



STUDENT VOICE MINUTES

Wednesday 26th October 2016, 2pm.

Venues:

Ayr – Committee room 1

Dumfries – R217

Hamilton – A216

Paisley – P118

In the Chair – Michael Wilson, Union Chair.

1. Members Present

Heather Armstrong	President of Societies and Citizenship/Senior Student Representative (SSR)
Lisa McCusker	President of Student Support (PofSS)
Emma Shotter	Disabled Student Officer
Jack Douglas	Social Science
Megan Tait	Social Science
Cameron Stuart	Social Science
Mark MacPhail	Business Technology

In attendance

David Devlin	Membership Development Manager (MDM)
Linsey Roseman	Membership Administrator

2. Apologies

John Black	President of Education
Johnathan Cranstoun	President of Sport and Wellbeing
Kate Morrison	LGBT+ Student Officer

3. Chair's Notice

The Union Chair (Chair of Student Voice) welcomed all to the first meeting of Voice for academic session 2016-17. Chair gave notice that the committee elections will take place in this meeting. There will be two sets of elections; one for the SAUWS Disciplinary Committee and its members and the other for the two positions on the Appointments Committee. Members were made aware that the appointments committee's remit is still subject to approval by the Board of Trustees and as such it may not meet until the trimester 2 at the earliest.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a) Matters of accuracy – None raise
- b) Matters arising – Removal of External Trustees from the Agenda

Jack Douglas questioned why the ratification of student trustees was removed from the agenda of Voice. Chair explained that Voice should have discussed ratification in this meeting, but due to some internal issues it has been postponed to the next meeting on November 30th. Chair promised to keep Jack and other students up to date on all matters relating to external trustee ratification and stated that it is the Chair's hope that ratification be on the table for the next meeting of Voice.

5. Items of Business

a) Constitutional Review – Change overview

Members were invited to comment on the changes to the sabbatical structure which is currently being considered by the Association. The Sabbatical officers present suggested that the Sabb team are happy to move to the new model of 'President' and 'Vice Presidents'. It was noted that the sabbatical role is very difficult and only one role can be performed very well, enabling more attention to be placed on the remits of each Officer. Voice noted that the election for the 'President' role would be held with a cross campus ballot however the Second Court Representative would continue to be elected at Student Voice.

Members noted that accountability of Sabbatical Officers could be impacted by the change, there was also concern that the diversity of the Sabb team is not always reflective of the student body. It was requested that further consultation with students was needed to address accountability issues and diversity.

b) Motions

i. SAUWS Affiliations – Ratification

Speech for is taken by SSR: Members were made aware that this motion details the organisations which SAUWS affiliates with and is required to be ratified by Voice.

There was a request for Parts to separate NUS ratification from all others. Guidance was given to the Chair by the MDM that parts would be incompatible with the Education Act, and thus request was rejected.

There are no questions

There is no speech against

Voice move to vote

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Affiliations are ratified

ii. The Fight Until We Are Fee Free

Speech for is taken by SSR: We are asking for Voice to pass this motion to enable the Association to fight against any increase in fees for students who currently need to pay fees, this includes Rest of UK (RUK) and international students. Adds that passing the motion will allow the Association to send a delegation to the NUS Demonstration on 19th November.

There is no speech against

Member asks what the NUS Demonstration is called. SSR informs members that the demo is called 'United for Education'

There are no further questions

Voice move to vote:

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

The motion passes

iii. Monitoring the Prevent Agenda at UWS

Speech for is taken by SSR: Informs members of the UK government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which asks public bodies including Universities to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and to implement the Prevent agenda. Adds that the Association has serious concerns about the act and the duties placed on institutions to report such activities. Passing the motion will enable the Officers to monitor and challenge, when appropriate, the implementation of Prevent agenda at UWS via the UWS Prevent Group. We will also lobby the university to be open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives which involves demanding the publication of how the policy is operating within the university and access to materials used to train staff and students.

There is no speech against.

Member thanked Officers for bringing this to Voice as it is overdue. Concern was also raised about the impact of government policy on Students' and Student Unions generally.

There were no other points

Voice move to vote

For: Unanimous

The motion passes

iv. TEF Off!

Speech for is taken by PofSS: Informs members that the UK government are implementing what is called TEF – Teaching Excellence Framework which is linked to fees, this gives Universities the power to increase fee's so long as they meet certain criteria. However in Scotland we already have a very good system for assuring and enhancing the quality of education called QEF – Quality Enhancement Framework. Adds that with UWS opening the Campus in London there is a risk that the University will use TEF as its quality assurance rather than QEF allowing them to increase fees. Passing this motion will allow the Association to be vocal in its opposition to TEF and allow the Officers to lobby the University to not implement TEF at UWS and work with NUS Scotland to prevent TEF being introduced in Scotland.

There is no speech against

Member asks, with regards to the potential 'sabotage' of NSS (National Student Survey) being discussed at NUS, what the Association's stance is on this. SSR states that no decisions have been made around this yet.

Chair asks for the Executive Committee to inform Voice of any discussions and/or decisions in this area.

Voice move to vote

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

The motion passes

c) Disciplinary Committee election

MDM gave an overview of the duties of the Disciplinary Committee and asks for nominations. None are received therefore the election is re-opened and will be forwarded to the next meeting of Voice

d) Appointments Committee Election

MDM gave an overview of the duties of the Appointments Committee and asks for nominations.

Cameron Stuart and Mark MacPhail expressed interest. An election was held, both students noted are duly elected.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Jack Douglas enquires about the status of the Officers accountability. Chair responds noting that the intention is to scrap the videos and to introduce a 'Pledge Tracker' to monitor progress of campaigns/other activities. Adds that any suggestions on what students want are most welcome.

Jack Douglas also asks how the Chair plans to promote the next meeting of Voice. Chair responds that the intention is to travel to each campus in a 'roadshow' to advertise Voice and why it's important for students to attend. Will also encourage sports teams and societies to attend too.

Chair informs members that the next meeting of Voice will take place on Wednesday 30th November, rooms and time will be confirmed via the website at <https://www.sauws.org.uk/union/sauwsstudentsvoice/>

Chair reminds members that any student can submit items for discussion or policy, all the information is available on the SAUWS website.

Chair thanks member for their contribution and declares the meeting closed.

Start: 2pm

Finish: 2.50pm