

## **STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Paisley**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 4.30pm, Level 1 Union Building

In the Chair, Arnaud Bastianelli, Sports President

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Sederunt**

Arnaud Bastianelli	Sports President
Susan Duncan	Depute President Education and Welfare
Scott Winchester	STAR group LGBT Society Convener
David Gracie	Web Development (L10)
Jamie Kinloch	BA Social Science (L8)
Nick Targontsidis	Events Management (L7)
Cara Lee	Social Science

#### **In attendance**

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator
----------------	-------------------------------------

#### **2. Acceptance of Apologies**

Caroline Sharp	General Manger
Garry Quigley	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Stuart McCabe	Ordinary Trustee Paisley
Alexandra Mayer	International Marketing (L7)
Katrin Andresen	Enterprise and Tourism (L9)
John Shearer	Pre-reg Nursing Dip HE (L7)

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

**(a) Matters arising from those minutes-** Minutes accepted as accurate

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

SP reads entertainments report, Friday nights are still popular numbers are between 200-300 depending on the event. Popular events are back to the 90's, the headphone disco and the birthday party. Currently, we are quite quiet, this is usual around this time however this year the down period is still making more than last year which is very encouraging. Over the next few weeks the union will be building up to the end of year events, these are the End of year Music festival, Halls leaving parties and End of year party 2 (An event that has pretty much everything).

With regards to sports, the UWS in the park event had around 80 people attend, the number is lower than expected, possible communication issues, the Sports President elect Alistair Adamson is planning something similar for next year. Sports ball tickets can still be bought so please pass it on. Nick Targontsidis asks what the numbers are so far, SP reports around 50 but we are hoping for around 80, although there is no strict times for buying tickets numbers are needed for catering

purposes so get buying quickly. Jamie Kinloch asks with regards to UWS in the park, if there was much community activity, SP suggests one of the aims was for the community to get involved as it was part of Renfrew Sports but it was mostly students, there were lots of community sports though, however some parents and children came along, it's a good start for the 1<sup>st</sup> year. SP further notes there is a need to look at the communications of the event. Jamie Kinloch comments that it is a really good event which has the potential to grow, for example getting the local radio station to advertise. SP had Redbull etc present but the timing was difficult with dissertations and coursework due in, it is also difficult to hold this type of event on a Saturday as people can't/don't always give up their time. SP further comments that there was a disappointing Hamilton turnout, the NUS UK conf was also before the event. Further suggests that sports gets involved with lots of things and would like help from the other sabbaticals, there was also disappointing turnout from lecturers and the sports department. Nick Targontsidis events like this do start small, it's similar to the cultural festival which was really good but not too many people attending, both events have scope to be bigger. SP agrees commenting that it just needs a little more work on it. The next things the Sports president will be involved in is the Sports Conference and a hand over to next year's Sports President

DPEW reports that the Student Conference had around 60 participants, however the sign up was much higher and at one stage we weren't sure if it would go ahead. The external facilitators enjoyed coming along and commented that we have good students, they really enjoyed the day. With regards to the Green Impact awards we won gold this year, last year we had bronze. The Climate Challenge external funding bid awarded SAUWS just shy of £100,000 which is a very good starting point. The next step with this project is interviewing inters for the positions available, concentrating on halls and transport, as repeat year funding is low there is a real need to embed it among students and staff, Jamie Kinloch asks if there 5 positions, SP comments that there are, the positions are for Community Carbon Coordinator (x2) and Environmental Intern (x3). DPEW suggests that as we did not secure funding for the outreach project into schools, we are hoping to work with NUS as they are planning something similar, further comments that competing aspects of 'Green' works well in schools, if we can get them young we can create change. Currently we are looking at where the interns can be based, for example level 2, the boardroom and the expansion space, we are also asking the University to put forward some funding.

DPEW reports that with regards to NUS UK held on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April, SAUWS had a full delegation. The event was good and Liam Burns (current NUS Scotland President) was elected as NUS UK President. DPEW will give a full report in due course (this will be emailed to council members)

With regards to the SAUWS elections results, well done goes to Garry Quigley and Cara Lee as your next President and Depute President respectively, also well done to Alistair Adamson your next Sports President. Daniel Copithorn and Samantha Phillips were re-elected as Ayr and Hamilton Campus Presidents respectively, Nick Targontsidis won ordinary trustee for Paisley campus along with Scott Winchester and Stuart McCabe.

*Scott Winchester entered the room 16.50pm*

With the Have your say campaign, Accommodation came in at first place, this will be the priority campaign for next year. Council think the prices for accommodation for next year are disgraceful, DPEW reports that SAUWS is planning a protest against the prices as lots of students are saying they can't afford costs. DPEW will be putting together a report which will state the results of SAUWS GOATing (Going Out And Talking) and the campaigns planned, along with student debt in general, the protest will likely be around the same time of the meeting to decide final prices for

Halls. Further suggests that 'sit-ins' etc are good for when the University is quiet. SP reports that the election turnout is still very low and that election online needs more promotion, DPEW suggests that we would benefit from things like a computer station etc, Nick Targontsidis suggests that people like the paper ballot, DPEW comments that more campaigning is required from candidates, Jamie Kinloch doesn't agree, suggests that democratic services should be promoting for elections.

DPEW reports that the NUS Scotland demo 'reclaim your voice' has also taken place, although there were not as many in Edinburgh as London it was a good day but marched too quickly. SAUWS are now asking candidates to sign up to pledges and doing photo opportunities with the candidates at Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley, then doing a press release, but we need to keep up the pressure though. With regards to the Teaching awards there were less nominations but there was also less promotion and less time for voting. There were some really good comments and best practice examples which can be used in the future, lecturers also enjoyed the night and suggested it is the students that matter. Also reports that E.L.I.R. (Enhancement Led Institutional Review) is now done. The Principle's initial feedback is very positive, people external to the University and other institutions look at the findings of this type of review so getting a good result is great.

There were no questions from the floor, report unanimously accepted.

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

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

### **(a) Social Media for Learning & Teaching**

DPEW outlines the project commenting that the University are considering the role of Social Media in learning and teaching, points out that this hasn't been put to students as yet. Examples of how this could be used are blogs while on placement, this can help with cohesion, the use of Twitter is also popular. Asks if council members think this is a good idea or useful for best practice. Nick Targontsidis suggests that video conferencing is not very good, technology doesn't always work. Jamie Kinloch suggests it can depend on the department. Nick Targontsidis suggests that students may just stay in bed if there is the opportunity to not have to come into University. Cara Lee suggests that there can be technological issues as some software hasn't worked when students from Hamilton linked in with Ayr, comments however that it is a good idea but it didn't live up to its name. DPEW asks what students think about blogs etc, David Gracie suggests this is perhaps similar to Blackboard and is meant to be used as a reflective board. DPEW suggests that at Glasgow Caledonian University blogs went down well in the nursing department. Jamie Kinloch suggests that some lecturers mark on how students engage with it, comments that it's not about failing, but having a small percentage attached to participation, suggests it's good that these things are open but if it's graded it's a smart way of getting people to use it. David Gracie suggests that twitter could work for languages etc, although not sure about the degree aspect, can use it for example as a 'word of the day' to help with language, or used as snippets for learning and mini discussions from original discussion. Stuart Hepburn (a lecturer) was in the Guardian reporting on the usefulness of social media and the opportunity it holds for one to one aid and allows students to feel more part of the course.

### **(b) Lean project @UWS**

SR Co-ord outlines the project, informs council that the university are looking at ways of doing things more efficiently, for example looking at processes for departments like student services, admin services, finance etc. David Gracie comments that Student Services time taken to complete

forms takes too long, suggests that this should be automated and based on the situation, further suggests there should be a 5 day minimum wait when preparing forms for council tax, currently its 14 working days. Cara Lee suggests that last year she filled out the council tax form and asked a lecturer to sign it, however Students Service didn't except the form and had to do it again. David Gracie further comments that as there are so many students using the service there is a need to look at how to accommodate high volumes quicker. Jamie Kinloch reports that as part of his research of his class, 40% of his colleagues have used Student Services and suggest there are lots of issues with some being difficult to discuss, further states that respondents were generally frustrated with Student Services not knowing who does what and the website is not clear enough, advice on the website asks students to go to the desk which is not helpful for part-time or distance learners, comments that some companies have an online chat services which is fully accessible. Nick Targontsidis suggests that even if students can just call them and get put through to the right person like an information point. Scott Winchester suggests that he is often passed from one person to the next as Student Services themselves are not sure who to contact. DPEW suggests that this was the point of Student Services Link. Nick Targontsidis suggests that with regards to accommodation, his heating has not worked for 3-4 months and has been reported, although he did eventually get a heater it was taken away. SP comments that international students are guaranteed accommodation and are put up in a hotel if student accommodation cannot be found, further suggests that the new accommodation offices will be within the student accommodation unit. Nick Targontsidis comments that the Halls management team and maintenance personnel at times have gone into rooms without timely prior notice, suggest that this is potentially breaking the law by just going into rooms. Cara Lee comments that she also heard this has happened at Hamilton Campus Halls. SP suggests there is a thin line as halls are essentially university property however students should be given notice except in emergencies. Nick also comments that Security Services don't always walk around, reports that there was a sink broken with water going everywhere however security and wardens didn't know how to switch the water off. David Gracie suggests that they have been in rooms without notice and they are now sending emails therefore if students are not checking their student email accounts they won't know about it. DPEW suggests that Student Services, particularly with regards to disciplinary and appeals, should give receipts which state details of what has been handed in as it can cause confusion when items go missing. Scott Winchester comments that with regards to Enabling Support the length of time for an appointment can be 6-8 weeks, which is not uncommon. Nick Targontsidis suggests that a drop in/call in centre would be good as there is a need to be more easily accessible for example, giving advice such as this is what you can do while you're waiting for appointments, also states that the Student Services drop in sessions at the library are not accessible.

### **(c) NUS UK feedback**

Nick Targontsidis comments that NUS UK conference was very good and it was interesting to see what people do, further states that there are a few things to adopt here with regards to voluntary groups for next year, suggests that SAUWS should allow community groups to use Union building without charge as we have space in the daytime which is not being used. SP suggests the Board of Trustees would need to discuss this next year but recognises there are lots to consider. SP further comments that the Sports President Elect would like to be more involved with the community. Scott Winchester comments that some students at conference said it was inaccessible with reading and moving around the venue. SP asks if it is possible to give feedback, DPEW suggests there is. Nick Targontsidis suggests that there were more people than expected and not enough room. SP comments that it is a good opportunity for networking.

## **7. Motions-**

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

SP outlines the motion, states that each year this is put to council for consideration. Outlines the cost involved with affiliation to the various organisations and suggests that this year (2011-12) BUCS are not planning to increase their affiliation fee, however SUS might as they now include Colleges. Also suggests that the Football league may be incorporated with BUCS. There are no questions from the floor. With regards to NUS affiliation, it is not clear about next year but Jamie Kinloch suggests there would be more insight if there was a referendum. DPEW suggests that SAUWS holds shares in NUSSL than most other Universities and we do get some money back. SP suggests that next year there may be different prices however the last president was sceptical, states that there is no need for a review as NUS have done a lot in our areas of campaigning. Further notes that there would be a need for a referendum which will be difficult as 5% of the student body would be needed to support it. DPEW comments that Strathclyde University hold a referendum every 3 years, also suggests it is a good way to keep students informed on NUS and their activities. There were no more questions or comments from the floor.

Council moves to vote

*For: Unanimous  
Motion passes with two thirds majority*

**(b) Constitutional amendment – Code of Discipline**

Chair allows 1minute speech for the motion, this is the property of David Gracie (Disciplinary Committee Chair, Paisley Campus)

David Gracie outlines that the purpose of the motion is based on things that have happened at disciplinary hearings, there have been 9 so far this year, compared to 3 last year. The changes include general and simple language and changes to the notification of a hearing which will make it easier for disciplinary hearings to be held.

Speech against is not taken.

David Gracie asks if there are any questions, Jamie Kinloch asks the purpose of point 6. David Gracie comments that this was a student/staff issue, the member being disciplined was still able to come in, however the staff member involved has no choice, they have to come into work, an ordinary member has the choice not to come in. Point 6 is only to be used in cases where it is staff/student or violent or abusive/intimidation. DPEW points out that the motion doesn't state this, that it can be any student, notes that this point can be resubmitted to next year's council if it fails.

Procedural Motion 5.1 (e) is requested – Parts to remove Council Resolves point 6, a one minute speech is given. The speech is taken by DPEW. States that as it stands point 6 suggests that no matter who the disciplinary is against they wouldn't be allowed into the Union until the hearing.

Speech against is not taken.

Council moves to vote on Parts – *Vote to remove Council Resolves point 6*

*For: Unanimous  
Parts are removed*

Council moves to vote on motion as it stands

*For: Unanimous  
Motion Passes with two thirds majority*

**(c) Election participation**

Chair allows 1minute speech for the motion, this is the property of Nick Targontsidis, outlines that the purpose of the motion is to counter the poor turnout at the last student elections, notes that only 1% of students got involved which is not representative, also states that candidates are not doing enough to spark interest. Suggests there is a need for a committee to organise and run the elections for next year and bring in staff for marketing etc.

Speech against is not taken

Procedural Motion 5.1 (e) is requested – Parts to remove from Union Resolves 2 ‘paid professional’.

Chair allows 1minute speech, taken by David Gracie. States that SAUWS already have staff with some responsibility for elections who could be used before taking on other paid staff, there are also budgeting issues, there is also the possibility of asking marketing students to help out giving them experience.

Speech Against, taken by Nick Targontsidis, states that the Welfare, Campaigns and Activities co-ordinator has put election promotion in his budget, also understands the marketing side stating this can be discussed at a later date.

Request for extra round of speeches, this is put to vote, *For 5, Against 1*.  
Extra round of speeches granted.

Speech for is taken by DPEW, states that the whole of union resolves 2 should be removed, the main issue is asking for paid professional PR staff solely for campaigning etc, this makes it sound like it is something different and there is a need to wait for the review group before paying for other staff.

Speech against is taken by Nick Targontsidis, states that he doesn’t agree, although SAUWS do have PR staff it is not enough to go round handing out flyers or putting up posters, this is not what we need, we need people who can encourage participation, people who are experienced and can explain the importance of voting in student elections.

Council moves to vote on parts – *Vote to remove from Union Resolves 2 ‘paid professional’*

*For: 3  
Against: 1  
Abstentions: 1  
Parts are removed*

Council moves to vote on motion as it stands

*For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1  
The motion passes with majority*

**8. Elections-**

Elections committee (x1), Proposed – Nick Targontsidis (seconded David Gracie)

Disciplinary Committee (x1), there is no uptake.

**9. AOCB-**

SP reminds council that the Sports Ball is being held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April and tickets are still available.

*Start: 4.35pm*

*Finish: 6.05pm*