

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Ayr

Thursday 14th October 2010, 12.30pm, room J129

In the Chair, Daniel Copithorn, Campus President Ayr

Introduction to SRC's

Minutes

1. Sederunt

Daniel Copithorn	Campus President Ayr
Susan Duncan	Depute president Education & Welfare
Arnaud Bastianelli	Sports President
Chris Scott	Ordinary Trustee
Andrew Baipe	Commercial Music
Frazer McGowan	Commercial Music

In Attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation coordinator
Heather Weir	General Assistant
Liam Burns	NUS Scotland President

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline sharp	General Manager
Andrew Taylor	Welfare, Campaigns and Activities Coordinator

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes-none

4. Acceptance of report of the business of the Association

CPA gave an oral report of business – welcomes council reps, reports that since last may a lot has happened. New sabbatical team have taken position. President Tommy Reid has however resigned. The BOT had a meeting to discuss the options for the year ahead with regards to the President position and had agreed to conduct a by-election for ordinary trustee position, however not for president position as the learning curve is steep and the board felt it would be unfair on the person running as no training would be available for them (BOT motion attached).

Freshers went well, numbers through the door and perception from students of the union has increased, student engagement is also better. However union money is down from last year but still a good response from students. Notable items with regards to freshers are the decent turnout of companies, free pizza and balloons, SAUWS got lots of mailings for sports clubs and societies etc. Full house in union for the school disco, as such it was very successful.

Other notable items are that SAUWS employed a new Welfare Campaigns and Activities Coordinator (Andrew Taylor) who has established, along with the BOT, 4 priority campaigns for the year ahead (discussed later).

Council members read through Sports Presidents report (attached), Frazer McGowan asked is there a women's football team, SP reports yes he has identified someone to run the team, however he does have a database of those interested in football.

Acceptance of the report of business – passed unanimously

5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees – none

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Campaigns – SR Coord discussed campaigns on behalf of Andrew Taylor (briefing and relevant timelines attached to email), there were no questions or comments from the floor. If anyone has any questions with regards to campaigns please see attached briefing or contact Andrew Taylor at welfare@sauws.org.uk

(b) ELIR – focus group – DPEW explains the purpose of ELIR i.e. that it is concerned with how the University manages the quality and standards of its academic provision and their enhancement, with a focus on students' experiences of learning at the University. DPEW reports the focus group will discuss the draft Reflective Analysis (RA), the main question asked will be if students recognise the UWS from what is said in the consultation paper. If anyone wants to be involved please contact Susan Duncan at dpew@sauws.org.uk

(c) NUS motion – education funding. Liam Burns introduced himself and explained what NUS and NUS Scotland does, continued on to give NUS Scotland presentation on education funding (presentation attached to email).

Questions on Education Funding open to the Floor – CPA asks how to get the most down to the demo, Liam Burns suggests explaining to students what the purpose of the demo is and what SAUWS are doing, he also suggests face to face contact is the most effective way of engaging students. Practicalities of turning interest into tickets are possibly getting a deposit and try to get lecturers involved. From a fundraising perspective, pin badges can be used for promotion by lecturers and students i.e. if you can't make the demo make a donation and get a pin badge for sponsorship showing your support. Liam Burns further explains that there are plenty of resources on NUS connect for all different students, student reps and officers should visit www.nusconnect.org.uk for more details and ideas.

DPEW explains that we have secured authorised absence for those attending the demo which is a big win as we have gained support from senior management. CPA suggests we are hoping to send 25 students from Ayr, DPEW reports that we have approximately 700 students signed up for updates but suggest however that we are hoping to send 150 UWS students in total. The event itself takes place in London on Wednesday 10th November 2010. Liam Burns suggests we can get in touch with NUS if we require help with funds for the demo. DPEW asks about the NUS motion (NUS motion attached). Liam Burns suggest the motion is not about free education as we've never had it, it's about securing a sustainable higher education funding system.

7. Motions – none

8. Elections-

(a) Elections committee – CPA explains the committee will oversee the by-election for ordinary trustees positions and any other elections thereafter for Ayr campus – Frazer McGowan and Andrew Baipe agree to be on elections committee.

(b) Disciplinary committee – CPA suggests that he will chair any committee meetings until a Chair is elected, Frazer McGowan and Andrew Baipe agree to be ordinary members. This item will also be taken to the next SRC of Ayr for additional members and election of chair and depute chair.

8. AOCB-

Andrew Baipe noted that the Fire alarm went off while in the sound proof room and that the red light (used to notify room users if the fire alarm goes off) was not working. CPA has brought this up with staff, they stated they had tested the system and it is working effectively.

*12.35pm start
13.40pm finish*

Acceptance of report of the business of the Association

Report Sports President

Two teams are set up at Ayr campus

Men's Football: contact Brian Gunning: mensfoot-2@sauws.org.uk

Badminton Mixed: contact Gary Hastings: mensfoot-2@sauws.org.uk

I am currently checking for a **women's basketball** interest – if you know anyone, please contact sp@sauws.org.uk

Zumba classes will start from next week – more information will be displayed through the Union, on the website www.sauws.org.uk and on Facebook "sports-societies Uws"

Cricket will be entering the SUS Indoor Cricket Competition - This season's championships will take place in two stages (30th Oct and 19th Feb)

Cricket trainings will be on Tuesdays – starting Tuesday 12th October from 20.00 to 21.00

Then Tuesdays from 19.00 to 21.00 at the Sports Barn (Hamilton Campus) – more information on cricket@sauws.org.uk

Looking at setting up a **Hockey** team too – More information will follow during the month – more information email: hockey@sauws.org.uk

Rugby (Men's and Women) will have its first training/get together session at the Robertson Sport Centre – Paisley (where it has more interest, and we have the facilities to accommodate the training) – It is a cross campus team, even if you are not able to make it at the training session you can still join the team to play or train at a later date – further information will follow – Same as above any coach and new students wishing to join please email sp@sauws.org.uk

“Show Racism the Red Card” 5 a side Football tournament – Host at Paisley, Robertson Sports centre, on the 6th November – free, anyone can join, food provided, will have an educational part – reason for being in Paisley related to facilities to host such a tournament – More information email at sp@sauws.org.uk

Volunteer positions available within the Sports Union

- Sport coach
- Sports Events and Communication Manager
- Sports Photograph or Film Maker
- Sports Journalist

For more information, please check www.sauws.org.uk

BOT Motion

President Bye Election session 2010-2011

The Board Notes:

1. The resignation of the SAUWS President of session 2010/2011 during trimester 1.
2. That any student who may be elected through a bye election for President would not have the option to attend the usual summer residential trainings available to new sabbaticals.
3. That any student who may be elected through a bye election would have to drop out half way through their year of study if they wished to take up the role of President full time.

The Board Believes:

1. That there is a significant learning curve with any sabbatical role.
2. That the role of President is not one which can be carried out effectively on a part time basis.

The Board Resolves:

1. To not open a bye election for the position of President for session 2010-2011.
2. To divide the remit of President between the rest of the Board of Trustees, with the Depute President, Education and Welfare deputising in anything which must be carried out by the President.
3. To use the money from the honorarium for President to provide extra staff support for the work of the remaining Board of Trustees for the year.

NUS Motion

Education: Not Free, Not Fair

Council Notes:

- 1) The NUS Scotland report into student finance, Still in the Red, found that:
 - a. 36% have considered dropping out with 89% saying this is because of financial strain
 - b. 62% believe that lack of money was impacting on their studies
 - c. One in three know someone who has dropped out due to finances
 - d. Non-traditional, mature students and student parents had higher levels of financial concern and were more likely to consider dropping out.
 - e. Scotland has the worst widening access record in the UK with 86.7% coming from state schools (88.5% nationally) and 28.2% coming from the poorest socio economic backgrounds (33.2% nationally).
- 2) Student support for further education courses is discretionary and cash limited. Colleges across Scotland have decreased the amount or accessibility of bursaries due to increased demand.
- 3) Postgraduate and part-time students still pay tuition fees and have little access to any student support.
- 4) Mature students cannot access as much grants as young students.
- 5) 68% of full-time students are working part-time over the recommended maximum of 10 hours per week.

Council Believes;

- 1) Education in Scotland is not free and is certainly not fair. Inadequate student support means that students take on damaging levels of commercial debt, work long hours that impact on studies or consider dropping out. Postgraduate and part-time students still pay tuition fees and have little access to financial support.
- 2) Graduates benefit society as a whole and Government must continue to fund education and student support to current levels.
- 3) Business sees a huge benefit from education and yet takes none of the responsibility for funding it. There should be a structured business contribution to fund education and student support.
- 4) The current learner journey is inflexible and does not recognise the huge demographic of students Scotland now has. NUS Scotland should be able to make recommendations to change the structure and funding of the curriculum so that it is accessible to more, and reflects a culture of lifelong learning
- 5) It is not fair that the current system means that some graduates see genuine financial benefit while others cannot access, progress or graduate at all due to insufficient financial support.
- 6) There should be a compact between the graduate who sees a genuine financial benefit from their degree and the student who, without better student support, would not have accessed, progressed and graduated from tertiary education at all.
- 7) Tertiary education must be based on the ability to learn not on the ability to pay. This is as much for economic reasons, as for social justice reasons. The aim of the student support system is to remove the financial barriers which prevent people with the ability to study tertiary education from reaching their full potential.

Council Resolves:

- 1) NUS Scotland will fight for improved student support and protection of student places through public funding, a structured business contribution and a graduate contribution based on the following principles:

- a. Contributions are used to ensure students receive better financial support and to protect places.
 - b. Graduates contribute only if and when they see a genuine financial benefit.
 - c. Contributions are progressive, reflecting the amount of genuine financial benefit received.
 - d. Contributions are connected only to financial benefit, and not to the cost of study. There will be no market based on course or institution, nor a price tag attached to entering education.
 - e. Contributions are hypothecated and a method of front loading is found so that current students see a benefit, and current potential students have their places protected.
- 2) Student support should be reformed to be more effective based on the following principals:
- a. A system based on lifelong learning; seamless to the learner, accessible at all times in life and flexible to an individuals changing circumstances.
 - b. Based on entitlement, to an adequate level regardless of location, and ensuring students have certainty as to the amount of support they will receive and security that it will last until the end of their course.
 - c. Recognises that access to adequate support while studying takes priority over limiting state graduate debt.
 - d. Targets support to those who need it most, not diluting resources to fund all to the same level, and recognises additional barriers such as disabilities, childcare and travel.
 - e. Reduces dependence on parental contributions, recognising the learner as an individual.
 - f. Abolishes the barrier of fees for all modes of study, not just full time undergraduates.
 - g. Simplicity in application, understanding and management.
- 3) NUS Scotland should develop proposals to reform the current learner journey, based on the following principals:
- a. Enshrines widening access and social mobility as the corner stone of how tertiary education is designed in Scotland.
 - b. Reflects the wide demographic of students who will have different aspirations in terms of when, where and for how long they study.
 - c. Based on multiple choices, not multiple tiers of educational routes. It is not acceptable that the traditional full time on campus undergraduate Russell Group experience becomes the preserve of the privileged and alternative modes of study is left to everyone else.