

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2006 AT 6.00 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Julia Braun, Thomas Burns

An Extraordinary meeting was called to discuss the following:

1 NUS REFERENDUM

In November 2005 the following motion was passed by Council to hold a referendum. It read:

1. The SRC notes:

1.1 That Glasgow University SRC is not affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS).

1.2 That Glasgow University SRC last held a referendum of all students on the subject of NUS affiliation in 1992.

2. The SRC believes:

2.1 That while the issue of NUS affiliation is highly contentious, Glasgow University students have the right to be given the arguments in favour of and against affiliation in a free and fair way and make an informed decision on the issue in a referendum.

2.2 That the result of the referendum held in 1992 can no longer be counted as the opinions of Glasgow University students on this issue.

3. The SRC therefore resolves:

3.1 To hold a referendum, on a suitable date to be determined by the SRC Executive Committee, in which all registered Glasgow University students who have not opted out of representation by the SRC under the terms of the Education Act 1994, shall be entitled to vote. The question in this referendum shall be:

"Should Glasgow University SRC affiliate to the National Union of Students (NUS)?"
Those voting will have the option to vote 'Yes' or 'No'

3.2 To abide by the result of the referendum; if the number of 'yes' votes exceed the number of 'no' votes then the SRC will affiliate to the NUS. The vote will only be valid if a quota of 15% is met.

3.3 To establish the Returning Officer as an independent adjudicator who shall act in all matters relating to the referendum and the conduct of the poll, as detailed in 3.5 below. The SRC Depute President shall act as the independent adjudicator's deputy. The independent adjudicator will convene at least two meetings prior to for the referendum with the chairs of both campaigns.

3.4 To provide for the establishment of two official groups to present the alternate arguments. The independent adjudicator will chair the inaugural meetings of both these groups, which will be held prior to the referendum campaign beginning. All students who wish to be a member of either group will register their membership with the independent adjudicator prior to the opening of polls. This may be done by the placing of names, matriculation numbers and other relevant information in secure hoppers in the foyers of

the SRC, GUU, QMU, Mature Students Association and the Research Club, as these bodies permit. This shall be overseen by the independent adjudicator. No person who is not a Glasgow University student may be a member of either group. No person may be a member of both groups without first having resigned their membership of the other. At the inaugural meetings of each group those registered as members will elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and Publicity Officer of the group. Once these positions have been elected, the SRC President shall vacate the chair for the group Chair.

3.5 To provide equal funding for the purposes of presenting the arguments at a level deemed appropriate by the SRC Executive committee. No publicity may be published by either group without it first having been authorised by the independent adjudicator. The independent adjudicator shall insist upon alterations being made to any publicity produced by either group if any part of it cannot be proved factually correct by the group Chair.

3.6 To enforce the following rules for the conduct of the poll: No person from either group shall be permitted to remove, cover, deface, or in any way obscure any publicity of the other group. No campaigning shall be permitted within any polling station. The official camps shall not allow any person who is not a Glasgow University student to campaign for them.

3.7 To mandate the Returning Officer of the SRC elections to be responsible for the enforcement of the rules outlined in 3.6 above, for the fair conduct of campaigning on the days of the poll and for overseeing the publication and announcement of the results.

3.8 To mandate the SRC Permanent Secretary to produce impartial information in relation to NUS affiliation. This will include an outline of the costs of joining and any savings that may be made to the relevant bodies (provided the relevant bodies make this information available to the Permanent Secretary). The alternative camps shall use as a source for their publicity, and the Permanent Secretary will publish the impartial information in the form of a booklet which will be made available to all students prior to the referendum. This booklet will not be published until it has been cleared for publication by the independent adjudicator, with the two group chairs being satisfied with the content at one of the meetings as outlined in 3.3 above.

3.9 To hold hustings events at which the Chairs of the two groups will be able to speak, bringing with them an additional person to support their arguments. At the hustings, only Glasgow University students will be entitled to ask the panel questions relating to the referendum.

The Executive Committee submitted an amended version to the original motion which read:

1. The SRC notes:

1.1 That Glasgow University SRC is not affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS)

1.2 That Glasgow University SRC last held a referendum of all students on the subject of NUS affiliation in 1992.

2. The SRC believes:

2.1 That while the issue of NUS affiliation is highly contentious, Glasgow University students have the right to be given the arguments in favour of and against affiliation in a free and fair way and make an informed decision on the issue in a referendum.

2.2 That the result of the referendum held in 1992 can no longer be counted as the opinions of Glasgow University students on this issue.

3. The SRC therefore resolves:

3.1 To hold a referendum, on a suitable date to be determined by the SRC Executive Committee, in which all registered Glasgow University students who have not opted out of representation by the SRC under the terms of the Education Act 1994, shall be entitled to vote.

The question in this referendum shall be:

"Should Glasgow University SRC affiliate to the National Union of Students (NUS)?"

Those voting will have the option to vote 'Yes' or 'No'

4. The SRC further resolves that the following rules shall apply in relation to the conduct and outcome of the ballot:

4.1 If the number of 'yes' votes exceeds the number of 'no' votes then the SRC will affiliate to the NUS. The SRC will only affiliate if a quota of 15% is met.

4.2 A binding five year pre-ballot agreement between the SRC and NUS in respect of the costs of affiliation must be agreed and made public to all potential voters at least one week before the ballot.

4.3 The SRC Returning Officer shall be deemed the "independent adjudicator" for all matters pertaining to the conduct of and outcome of the poll. The SRC Permanent Secretary shall be the independent adjudicator's deputy and shall fulfil delegated functions as outlined in this motion in addition to any additional functions as the Returning Officer may require.

4.4 The SRC will provide for the establishment of two official groups. They shall be the official "Yes" group and the official "No" group. The independent adjudicator's deputy will chair the inaugural meetings of both groups, which will be held prior to the referendum campaign beginning. All students who wish to be a member of either group will register their membership at the reception of the SRC offices. This shall be overseen by the independent adjudicator's deputy. No person who is not a Glasgow University student may be a member of either group. No person may be a member of both groups simultaneously. At the inaugural meetings of each group those registered as members will elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the group. Once these positions have been elected, the independent adjudicator's deputy shall vacate the chair for the group Chair

4.5 Both official groups shall receive equal funding, at a level deemed appropriate by the SRC Executive committee, for the purposes of presenting their arguments. No publicity may be published by either group without it first having been authorised by the independent adjudicator. The independent adjudicator's deputy has the authority to insist upon alterations to any publicity produced by either group if any part of it cannot be proved factually correct by the group Chair.

4.6 No person from either group shall be permitted to remove, cover, deface, or in any way obscure any official publicity of the other group. No campaigning shall be permitted within any polling station or computer cluster. The official camps shall not allow any person who is not a Glasgow University student to campaign for them. Any complaints regarding a breach of these rules should be referred to the independent adjudicator's deputy who will make a ruling in consultation with the independent adjudicator. All such rulings shall be final.

4.7 The SRC Permanent Secretary shall produce impartial information in relation to NUS affiliation

4.8 There shall be a hustings event at which the Chairs of the two groups will be able to speak, bringing with them an additional person to support their arguments. At the hustings, only Glasgow University students will be entitled to ask the panel questions relating to the referendum.

S Morrison spoke on the Motion and informed Council the Executive Committee had met and agreed that a Referendum would be held on Wednesday, 15 November 2006.

Amendments proposed by the QM Union President were submitted which read:

Delete second sentence of 4.1 -

“The SRC will only affiliate if a quota of 15% is met”

Insert -

“The SRC will only affiliate if 15% of those eligible to vote, cast their vote in the referendum. Where the turnout is less than 15% the status quo will remain”.

Change “poll” to “referendum”, first sentence of 4.3.

These amendments were acceptable.

D Lamb proposed the following amendment:

Delete first part of sentence of 2.1, and insert –

“That affiliation to the NUS is not in the interests of the SRC or Glasgow University students”. However Glasgow University students

An open period followed.

No direct negative. Amendments passed.

Motion now reads:

1. The SRC notes:

1.1 That Glasgow University SRC is not affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS).

1.2 That Glasgow University SRC last held a referendum of all students on the subject of NUS affiliation in 1992.

2. The SRC believes:

2.1 That affiliation to the NUS is not in the interests of the SRC or Glasgow University students. However Glasgow University students have the right to be given the arguments in favour of and against affiliation in a free and fair way and make an informed decision on the issue in a referendum.

2.2 That the result of the referendum held in 1992 can no longer be counted as the opinions of Glasgow University students on this issue.

3. The SRC therefore resolves:

3.1 To hold a referendum, on a suitable date to be determined by the SRC Executive Committee, in which all registered Glasgow University students who have not opted out of representation by the SRC under the terms of the Education Act 1994, shall be entitled to

vote.

The question in this referendum shall be:

"Should Glasgow University SRC affiliate to the National Union of Students (NUS)?"

Those voting will have the option to vote 'Yes' or 'No'

4. The SRC further resolves that the following rules shall apply in relation to the conduct and outcome of the ballot:

4.1 If the number of 'yes' votes exceeds the number of 'no' votes then the SRC will affiliate to the NUS. The SRC will only affiliate if 15% of those eligible to vote cast their vote in the referendum. Where the turnout is less than 15% the status quo will remain.

4.2 A binding five year pre-ballot agreement between the SRC and NUS in respect of the costs of affiliation must be agreed and made public to all potential voters at least one week before the ballot.

4.3 The SRC Returning Officer shall be deemed the "independent adjudicator" for all matters pertaining to the conduct of and outcome of the referendum. The SRC Permanent Secretary shall be the independent adjudicator's deputy and shall fulfil delegated functions as outlined in this motion in addition to any additional functions as the Returning Officer may require.

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4.8 There shall be a hustings event at which the Chairs of the two groups will be able to speak, bringing with them an additional person to support their arguments. At the hustings, only Glasgow University students will be entitled to ask the panel questions relating to the referendum.

Meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.