

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2004 AT 5.00 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

**Present** : As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies** : Hany Al Wardi, Ross Eaglesham, Bryan Roberts

---

**1 MINUTES OF THE FIRST STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
4 November 2004 – Factual Corrections**

None.

**2 MATTERS ARISING**

**2.1 Guardian (Refer 6.2)**

W Lord informed Council he is still waiting to hear from the GUU officially of their standing on the final release of the paper. The GUU will be given the right to reply in the next available edition of Guardian and any factual inaccuracies, which had appeared in the article, will be corrected.

**2.2 Adam Smith Library (Refer 9.1.4)**

C Fisher informed Council an Adam Smith Library Review Group is being set up and the Group will discuss these issues.

Minutes adopted by Council.

**3 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Copy of report circulated to Council)**

**3.1 Education Committee**

The Committee had discussed changing the name of the Special Needs Service to the Student Disability Service. There were a lot of reservations about this so the matter has been referred back to the Student Disability Steering Group for further discussion.

**3.2 Degree Classification**

This is ongoing. There was a short discussion about it and the Committee looked over a brief report.

**3.3 Tomlinson Report**

The Committee looked at this report, which talks about the 14-19 year old school education system in England and Wales.

**3.4 Nursing Students Campaign**

J A Murray has had a lot of positive feedback from the nursing students campaign. A few MSPs have been very supportive of it and it is hoped they will raise it at parliament.

**3.5 Free Legal Clinic**

J A Murray has been researching into the practicalities of a free legal clinic

in the SRC.

ACTION

### **3.6 Welfare & Academic Advice**

J A Murray has been researching into comparative levels of welfare and academic advice in UK student unions, with a view to getting further provision here.

### **3.7 Questions or Comments for the President**

#### **3.7.1 Prince Charles Comments**

A Ritchie asked what the President thought about the remarks recently made by Prince Charles about education. J A Murray had not had the opportunity to read any of the reports in depth but he does believe in education for education sake.

## **4 VP ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT REPORT (Copy of report circulated to Council)**

### **4.1 Clubs & Societies**

A Forsyth has spent most of his time working on Clubs & Societies. The Committee met and agreed on a number of special submissions, approved a number of affiliations and pointed out a few problems.

### **4.2 Guide to Practice**

A Forsyth is reviewing the 'Guide to Practice', the guidelines for Clubs & Societies and the rules for affiliation. He will be speaking to the Committee about it and reminding clubs about the affiliation process and the changes. It was decided last year clubs would be told their budget in third term so they could plan for the year ahead but this has resulted in a two-stage process. Budgets are worked out by membership from that year but in the following session clubs still have to re-affiliate and have the contact details for the new session, present a membership list and reaffirm the Constitution.

### **4.3 Updating Website**

A Forsyth has been updating the website and bringing in new contact details for Clubs & Societies.

### **4.4 Executive Training**

A Forsyth has been involved in Executive Training that the University is providing for Executive Officers.

### **4.5 Junior Year Abroad and the ERASMUS Programme**

A Forsyth has been having discussions about this. He pointed out that Glasgow students do not appear to take up these opportunities as much as other students. A Forsyth informed Council a 'Study Abroad Fair' is being held in the Bute Hall on Friday, 19 November if anyone is interested in going along and finding out more.

### **4.6 Mission and Values Statement**

This had been circulated to Council. A Forsyth asked Council to look at it

and if anyone has any major problems with it they should let him know and it can be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION

#### **4.7 Questions or Comments for VP Activities & Development**

##### **4.7.1 MedChir Society**

D Mackenzie asked about the MedChir Society. A Forsyth informed him the Clubs & Societies Committee had decided it should be considered as a third year society and be awarded the maximum grant.

##### **4.7.2 Mission & Values Statement**

H van Klaveren asked what the added value would be of having this. A Forsyth explained it had been a recommendation that came from an external review of the SRC and informed him it is not a strategic item it is a reflection of what the SRC does. Other public bodies in an accountable role tend to have mission statements.

##### **4.7.3 Merger of LAFS and Social Sciences**

R McLaggan asked how this fitted into A Forsyth's remit and if he felt there had been adequate consultation between the two Academic Convenors relating to the two faculties. A Forsyth informed him that as an Executive Officer his fundamental task is representation and as a Social Sciences student he has a great interest in the matter and had been involved in the campaign since the beginning. He stated he had not done anything with regards to students but there had been a request from some members of the Social Sciences Faculty to staff members, to speak about whether an electronic poll would be used to gauge student and staff opinion on the merger. In response to a question from C Fisher, A Forsyth replied he had met with two academic members of staff who were very concerned about the way the consultation was happening and they worked on ideas on how to increase awareness and active consultation. They had written to the Dean of LAFS asking whether an electronic poll could be utilised but they had not received any response. A Forsyth told Council that J Anderson would be arranging an open meeting shortly to discuss ways of raising awareness. S Tomlinson asked what A Forsyth's individual plans were in the campaign. A Forsyth stated he would be assisting J Anderson in any activities.

##### **4.7.4 Orientation/Induction Programme**

S Gurney asked about this. A Forsyth explained the background to this and told Council that it is hoped to find some way of decreasing the amount of time students have to be here before the start of term yet allowing ownership of these events to remain either with the University or student-led. The Clerk of Senate has agreed induction should be phased in throughout the year. A Forsyth will be advising on the student make-up of the Group looking at Orientation.

##### **4.7.5 SCA**

A Roberts referred to the Disclosure Forms and asked if A Forsyth would be taking any action on the length of time they are taking to be processed. A Forsyth confirmed he had met with F Andrews, Head of the Widening

Participation Service and they discussed this problem because fewer volunteers have been placed than was first hoped. They are now taking legal advice from the University legal adviser to make sure everyone is covered and the SRC is not liable and no one is being placed in difficult situations.

#### **4.7.6 Senate**

R McLaggan referred to the last meeting of Senate, where some issues had been raised by SRC Senate members. He felt the SRC had not projected the correct kind of image towards the University and felt this had caused some hilarity among a few members of Senate. A Forsyth thought it had been important to get the issues raised but suggested that if R McLaggan had a problem with any particular person he should speak to them individually and not raise the matter at Council.

#### **4.7.7 Pre-Senate Meeting**

S Tomlinson was unclear as to the format of how certain SRC members planned who would bring up what at Senate Meetings. J A Murray suggested that in future a post-pre-senate meeting be held.

### **5 VP COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (Copy of report circulated to Council)**

#### **5.1 Congratulations**

W Lord informed Council that at the recent Student Media Conference and Awards Steve Dinneen won best critic and Ruaridh Arrow won best reporter. Council gave a round of applause.

#### **5.2 Media Training**

W Lord and S Bertolotti have been working on the programme for Media Training. They have recruited someone to do Media Law Training and they are putting together a package, which will help the media understand their place within the SRC and how the SRC works.

#### **5.3 Executive Training**

W Lord took part in the first Exec training session.

#### **5.4 The Webmaster**

W Lord met with the new Webmaster Clare. She is putting together a team and he will be attending the first meeting of the Media Committee.

#### **5.5 Red Bus**

W Lord has been dealing with this marketing company for poster sites. He hopes to generate some cash.

#### **5.6 Security in the Media Offices**

W Lord is preparing a report for the Executive and Council on security in the media offices both digital and physical, in conjunction with IT members of the Media team.

**5.7 Questions or Comments for VP Communications**

ACTION

**5.7.1 Guardian Website**

A Brack asked if the website could be updated because it was badly out of date. W Lord explained there was some confusion over the websites because there were two but his preference will be to start updating Guardian website. He will look into who is in control of 'Student Underground'.

WL

**5.7.2 Security in the Media Offices**

A MacDonald asked how long would it be before security measures were in place in the Media Offices. W Lord is looking for an IT Co-ordinator and until he finds someone he is relying on Guardian staff to be more careful about how they store their files. In terms of the website, this cannot be changed at the moment but regarding physical access to the rooms he is encouraging Guardian and GUST staff to keep the door closed at all times.

**5.7.3 Disabled Access to the Media Offices**

A Ritchie asked what developments W Lord had made with regards to disabled access to the media offices, as this had been one of his promises in his manifesto. W Lord explained it was very difficult to move the offices elsewhere and had not done much work on it yet. J A Murray pointed out that if the SRC got more space downstairs more offices could be on the one level.

**5.7.4 IT Co-Ordinator**

A Roberts asked when he hopes to have an IT Co-Ordinator and would it be possible to have Officers & Convenors e-mail addresses available before this person is recruited. W Lord hopes to have the position filled in the next few weeks but e-mail addresses will have to wait.

**5.7.5 Evening Times Article**

A Brack asked if W Lord would be investigating the leak to the Evening Times about the article in the GUU. J A Murray replied. He had received a complaint about the leak to the GUU and the Executive did a response. He did not receive a complaint about the leak to the Evening Times.

**5.7.6 Other Language on Website**

H van Klaveren asked what other language would be on the website. W Lord thought it would probably be Chinese, particularly welfare advice and appeals information.

**5.7.7 Content of the Website**

R McLaggan asked if it would be possible to have the information updated before January. W Lord confirmed this would be the case.

**6 VP EDUCATION REPORT**

**(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

**6.1 Training Sessions**

J Anderson attended 2, 4 hour training sessions, which he enjoyed.

**6.2 Clubs & Societies Committee**

J Anderson attended this committee.

**6.3 SPARQS Meeting**

J Anderson attended a meeting of the 'Student Participation & Representation Quality Scotland', which is a spin-off of NUS. He met with them for a mapping exercise, focussing on the way class representation systems work throughout Scotland.

**6.4 Meeting with the Representative Service Co-ordinator**

J Anderson had his weekly meeting with N McLelland.

**6.5 Appeals & Complaints**

J Anderson met with A Spurway from the Senate Office to discuss appeals and complaints.

**6.6 Research & Training**

J Anderson attended the weekly briefing with S Bertolotti.

**6.7 LAFS & Social Sciences Open Meeting**

This takes place on Wednesday, 24 November at 12.30 p.m. in the John McIntyre Hall.

**6.8 SRC Education Committee**

This takes place on Thursday, 25 November at 3 p.m. Venue to be announced. A discussion on the future shape exercise will take place and Professor Anton Muscatelli has been invited to attend and do a presentation.

**6.9 Convenors Training**

This will take place on Monday, 29 November at 4 p.m. in the Williams Room. J Anderson will send an e-mail to everyone.

JA

**6.10 National Postgraduate Committee AGM & Conference**

J Anderson attended this in August and prepared a report for the Executive Committee. Copies were available for anyone who wanted one.

**6.11 Questions or Comments for VP i/c Education****6.11.1 Proposed Merger of the LAFS & Social Sciences**

C Fisher asked how J Anderson's remarks about the proposed merger had been received at Senatus. J Anderson felt it had been necessary to pass comment. He updated Council on what had happened at the meeting. The conclusion was that the Dean stated there would be a joint faculty meeting but if it came to a vote there might be different coloured cards given out so it could be identified which faculty the person was from. There is an element of surprise from some Senate members that the SRC are taking this stance. An e-mail will be sent out by the faculty secretaries to all students in both faculties informing them of the open meeting taking place on 24 November.

**6.11.2 Meeting with the General Secretary of the NPC**

S Gurney asked if there had been any conclusion to the conversation J Anderson had had with the General Secretary of the NPC regarding whether postgraduate research students should be treated as students or staff members. J Anderson informed her there had been no conclusion to the conversation but a consultation process will be starting through the NPC which he hopes the Committee and the SRC will discuss. He also believes this should be discussed at the Education Committee.

**6.11.3 Aldwych Group**

S Gurney asked what this Group was. J Anderson explained and informed her they are responding as an Aldwych Group to the Home Office consultation process on international visa fees.

**6.11.4 External Relations & Marketing**

H van Klaveren asked what the reaction had been at Senate regarding the abolition of the External Relations & Marketing Committee. J Anderson informed him they had not supported it. A Forsyth pointed out that the reason they were opposing it was highlighting the fact that the Group, which will be replacing it does not have student representation. J A Murray is pursuing this through informal meetings with the Principal and Court Office to secure student representation on Senior Management Group sub Groups.

**7 VP i/c WELFARE & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES REPORT  
(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

**7.1 Apologies**

D Guy apologised for the lateness of his report.

**7.2 Student Case**

D Guy has been dealing with a student case regarding accommodation, which was concluded quite successfully.

**7.3 Clubs & Societies Committee**

D Guy had attended this meeting.

**7.4 President of GUSA**

D Guy met with the President of GUSA regarding involving disabled students in sporting activities. They also discussed the Glasgow Student Festival.

**7.5 Research & Training**

D Guy attended the weekly briefing with S Bertolotti.

**7.6 Mumps Outbreak**

D Guy has been dealing with some issues over the Mumps outbreak. Posters have been displayed with information about it. He has also spoken to GUST and GUM about the subject.

**7.7 Officers' Training**

This will take place on Tuesday, 30 November at 4 p.m. in the Williams Room.

**7.8 Fair Trade Event**

This takes place on Monday, 22 November at 7.30 p.m. in the John McIntyre Hall. He urged everyone to attend.

**7.9 Questions or Comments for VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities****7.9.1 Crichton Campus Elections**

A Roberts asked if he had figures for the election turnout. D Guy informed him the turnout had been 55 and last year they didn't hold any elections. The year prior to that the turnout had been 21.

**8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS' & ASSESSOR'S REPORTS****8.1 Sarah Tomlinson, Women's Interests Officer  
(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

S Tomlinson had nothing further to add to her report.

**8.2 Robert McLaggan, LAFS Convenor/Court Assessor****8.2.1 Faculty Fora/Meeting**

R McLaggan will be organising a Faculty Fora for LAFS in the near future, once he has contact back from the heads of departments. On Monday, there will be a meeting of the SRC Faculty Committee in the SRC at 2 p.m.

**8.3 Douglas MacKenzie, Medicine Faculty Convenor****8.3.1 Meeting with Head of Medical School**

D MacKenzie had a brief meeting with the Head of the Medical School to discuss some issues and concerns from medical students.

**8.3.2 Ordinary Members**

D MacKenzie is finding it a bit difficult because he has no ordinary members to help him out. If there is any way this can be solved he would be interested to hear suggestions. He is contacting nurses and dentists to see how they feel about the situation.

**8.4 Calum Fisher, Social Sciences Convenor****8.4.1 Resignation**

C Fisher referred to the previous meeting where he had stated he would resign if his Motion was defeated. He has done so but he informed Council that until a successor is elected he has been persuaded to withhold his resignation. He felt to resign immediately would not be in the best interests of the SRC or the Social Sciences students. He will remain in the position until the day prior to a by-election. He asked Council if anyone had any objections to this. Discussion followed. J Anderson was content with the way he had set out his resignation timescale but he was not entirely happy



with the situation. It was agreed C Fisher should remain on Council until a successor was elected.

**ACTION**

## **9 MOTION OF POLICY:**

The following motion proposed by A Roberts and seconded by D Guy was submitted which read:

### **Visa Renewal Fee Increases for International Students**

#### **1. This SRC Notes:**

- 1.1 The University of Glasgow admits a large number of International Students into its courses and that such students contribute to the culture and prestige of the University as well as a source of income. Furthermore that approximately one third of such students enrol in courses and scholarships, the duration of which obliges them to extend their visa in the UK.
- 1.2 The Home Office's proposal to increase the cost of renewing an existing student visa from a standard price £155 to as much as £495.
- 1.3 That many students, in particular postgraduates spend additional time in the UK in order to finalise dissertations and theses and that such students would have to pay the increased rate for the purposes of only increasing their stay by a matter of weeks or months. Furthermore that such students would have to endure the stress associated with and the financial hardships of such applications at a crucial time in their studies.
- 1.4 That the International Office at the University of Glasgow is already undergoing consultation to adopt policy against the increase in visa fees.
- 1.5 That the current government proposed a plan in 1998 with the aims of encouraging more overseas students to study in the UK.

#### **2. This SRC believes:**

- 2.1 That the newly proposed visa fees are extortionate, unnecessary and detrimental to the welfare of international students at the University of Glasgow.
- 2.2 That raising the cost of Visa fees by such a significant fraction would decrease the number of applications made by international students at a time when the number of applicants is already steadily decreasing.
- 2.3 That the proposed increase in visa fees is in clear contradiction to the government's policy to encourage more overseas students to study in the UK.

#### **3. This SRC resolves**

- 3.1 To lobby the Home Office to reject the proposal to increase the cost of renewing a visa for international students.
- 3.2 To lobby the University to adopt policy against the Home Office's proposal.

A Roberts spoke on the motion.

No amendments were submitted, no direct negative. Motion passed.

---

## 10 MOTION OF POLICY

ACTION

The following motion proposed by D Guy and seconded by W Lord was submitted which read:

### Safety on University Avenue (Amendment)

#### **The SRC notes:**

- Its existing policy, passed on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

#### **The SRC believes:**

- That a 20mph speed limit alone will not solve the safety problems on University Avenue.
- That action should be taken before another accident occurs on University Avenue.

#### **The SRC resolves:**

- To lobby Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police to create additional Pedestrian Crossings on University Avenue, in particular between Pearce Lodge and the Rankin Building.
- To lobby Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police to install speed cameras on University Avenue.
- To lobby the University to support the SRC on these matters.

D Guy spoke on the motion.

Three amendments were submitted. The first amendment proposed by A Brack read:

Change item 1 of "The SRC believes" from:

That a 20mph speed limit alone will not solve the safety problems on University Avenue.

To read:

That although a 20mph speed limit is much needed on University Avenue, even with such a change considerable safety problems remain.

This was acceptable to the Proposer.

The second amendment proposed by A Forsyth read:

In The SRC resolves, first point, change Rankin Building to read Rankine Building.

This was acceptable to the Proposer.

The third amendment proposed by A MacDonald read:

Under The SRC Resolves:

Delete: To lobby Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police to install speed cameras on University Avenue.

This was not acceptable to the Proposer.

A MacDonald spoke on his amendment.

D Guy spoke on the amendment. An open period followed.

A vote was taken on A MacDonald's amendment. Amendment fell.

A MacDonald proposed a direct negative to the original motion. An open period followed.

D Guy summed up. A MacDonald summed up. A vote was taken, indicative. Motion carried.

Motion now reads:

**Safety on University Avenue (Amendment)**

**The SRC notes:**

- Its existing policy, passed on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

**The SRC believes:**

- That although a 20mph speed limit is much needed on University Avenue, even with such a change considerable safety problems remain
- That action should be taken before another accident occurs on University Avenue.

**The SRC resolves:**

- To lobby Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police to create additional Pedestrian Crossings on University Avenue, in particular between Pearce Lodge and the Rankine Building.
- To lobby Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police to install speed cameras on University Avenue.
- To lobby the University to support the SRC on these matters.

**11 ELECTIONS TO SRC COMMITTEES**

**SRC SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE – 2 MEMBERS ELECTED**

Dan Guy, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities  
 Andrew MacDonald, Part Time Students' Officer

**MEDIA COMMITTEE – 3 MEMBERS ELECTED**

John Anderson, VP Education  
 Dan Guy, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities  
 Anders Roberts, International Students' Officer

**CHARITIES COMMITTEE – 3 MEMBERS ELECTED**

**1 member of Council with at least one years' standing**

John Anderson, VP Education

**2 other members of Council**

Douglas Cain, Environmental Officer  
 Anders Roberts, International Students' Officer

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE – 4 MEMBERS ELECTED**

John Anderson, VP Education  
Andrew Forsyth, VP Activities & Development  
Dan Guy, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities  
Sarah Tomlinson, Women's Interests Officer

**UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES COMMITTEE – 2 MEMBERS ELECTED**

Mary McCausland, First Year Officer  
Henk van Klaveren, General Undergraduate Representative

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 4 MEMBERS ELECTED**

**1 member of Council with at least one years' standing**

John Anderson, VP Education

**3 other members of Council**

Dan Guy, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities  
Dan Lanigan, General Undergraduate Representative  
Sarah Tomlinson, Women's Interests Officer

---

**12 MINUTES OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING**

**21 September 2004 – Factual Corrections and Matters Arising**

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

**13 REPORT TO THE FRESHERS' WEEK COMMITTEE**

A Forsyth suggested that if anyone had any questions about the report or any general questions about Freshers' Week they should speak to him.

**14 AOCB**

**14.1 Environmental Issue**

D Cain suggested that in future any reports etc. submitted to Council should be printed using the minimum amount of paper. D Guy did confirm that his report would not normally have been submitted in the format it had but explained that his report had been late being produced. J Anderson pointed out that as a public institution the SRC is required by the Disability Discrimination Act to produce such documents in appropriate forms.

Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m. and some members went to the QMU for a drink others went off to the Senate Guest Night.