

STUDENT VOICE MINUTES

Wednesday 24th February 2016, 2pm.

Venues:

Ayr - LT2 (moved to Committee Room 1)

Dumfries - R217

Hamilton - Caird Lecture Theatre 1

Paisley - P121

In the Chair – Ann Mitchell, Union Chair

1. Members Present

Ayr:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jack Douglas | President |
| Natasha Birrell | BA Education |
| Abbie Cardie | BA Education |
| Simon Taylor | BA Education |

Dumfries:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Sam Glendinning | Executive Officer Dumfries |
|-----------------|----------------------------|

Hamilton:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Simon Cain | Sports President |
| Stephen Russell | Executive Officer Hamilton |
| Shevonne Cullen | Adult Nursing |
| Carla Maxwell | Community Education and Development |
| Ashely Carnwatle | Social Science |
| Christine Gerrard | Social Science |

Paisley:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| John Black | Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW) |
| Emma Shotter | Disabled Students Officer |
| Bren McNeil | Information Technology |
| Heather Armstrong | Social Science |
| Matteo Paviza | Computing |
| Kieran Scobbie | Chemistry |

In attendance

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Claire Lumsden | Student Representation Co-ordinator (in Hamilton) (SRCo-ord) |
| Janine Hunt | Chief Executive (in Paisley) |

2. Apologies

Christopher Sangster Disciplinary Committee Chair
Margo MacMillan Executive Officer Paisley

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a) Matters of accuracy – there are none.
- b) Matters arising:
 - i. Water on Campus – with the Hamilton Campus development, we'll ensure there is ample access to water, similar to what's available at Ayr if possible. Currently if you want water you can get it from the canteens, if you have your own cup/bottle this will be free, if not there will be a charge for the cup. This seems to have worked well at Paisley.
 - ii. Caring for Carers motion – this is going to NUS Scotland for wider consideration as it's a problem which affects all student carers not just those here at UWS.
 - iii. Library and ITDS issues – ITDS have requested a focus group/meeting be set up with students, we'll send out an email about this when it's organised.

4. Items of Business

a) Update on SAUWS activities – President

President gives update from the SAUWS Executive Committee. States that Freshers and welcome week went very well, we gave out 2500 new SAUWS bags and 3000 handbooks which is more than ever before. We received a high number of signups for sports and Societies and other volunteering activities which was a great start to the year. The commercial aspect of the organisation has also improved and we are seeing more and more students using the Union buildings. For this year we also rebranded, our old branding was outdated and too corporate, the new logo and branding forms part of wider activities contributing to the SAUWS being more visible and accountable to our members.

During fresher's we ran a mental health campaigns and got students talking about what they want out of this year's Scottish Elections which informed our 'asks' for the next Parliament. We have also published our Summer Retention Report and are lobbying parliament to consider our recommendations alongside our other 'asks' for students. Following a successful freshers, Team UWS have been doing really well.

During trimester 1, as part of our community work, we donated over 10 tons of goods to 'Glasgow the caring city' which will go to where refugees need it most. The goods, which included cloths/shoes, covers and tents, pots/pans and other cooking facilities among other things, were donated from students, staff and the public to which we owe a huge thank you. We have also been lobbying the University to provide better support for refugees, if you'd like to find out more or get involved please contact the President, Jack Douglas (president@sauws.org.uk).

We undertook a Sabbatical review with the new roles in place for this election season, voting for the new positions opens on 7th March. The Executive Committee election are to come so look out for that too. These elections are part of the Big Elections which includes Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian University's and Glasgow Clyde College all holding elections at the same time. There will be a Results Party at Paisley Campus on Friday 11th March which we would encourage

everyone to attend. More information and how to vote are available at:

<http://www.sauws.org.uk/elections2016/>

There was also a massive campaign for the Hamilton redevelopment which resulted in a referendum and although the University didn't go with the option students wanted, we will ensure that students are at the forefront of the new development.

The Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) was also approved, the SPA outlines how SAUWS and UWS, staff and students can work together on focused activities, for more info please contact the Depute President, John Black (dpew@sauws.org.uk). The Depute President has also been working on de-stress events across the campuses and will be holding a therapists session at Dumfries very soon, these have gone down very well at the other campuses. The Depute President has also been working closely with the Library and to get more ebooks and with Schools to improve the feedback you get on assessments.

We also held our first Student Rep Congress which was well attended and set the scene for reps for the year ahead, more networking sessions for reps are to come.

During the National Voter Registration week we showed students that registering to vote was 'a piece of cake' and got students thinking again about what they want from the next Scottish Parliament.

SAUWS also has a new Chief Exec, Janine Hunt. Janine is in her fourth week at SAUWS now with exceptional experience across the government and charity sectors and has the knowledge and expertise to take our next strategic plan forward.

Finally, the Big Awards are almost open, these awards are run by SAUWS and is your opportunity to nominate your best lecturer or a student who has gone above and beyond to help the University, other students or the Community.

President invites questions.

Christine Gerard at Hamilton Campus asks for further information regarding the Hamilton relocation to the Hamilton Technology Park – Is the University going to buy all or some of the land and what will the campus look like. President explains that there is no clear guidance as yet but we will ensure it is student driven. Follow up question - Is there a place to find out the information, President explains there is not at the moment but we want to send out any information as it comes in. Depute President states that this came up at the Education Advisory Committee and Paul Martin (Depute Principal) is project sponsor for the development, he will be looking to hold focus groups in the coming weeks and months to gauge what students want, information of when/where these will take place will be communicated as soon as possible. There will be one place for all Hamilton campus related information and this will be emailed as well.

There are no further questions or comments. Voice notes their thanks to Jack and the team for their hard work over the year so far.

b) Motions

i. Financial support for Masters Students

Chair reads out speech for in absence of Tommy Reid: States that the university have helped where they could and were very good, also received assistance from Renfrewshire Council with food and from the Students Association through the hardship fund. The experiences outside of the course included approx. 35 weeks without any income, 4 weeks with income through work, 6 food bank visits, money occasionally from family and sold some things from the house to get by. Overall trying to focus on the degree and survive at the same time has been difficult and although the motion won't be relevant to everyone out there, it is relevant to those who want to do a Masters and would like support doing one. I feel what I am putting forward has importance and should be something that starts the campaign to achieve full Masters course funding including at the dissertation part and any other part that's not funded already.

Point of clarification – DPEW asks if 'parts' can be taken, Chair informs they can in accordance with the Standing Orders.

DPEW requests parts are taken on Voice Notes point 1, which reads: *There is currently no funding for the dissertation part of the Master's degree.*

Speech for removing these parts is taken by DPEW. States that this point is inaccurate as some funding is provided for some programmes.

Speech against removing these parts is taken by Heather Armstrong. States that they understand what the motion is saying and the funded part only covers the Taught section of the programme, not the dissertation part. However that's not to say some other way of funding this doesn't exist.

There are no further rounds of speeches for these parts.

Chair invites members move to vote. Clarifies that if voting for - this means removing the parts, if voting against - this means keeping the parts.

- For: 3
- Against: 4
- Abstain: 7

The parts stay

President requests that parts be taken on Voice Believes point 1, removal of section: *...as time commitments and expectations are similar.*

Speech for removing these parts is taken by the President. States that the time commitment varies from course to course and so is not similar, undergraduates are also more likely to have additional or higher expectations which can lead to greater stress felt.

There is no speech against.

Chair invites members to vote

- For: 13
- Against: 1
- Abstain: 3

The parts are removed

President requests that parts be taken on Voice Believes point 2, which reads: *That Taught Postgraduate students are just as likely to drop out of University as their Undergraduate counterparts.*

Speech for removing these parts is taken by the President. States that we have just completed a report on drop-out rates and Postgraduate students are not as likely to drop out and so is not the same.

There is no speech against.

Chair invites members to vote

- For: 14
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 3

The parts are removed

Heather Armstrong requests parts be taken on Voice Resolves 2, which states: *For SAUWS to mandate NUS Scotland Executive Committee to lobby the Scottish Government to make appropriate and positive changes to the financial support for Taught Postgraduate financial support as recommended by the Working group.*

Speech for removing these parts is taken by Heather Armstrong. States that SAUWS can't mandate the NUS Executive Committee to do anything so this isn't appropriate.

There is no speech against.

Chair invites members to vote

- For: 8
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 9

The parts are removed

There are no further parts.

Chair moves to main motion.

Speech against the motion as it stands is taken by Heather Armstrong. States that the motion should have gone further than it does, there are many areas to look at when it comes to Postgraduate financial support and would like this motion to mean something for all Postgraduate students, asks Voice to vote against the motion to enable it to be developed further.

Speech for is taken by Samuel Glendinning. States that we should still vote for the motion as it's better to have something passed to work with as a starting point rather than having nothing at all. SAUWS can start the process for making changes to Postgraduate students support and make successes step by step.

Speech against is taken by DPEW. States that they agree with Samuels points but the motion would still not work as it doesn't go far enough and should be a more robust motion.

Chair invites members to vote

- For: 0
- Against: 16
- Abstain: 1

The motion falls

ii. Academic Society fee waiver

Speech for the motion is taken by Simon Taylor. States that SAUWS is all for free education and this motion is an opportunity to take a step towards true free education. To become a member of a society, to be involved in a society, students need to pay a fee to SAUWS which goes back to society to sit potential unused, students have the option to pay it and be restricted in what they can do or not pay it and not participate at all. Each student should be able to participate and develop in any subject area which can contribute to Continued Professional Development. If SAUWS wants true free education, Voice should pass this motion and allow the opportunity to review the current set up and affiliation costs of Academic Societies as the current rules are outdated.

Speech against is taken by the President. States that SAUWS does indeed love free education and this ideal forms one of our biggest policy area's which is central to what we do, we do fight against any form of fees and we have one of the most diverse student body's in Scotland. However we don't think this is a motion on free education, these rules are only 6 months old and are up to date. We currently have 1500 students involved in sport and over 1000 in societies. To affiliate a society with SAUWS students only need 10 members paying £5 each and SAUWS will match that, members can do with that money what they like within the law. Lots of Academic Societies use the funding and they all benefit from the current system, for example the Chemical Engineering Society received £1000 from SAUWS through fundraising and membership fees which helped them participate in an event. Student Voice can make this decision but the Societies Executive is better placed to discuss this among Societies themselves.

Speech for is taken by Simon Taylor. States that they accept the rules aren't that old but the student teacher Society has 260 members and have raised £1500 worth of funding, the current rules mean they would need to pay to participate which is unfair. There is also uncertainty around the rules as some don't seem to know how to implement them and clarity should be given for future discussions.

President requests a point of clarification. States that Voice can be used to critique what SAUWS do, but it cannot criticise members of staff, the SAUWS Executive Committee leads the charity as student led organisation.

Speech against is taken by the President. States that this isn't a fee, it can be perceived as one/act like one but once it goes into the pot, they get it back almost instantly and they are better able to manage their own finances.

DPEW submits a procedural motion to request the motion is remitted to the Societies Council. States that they are better able to debate this motion and make the final decision.

Speech against procedural motion is taken by Simon Taylor. States that not everyone within societies is aware of this committee or what it does, it would be good for voice to allow students who may not be part of a society to debate this and decide what should happen in the future

Chair moves to vote on the Procedural Motion – to remit the motion to another committee

- For: 12
- Against: 3
- Abstain: 2

The motion is remitted to the Societies Council.

Hamilton student left the room – 3.20pm

NUS Scotland Motions – Requires ratification

President request that the motions are heard as one. There are no objections, Chair allows this.

President informs members that these motions will be submitted to NUS Scotland Conference allowing us to make an impact and get NUS to do things.

iii. NUS Scotland Episode 4: A New Vote

President states that this motion is looking at who can and can't vote in any UK/Scottish/EU elections for International Students. Currently International students can vote in the EU elections but not in the UK elections or the EU referendum, considers that if you are an International Student you are a vital part of the community and should be able to have a say and hold politicians to account.

iv. NUS Scotland Episode 5: The Students Strike Back

President states that politicians are quick to make promises to students and our communities, this includes summer support, funding for College students and better mental health provisions, but they don't always follow through. This motion asks NUS to put pressure on politicians and their parties to ensure that promises are followed through.

v. NUS Scotland Episode 7: The Student Carer Support Awakens

President states that this motion is following up on a motion passed by Voice at its meeting in November, it asks for better support for students with caring responsibilities as there is very little available to them currently.;

Question – Heather Armstrong states that NUS Scotland may already have worked on this, believes that it may be policy with the NUS Scotland Women's Campaign, SAUWS can put this in as an addition to the current policy for all of NUS Scotland to work on.

Chair moves to vote

- For: 15
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 1

The motions are passed

Paisley student left the room – 3.30pm

c) Disciplinary Committee Election (Positions available: Ordinary member x1)

SRCo-ord opens nominations for the one remaining Ordinary Member place of the Disciplinary Committee.

Shevonne Cullen stands unopposed, seconded by DPEW.

Shevonne Cullen is duly elected

5. Any Other Competent Business

President thanks everyone for came along, asks members to provide feedback on how we can make Voice better, more students are needed to make Voice stronger and have a real impact on the work of SAUWS and the University, if you have any comments or ideas, please email the Union Chair, Ann Mitchell on unionchair@sauws.org.uk or the President, Jack Douglas on president@sauws.org.uk.

Chair informs members of the Accountability Sessions they have been holding, these are recorded and can be found at: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/union/exec/accountability/>. If you would like to ask any of the Sabbatical officers a question, please go to: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/union/exec/question/>. Any questions submitted will be asked to the relevant Officer at the next Accountability session.

Chair informs members of the Principles Question session being held on Monday 21st March from 10am to 11am. If you would like to ask the Principal any questions please email Ann on unionchair@sauws.org.uk to submit your question(s), these will be anonymised and put to the Principal on the day. There will also be a registration process for coming along to the session; details of this will follow via an all student email. For more information on the event itself please go to www.sauws.org.uk.

Chair thanks members for their contribution and informs them that the next meeting of Voice will take place on Wednesday 30th March at 2pm. All the details can be found at: <http://www.sauws.org.uk/union/sauwsstudentsvoice/>

Chair declares the meeting closed.

Start: 2.10pm

Finish 3.45pm