attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)
David Devlin	Membership Development Manager (MDM)

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Stuart McCabe	
Tsitsi Simango	Social Science
Astrid Goetz	Forensic Science
Shelby Deboar	Law
Gemma McLeish	Human Resource Management
Catriona McCallum	Events Management
Mahdi Aghajanmolaei	Chemical Engineering

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes- None

Minutes accepted

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

DPEW reads through report. States that the first Spring Gala went really well with over 100 students and staff attending the cultural celebrating Chinese New Year, thanks to everyone involved. The recording of lectures policy is going to the Education Advisory Committee meeting with Malcolm Foley (Vice Principle Education) hopeful it will pass and be implemented by September in time for the new academic term. We recently held a mental health first aid training course with sabs and students attending, the feedback was positive, all attending would recommend the course. Also as part of the MIND your Health campaign the 'Paws Against Stress' sessions at Paisley and Hamilton went really well with over 70 students attending, we will be organising more sessions for next year and we are hopeful we can bring it to all 4 of our main campuses. We have also been meeting with staff and SPARQS to discuss the development of our first Student Partnership Agreement, the mass membership survey will feed into the document, but we will also set up focus groups to inform the content. We are expected to provide a draft Agreement to the Student Experience Group by 27th April which would allow it to pass for new academic session.

DPEW invites questions. John Black asks how recorded lectures would work, DPEW states that Jim O'Donnell (Director of Information Services) has done some work around the use of Camtasia however more investment in the technology is need for it to be better utilised. Adds that there are many options we can use, one maybe that the lecturer records short videos in their office presenting information so that students are not hindered or worried about being recorded, this would cover all modules and topics. John Black further asks how the recordings would become available, DPEW responds that it would most likely be via Moodle as all students have access to this. Member asks if any student be able to see it, DPEW suggests that all lectures will be available but who will get access will be decide. Iain Shepherd asks why we are recording lecturers, DPEW states that there is evidence and feedback from students which indicates students don't always pick up the information at lectures and different people learn in different ways and this is one way of enabling students to learn better. Member suggests that students might not go to classes if they can get the information via the recording, DPEW states that students will still need to go to class, the recording won't be of the whole lecture. Heather Armstrong asks if we are consulting with the Disability Services staff and students as well as they may be penalised, DPEW suggests that staff members from the service will be full members of the working group so there will be consideration for all students. Heather Armstrong adds that lecturers can see who looks at Moodle therefor could this count as attendance, DPEW states no, not only are there implications for international students there will still be a stand-alone attendance policy which students are expected to abide by. Scott Barbour asks if there will be a way of capturing information on white boards/presentation slides etc. DPEW states that the interactions of the recordings are still being look at but this is certainly possible to do. Ian Shepherd asks what the staff reaction was when this was proposed, DPEW states that they've been positive and understand the need for this resource, there will be lots of staff support and training to assist with the implementation. DPEW is keen to receive feedback on what students think of the idea of recorded lectures and how these would be accessed, just get in touch.

There are no further questions, DPEW report accepted.

Chukwumela Okoroma enters the room 16.50

President reads through report. The Summer Safety Net campaign is going well, Angela Constance, Education Minister for Scotland will be meeting with colleagues and students to discuss any shortfall in funding, however the campaign itself needs a Scotland wide collaboration of the issues

therefor a motion has been submitted to NUS Scotland Conference to ask for FOI's from all institutions regarding their dropout rates and times of when students are more likely to drop out.

Informs members that the mass membership survey received more than 2200 responses, the survey looked at lots of different areas, safety included. This will inform our work over the course of the year and will be conducted each year.

The Housing campaign is on-going, a big win for the campaign so far is that there is now provision in place for students in hardship, they can stay in halls at a reduced rate or free if they are at risk of homelessness, also informs members that the halls prices will increase next year so we are trying to improve the provision generally. In addition the Wifi has improved as there is a separate Wifi connection for Halls students which will allow students to play games and watch films, this is due to new funding and a new director of IT.

President invites questions. Iain Shepherd asks what format the Summer Funding would take, would it be the current amount spread over 12 months or an increase for example, President states that suggestions on how best this can be provided is welcome, however it would be good to have options for individual student needs, we would need to consult on what students want though. Adds that discretionary funding could also be an option for summer months. Heather Armstrong raises concern that students could ask for the summer funding and then decide to leave in May, would SAAS get that money back, there is potential for students to fiddle the system, Kevin McKinley responds stating that students have to pay the money back currently and this would likely continue, President agrees. There are no further questions, President report accepted.

Sports President informs members that the BUCS season is coming to an end and we have done really well this year. States that the West/East Varsity completion has taken place, although we didn't win it was a great day. Informs members that the Get Wet Week as part of the Healthy Body Healthy Mind campaign went really well and it was good to get students engaged, hopefully as a result of our activities this year we will build on the stars from last year. There are no questions, Sports president report accepted

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) NUS Scotland Officer Candidates

President requests this item is discussed under agenda item 9. AOCB. Members agree.

(b) Elections and referendum results

President informs members of the election and referendum results. States that this year we received the most votes ever at 1500 (exactly) meaning the votes are 13% up from last year and students were voting for most positions as well rather than one or two. We had the most number of women candidates and votes as well this year which is great. MDM states that although the results are good for SAUWS, there is still lots of work to do as we are still lower than the rest of the Students' Associations involved with the Big Elections. Adds that the referendum saw 450+ votes with 85% saying yes.

President informs members of the results of the elections as follows:

The sabbatical officers for 2015-16 are:

President: Jack Douglas

Depute President Education and Welfare: Lauren Miller

Sports President: Simon Cain
Campus President Hamilton: Douglas McWhirter
Campus President Ayr: Herborg Hansen

The NUS Scotland Conference Delegation are:

Jack Douglas (automatic place)
Lauren Miller
John Black
Iain Shepherd
Rebecca Skinner
Ashley Forrester
Kevin McKinley

The NUS UK Conference Delegates are:

Jack Douglas (automatic place)
Lauren Miller
John Black
Heather Armstrong

Scott Barbour asks how the transferable voting was explained and why we use it, MDM states that this is used as the constitution dictates this however have preferences in elections gives greater choice and options to the electorate. Ian Shepherd asks that the consequences of STV should be explained more clearly, Kevin McKinley adds that we could look at the promo. Scott Barbour asks why he was able to vote for the Campus President Hamilton and Ayr positions, MDM informs members that the law states that major office bearers should be voted cross campus and the Sabbatical Officers are considered major office bearers for signatory purposes, Gary Kyle adds that there are also some students who study across different campuses.

7. Motions –

(a) Referendum result – ratification

Speech for is taken by the President. States that at the last Students' Council members voted to honour the result of the referendum, regardless of the outcome. The outcome was that in total 453 students voted and 85.4% voted for yes. Adds that the new constitution includes better representation from Dumfries and collaborative colleges, it also strengthens the cross campus representation as there are positions on the Executive Committee for Campus Officers, but it also includes Liberation officers including Care Leavers and a Societies Officer. There will also be better accountability and transparency in the form of a Union Chair.

There is no speech against.

Council move to vote.

*For: 11
Against: 1
Abstain: 2
The motions passes*

(b) Free Period. Tax free.

DPEW passes Chair to President for this motion.

Speech for is taken by Heather Armstrong. Stats that she is saddened at the lack of women in the room to debate this motion. However, women have to pay for sanitary products which are taxed as a 'non-essential luxury item', states that this can be viewed as the government taxing women's bodies, adds that condoms are given out for free and having sex is a choice however having a period is not. Even a simple sign saying that the Students' Association can provide these for free if students are caught short or have no change would be a good start. The University or SA should not be profiting from sanitary products sold or provided.

There is no speech against, however Ian Shepherd requests Procedural Motion 1. (e) – that parts are taken to remove Council Believes 1 (CB1) - It is not right to tax people's bodies and Council Resolves 2 (CR2) - For SAUWS to lobby the university to not profit from the sale of sanitary products. This is seconded by the President, these are debated as two separate items.

Speech for removal of CB1 is taken by Ian Shepherd. States that some food is taxed and we need this to live therefore could be seen as taxing the body.

Speech against removal of CB1 is taken by Heather Anderson. States that this belief is linked to the rest of the motion, taking it out would lose the point of the motion.

There are no further speeches, Council move to vote-

*For: 4
Against: 7
Abstain: 3
The part remains*

Speech for removal of CR2 taken by Iain Shepherd. States that there is a risk that if the Uni are being asked not to profit from the sale of these goods, they may remove them altogether.

Speech against removal of CR2 is taken by Heather Armstrong. States that the University make enough profit out of other revenue streams, not profiting from sanitary products won't make much of a difference and morally they shouldn't be making a profit from women's bodies in the same way that Government shouldn't be either.

There are no further speeches, Council move to vote-

*For: 1
Against: 10
Abstain: 3
The part remains*

The Chair allows discussion before moving to vote on the main motion. Member believes that the University would likely have some sort of contractual agreement which may not be easy to resolve. There is also thought that women can predict or determine when a period will start and could take precautions such as carrying sanitary products with them. Members feel that this is not a resolution to the problem as although there is a general timescale for a period, each woman is very different and some really don't know when a period will begin, there are also environmental issues which can impact on a woman's cycle.

Chair feels that members should move to vote, Heather Armstrong requests a summation is given. This is granted.

Heather Armstrong states that the motion can't be fully enacted until it goes to the Board of Trustees as there may be financial implications to the motion however feels the University could be lobbied to address the issue, asks members to vote for the motion.

Council move to vote-

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

The motion passes

The Chair returns to DPEW.

8. Elections- None

9. AOCB-

President asks members to consider the NUS Scotland President and Vice President Education manifesto's and asks members who should SAUWS delegates vote for.

There is dispute among members as to whether this discussion should take place, the student body have already voted for delegates and they are entrusted with making this decision.

Chair asks members to take a vote on this discussion. Question posed is: Should Students' Council discuss the Manifesto's of the NUS Scotland Candidates and mandate a vote for a particular candidate.

Vote result:

For: 3

Against: 6

Abstain: 5

The vote falls therefore the item is not discussed.

President states that any member who has a particular view is welcome to get in touch with him. Also informs members of the other NUS conferences taking place, this includes Liberation groups (women's, disabled, LGBT and Black students), there is also Sections groups (Mature, International, Post-graduate and Part-Time students). If any member would like more information, go to the NUS Connect website or get in touch with him on president@sauws.org.uk.

There is no further business raised, Chair declares the meeting closed.

Start: 16.30

Finish: 17.40