

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Friday, 14th February 2014 in the Boardroom, Paisley Students' Union commencing at 11.00am.

Blane Abercrombie, President, in the Chair
Meeting Commenced 11am.

Sederunt

Blane Abercrombie	President (Pres)
Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education & Welfare (DPEW)
Kate Sharkie	Campus President Hamilton (CPH) early departure
Cameron Stewart	Ordinary Trustee Paisley (CS)
Stuart McCabe	Ordinary Trustee Paisley (SM) apologies for early departure 1.30pm
Cameron Mathieson	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton (CamM)
Dorothy Watson	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton (DW)
Pearl Willis	Ordinary Trustee Ayr (PW)
Connor Smith	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton (Con S) late arrival

In Attendance

Caroline Sharp General Manager/Returning Officer (GM/RO)

Apologies for absence –

Ryan Wood, Sports President (SP)
Cal Reid, Campus President Ayr (CPA)
Heather Armstrong, Ordinary Trustee Paisley (HA)

1. Minutes of previous meeting.

a. Acceptance

Minutes from the previous meeting (14/01/2014) were agreed as an accurate record. CS noted that the second part of the minutes have not been circulated. CamM will send these out after the meeting for approval at the next meeting.

b. Matters Arising – none.

2. Reports of the Office Bearers.

a. Acceptance –

i. President – written report. Report accepted.

11.06pm – CPH left the meeting.

ii. DPEW – written report. DW offered congratulations to DPEW for securing funding for a researcher post. CamM noted that the report was in a good format. Report accepted.

iii. SP – written report. President would like to congratulate SP on success of sports teams and societies. This was echoed by the rest of the Board. Report not accepted due to absence.

iv. CPA – written report. Report not accepted due to absence.

v. SM – written report. Report accepted.

vi. PW – written report. DPEW asked for an update on FOI request. PW asked if

we cannot just ask for the information. DPEW has asked informally and has had no response. President has also asked the TUs and received no information back. It was agreed that DPEW and President will draft an FOI request and consult with PW on this. PW suggests raising this with the Dean of Students. CS – Creative writing students’ anthology of work – will this become a regular event? This will be reviewed in May to see if it can continue beyond this trimester. Only £300 has been committed so far. SM raised issue of Principal salary increase within context of current climate. President advised that there is no student representation on the remuneration committee. PW noted that the new Principal is very receptive to students and wants to talk to them. President and DPEW are meeting with Director of HR to discuss the impact of industrial action on students. Report accepted.

- vii. Con S – written report. DW asked about issues with sports clubs. The coach was not able to attend training and the committee decided to remove the coach from his position and from membership of the club. The coach felt this was unfair. ConS raised this with SP to progress. DPEW asked for the student issue around exam attendance to be referred to SRCoord for support. Report accepted.
- viii. CPH – no report submitted. Report not accepted.
- ix. HA – no report submitted. Report not accepted.
- x. DW – written report submitted on the day. Chat about safe taxi scheme. President noted that he would give any help or assistance with this scheme. PW asked how DW travelled to Ayr – got a lift 1 hour and 14 mins. Took about 3 hours to get back. Report accepted.
- xi. CamM – written report submitted on the day. DPEW asked about the point relating to OTH conduct. CamM noted that any issues could be raised with the individuals directly. Report accepted.

11.36am ConS joined the meeting. He is unaware of the issue with OTHs.

A code of conduct is required to clarify how this should be addressed.

- xii. HA – No report submitted. Report not accepted due to absence.
- xiii. CS – verbal report made. Report accepted.

b. Sabbatical Holidays – none requested.

3. Reports from Committees etc. - none

4. Business Introduced by Office Bearers.

a. Financial Accounts to end Dec 2013

GM – noted that the accounts had been circulated and no questions had been raised.

b. Commercial Reports

These reports were noted. ConS raised an issue with the format of the reports not being consistent. The information which had previously been requested by the Board to be included has been circulated.

c. Constitutional Review

President – Chair was passed to DPEW. President advised that this has been discussed for a long time and that finally a meeting has been convened. DW expressed opinion that CPH and DW felt that things had been ‘shoved at them’. After the meeting they felt that not all the points were positive and more questions came out after the meeting. President clarified what the review group was about and how the consultation feeds into our thinking. President talked about ‘chunking’ parts of the changes to the constitution so that students have opportunity to feed in. ConS asked about the feedback that was given? President advised that the results haven’t been collated yet but responses have been mixed. ConS is looking forward to seeing the data that has been collected. CamM stated that he speaks with experience and good authority saying that the block approach is not the best way to do it as the right hand doesn’t know what the left hand wants. Current approach is FUBAR. CS – new Trustee Board suggested make up – has some ideas on how this might be. PW – asked about timetable for changes? President advised

that this wouldn't be rushed. PW suggests an email to all students to make a written proposal on what they want/think. This should be at least 4 weeks. This email should not put forward a proposal, just how it is now. Period of consultation must be in writing and all members of Board must see all information. The constitutional review group puts together 2 or 3 proposals to go out for consultation. Then go back to open consultation meetings before the end of April.

Questions around make up of constitutional review group – President chose people who he thought had an interest and legal background and representation from each campus. PW noted that there was insufficient notice to attend. PW would like 7 days notice of the meetings in future. Written views can be made in the case on non-attendance. CS – felt that he was told to go away. President had advised to email and attendance could be organised. DW – wants to invite non board members to sit on the committee? President - sceptical of ending up with 40 people in a room and no progress being made. STAR groups have fed into this. PW – wants to ask questions on each proposal.

The committee is to be report to the Board – President. Papers can be requested from the committee for anyone to see.

President – asked the Board to review one part of the constitution immediately. The campus president roles breach the education act by not being elected by institution wide ballot. If this is considered to be a post of major office then this needs to change. PW asked if there was written opinion.

12.35pm – SM left the meeting.

The Board agreed that President would contact the University to see if we comply with education act in their view as our governing body and secondly we will explain to the university what we are doing with regard to changes to the constitution and if they disagree with our proposal then the university should give us a proposal to consider.

1pm - The Chair was again passed to DPEW.

d. Stocktaking

President – CamM proposed a point of order noting that this business cannot be discussed again as a decision has been made within 3 months. GM asked for it to be noted that she feels that the Board did not have adequate information at the point where the decision was made and that she strongly advises against the proposed changes. CamM refused to let the Board talk about this. The Board agreed to revisit this item at the end of the meeting. CamM argued that he is no more informed than the last meeting as there is no one here to give him information. There was a meeting held and all were invited. The chair proposed a vote on whether the business should be reintroduced. This passed. CamM wants to look into alternatives in stocktakers and costings. We should continue with current plan until a change is proposed. CS suggests CM and a member of the Board look into this. No member of the Board would agree to take this on. They want 3 options – DPEW will advise CM on what is required. A paper should be submitted to the March Board meeting a week before the meeting.

5. Motions – none

6. Elections - none

7. AOCB –

- a. Accommodation costs** – ConS has a meeting with Raj on 20th Feb at 10am in Hamilton – inviting input and attendance from anyone interested. CS asked about getting non academic wifi in halls. PW raised issue of UWS radio being blocked by wifi. DPEW encouraged others to get in touch with ConS outside the meeting with any points to be made.
- b. Priority Campaign** – CamM asked what this is. The campaigns meetings agreed that there would be no priority and every elected officer would pursue their own campaigns. It should be noted in handover that it is the responsibility of officers to progress

campaign activity. CamM wants to nominate safe space campaign for NUS Scotland campaign of the year award. This will be discussed straight after the meeting.

- c. **OT attendance at committees** - CamM raised that he would like OTs to fill in on committees when DPEW's remit is too heavy.

8. Staffing

Staffing minutes are recorded separately.

Date of the next meeting: the date of the next meeting to be agreed by doodle and should try to be before the end of February.

Heather Armstrong, in the Chair (ConS as a back up).

Meeting Closed: 2.21pm