

## STUDENT VOICE MINUTES

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 2.30pm.

The meeting was held by Web-ex.

*In the Chair – Michael Wilson, Union Chair.*

### 1. Members Present

Heather Armstrong	President of Societies and Citizenship (PoSC) and Senior Student Representative (SSR)
John Black	President of Education (PoE) and Second Court Representative (SCR)
Johnathan Cranstoun	President of Sport and Wellbeing (PoSW)
Lisa McCusker	President of Student Support (PoSS)
Stephen Bates	Dumfries Campus Executive Officer
Emma Shotter	Disabled Student Officer
Kate Morrison	LGBT+ Student Officer
Keith Munroe	LGBT+ Trans Officer
Cameron Stewart	Social Science
Jack Douglas	Social Science
Stuart Mill	Social Science
Alek Charfeddine	Business Studies
Arnault Bembo	Education

#### In attendance

David Devlin	Membership Development Manager (MDM)
Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)
Rebecca Calvert	Website, Digital Media and Communications Coordinator

### 2. Apologies

Margo MacMillan	Social Science
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#### **Introduction to Voice and meeting protocols** (discussion run time: 00.00.05 – 00.04.04)

Chair welcomes members to the meeting and thanks them for attending the first web-ex Student Voice meeting. States that all members are welcome to contribute and this is encouraged, members don't need to be on video or audio if they want to contribute, this can be done via the 'chat' option and this will be read out by the Chair or a staff member in attendance.

Chair invites MDM to read out Meeting Protocols – MDM explains that there is an audio system to participate however reiterates that there is a chat option if members are unable to use microphones or do not want to. Reminds members to send chat messages to everyone and not privately so that it can be seen by all. Adds that voting will take place via the 'Polling' option,

there will a 30 second time limit on all voting and members can change their mind during this period. Once voting has taken place, the Chair will receive the results and then announce these.

Also states that although the meeting is online, members are bound by the Code of Conduct in that no sexist, racist, ableist, homophobic or other language which deliberately makes someone feel unwelcome is allowed, anyone found to do this will be given a warning and if repeated will be removed from the meeting and may be subject to disciplinary action. Adds that if anyone feels uncomfortable at any point, they can report this privately in the chat option to either MDM or SRCo-ord and it will be address immediately.

Explains that during the meeting, if anyone wishes to contribute they should click the 'hands up' button on the screen and they will be given opportunity to speak by the Chair.

MDM gives an opportunity for members to ask questions or comment on the protocols, there are none.

### **3. Chair's Notice** (discussion run time: 00.05.10 – 00.05.50)

The Chair gives notice that committee elections will take place in this meeting for the SAUWS Disciplinary Panel, MDM will conduct this election and encourages all members to consider standing for this committee. Chair reminds members that they can't hold more than one office therefore if any member is already on another committee, for example a Sabbatical or Executive Officer, they can't stand for these positions

### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising** (Discussion run time: 00.05.51 – 00.06.48)

- a) Matters of accuracy – There are no matters of accuracy.
- b) Matters arising – There are no matters arising.

### **5. Items of Business**

- a) Accountability Statement (discussion run time: 00.07.11 – 00.15.51)

Chair states that accountability sessions have been held with Sabbatical officers, President of Sport and Wellbeing (PoSW) is yet to be held however. Adds that the Union is doing well on all its goals and has been busy.

Chair also gave an update on their activities, states that the pledge tracker for sabbatical election pledges will be put online so that students can see what progress is being made on different areas of priority, adds that Officers can be questioned at any time on their activity, there is a button under each of their profiles on the website to make it easier for students to ask questions.

Adds that we ran training for student reps which included Student Voice training so they know how to get involved, we are looking to add this to the Student Rep Congress next year. Chair will also be working with President of Society and Citizenship (PoSC) and PoSW to encourage sports teams and societies to get involved too.

Members ask if it's possible to ask the Sabbaticals questions during this meeting, Chair allows this and requests that anyone wishing to ask a question to a Sabb or the Chair to raise their hand.

Jack Douglas asks the PoSS what work has been done so far on the Summer Safety Net campaign as policy was passed last year mandating this work to be carried on.

PoSS states that so far not much work has been done due to other issues arising, however notes that MSP's have given their backing to the campaign and we will be following this up with them, we will also work with NUS in forwarding this. Member asks for a timeline of plans as there is a student support review coming up from the Government and feels it is timely to consider this. PoSS states that there are other student focused events being run such as Paws against Stress session however we will continue with the Safety Net campaign in the New Year.

There are no further questions, Chair reiterates that questions to Sabbatical Officers or the Union Chair can be done at any time via the website or email Chair directly on [unionchair@sauws.org.uk](mailto:unionchair@sauws.org.uk).

b) Governance update – Update from the Senior Student Representative (SSR) (discussion run time: 00.15.52 – 00.19.55)

SSR invites MDM to speak on this item as the staff member responsible for Governance. MDM states that a paper was submitted to the UWS Court as legally required and was presented by SSR and SCR, the paper was approved. This means that the Board of Trustees now needs to approve the changes for them to be implemented and once approved elections next year will include a President and three Vice Presidents – these are Vice President Societies and Citizenship, Vice President Sport and Wellbeing and Vice President Education. Election nominations will open in January with polling taking place in March.

Jack Douglas asks, with regards to the 'Big Elections' timeline, if consideration has been given to students who intend to attend any liberation conference as these are being held at the same time as our elections. SSR responds that we weren't aware that they ran at the same time, however we will certainly look into this to see how both can be accommodated. Jack Douglas clarifies that it's the NUS UK Liberation conferences this affects not the Scottish conferences.

MDM reminds members that the Big Elections are dealt with by student Union Deputy Returning Officers across central Scotland, although dates are set for March at the moment, if enough of the partner institutions wish for the dates of the Big Elections to be changed, this is something that can be changed. SSR confirms this and thanks member for bringing it up.

c) Motions

i. Gender Neutral Bathrooms (debate run time: 00.20.15 – 00.29.05)

Speech for is taken by the LGBT+ Trans Officer: States that gender neutral bathrooms are important as they provide a safe space for non-binary people, trans people, and for gender non-conforming individuals. Going to the bathroom can be very stressful for those who do not identify as cis or within the gender binary as there is a high risk especially for those who don't 'pass', that they will be discriminated against when they enter the men's or women's bathrooms. They could be met with verbal or even physical violence. A gender neutral bathroom would send a clear message to LGBT+ students and staff members that we care about their safety and that they are free to do their business without stress and worry that they may encounter trouble when they simply need to pee. We all have gender neutral bathrooms at home, so what is the problem with having them in public.

There were no amendments or speeches against the motion

Voice move to vote,

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstention: 2

*The motion passes*

Stephen Bates suggests that, to save the Uni money, as a disabled student he wouldn't mind if the disabled toilets were doubled up as gender neutral toilets. PoSS appreciates this however states that this is what they do in the Unions at the moment and some people who are not disabled feel uncomfortable with using them, particularly if there is a disabled student wanting to use it.

ii. We stand with Spanish Students (debate run time: 00.29.08 – 00.36.02)

Speech for is taken by Stuart Mill: States that there are educational reforms in Spain at the moment along with other austerity measures. Tuition fees have gone up approx. 66% which is presenting a barrier to low and middle income students, there are also cuts to resources at Schools and Colleges putting pressure on teaching numbers and facilities. Also, new tests have been introduced which if not passed can prevent students accessing further or higher education. Students in Spain have been organising protests and walk outs about the reforms and we ask for SAUWS in conjunction with the Socialist Student Society to show solidarity and support to our counterparts in Spain.

Cameron Stuart asks if this is the best approach, would it be better to do this via NUS, Stuart Mill suggests that this would be the next step but this is a first step, other student union socialist student societies are also submitting motions to similar effect at their own Union.

There is no speech against

Voice move to vote,

For: 12

Against: 1

Abstention: 1

*The motion passes*

iii. Policy Passed in Academic Year 2011-12 (debate run time: 00.36.10 – 00.58.15)

MDM explains that Policy Lapse is policy which passed 5 years ago, after which time they are reviewed via Voice. Members will vote on each of the policy areas to either keep the policy or let it lapse (no longer policy)

a. Equal Marriage

*Members allow this policy to lapse*

b. Extended Curfew Time

*Members allow this policy to lapse*

c. Burlesque Motion

*Members allow this policy to lapse*

d. Library Fines Amnesty

Jack Douglas states that this policy should stay as it can prevent students from graduating, if they don't graduate they may not get a job and then they may not be able to pay off debts anyway.

This is supported by PoE as a manifesto point and encourages members to keep the policy

Voice moves to vote,  
*Members vote to allow the policy to stay.*

e. A Helpline On Student cards

Jack Douglas states that there was a helpline on the back of banner cards, however the new student cards don't have a helpline on them and therefore this motion should stay and we should get a helpline number back on the back of student banner ID cards. SSR agrees stating that student mental health is of high importance and having this will help us fight for positive mental health at UWS.

Voice move to vote,  
*Members vote to allow the policy to stay.*

d) Disciplinary Committee elections (election run time: 00.58.16 – 01.03.06)

MDM explains that this election is for the SAUWS disciplinary committee who hold students to account if they breach any of SAUWS rules or regulations. The committee will hear cases and then make a judgement on upholding or not that case.

SRCo-ord explains that all places are open and include a Chair, Depute Chair and five ordinary places.

Chair states that only students who do not currently hold office, for example members of the Executive Committee, can stand for these positions.

MDM explains that this section of the constitution is the final part which requires review and any comments or suggestion on how it should run in the future would be welcome. Asks Voice if they can allow members of the Executive Committee to hear cases should a committee not be elected. Members agree.

**6. Any Other Competent Business** (discussion run time: 01.03.14 – 01.07.15)

Union Chair invites members to raise any other competent business using the chat function or raising their hand to speak.

No member has other business to raise.

Chair informs members that the next Voice meeting will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and will be conducted using Web-Ex again. Please check the website for the link closer to the time. Chair also asks members to let us know what they thought of using Web-ex and for any suggestions for improving the experience of participating in Voice. Also reminds members that they can ask Sabbatical officers questions via the website.

SSR states that Raising and Giving (RAG) week is this week and there are lots of activities ongoing, if you can get involved please do, please get in touch with Heather Armstrong.

Chair thanks members for their participation and declares the meeting closed.

*Start: 2.30pm*

*Finish: 3.40pm*