

**MINUTES OF THE 4th COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Miriam MacDonald, Duncan MacKenzie,
Sophie Ramsay, Seamus Skinner,
Sarah Tomlinson, Mhairi Wilson

S Morrison welcomed everyone to the newly furnished Williams Room.

**1 MINUTES OF THE 3rd COUNCIL MEETING
18 January 2007 – Factual Corrections**

None.

2 MATTERS ARISING

**2.1 Convenors, Officers & Court Assessor's Reporting Template
(Refer 2.1)**

B Hay will circulate the template to Council members at the beginning of next week.

BH

2.2 Website & E-mail Addresses (Refer 2.5)

Members who have not submitted their photograph and a short paragraph of their role on Council should do so by Friday, 23 February at the latest.

COUNCIL

2.3 The Library (Refer 4.1)

It was noted that the recent problem regarding the opening hours had now been resolved.

2.4 Senior Management Group (Refer 4.2.1)

S Morrison has not had a response to her letter to the Principal requesting membership of the Senior Management Group. Council agreed that it was crucial that the SRC President attain membership of this committee.

SM

2.5 New Academic Year Structure (Refer 6.1)

M Wilson had not circulated D Watt's response to Council. S Morrison will remind her to do this.

SM/MW

2.6 Masterpoint Contract (Refer 7.1.1)

K Borrowdale is reading over the contract. She is meeting with the Halls Presidents next week and will discuss it with them.

2.7 Estates & Buildings (Refer 8.2.1)

S Campbell had not received from S Tomlinson the information presented to Court last year. He intends to arrange a meeting after the forthcoming elections and will confirm the date next week.

ST/SC

2.8 PDP Working Group (Refer 8.3)

G Lee reported that a preliminary meeting had taken place and M Wilson will be producing a report.

ACTION

MW

2.9 Student Festival (Refer 9)

Council noted that the money raised from this event was distributed equally between the charities.

2.10 Scottish Parliamentary Election (Refer 12)

On the Agenda for discussion.

2.11 Advisers of Studies (Refer 13.1)

M Wilson is still working on the survey and will circulate it to Council before distribution.

MW

2.12 Away Day/Strategic Planning Day (Refer 13.2)

This took place on the 2 February. B Hay thanked everyone who had attended. It had been a very good day and B Hay had received excellent feedback. The Staff/Sabbs day is taking place on Friday, 16 February.

Minutes adopted by Council.

3 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS

SHONA MORRISON, PRESIDENT

(Copy circulated)

Two further items added.

3.1 Crichton Campus

S Morrison has been busy dealing with the current issues at Crichton Campus.

3.2 Presentations from the President

S Morrison had given a presentation on the SRC at the recent Court meeting and intends to address Senate at a later date.

3.3 Questions or Comments for the President

3.3.1 Stop Climate Chaos

G Brown pointed out that M MacDonald would now be dealing with this at the Queen Margaret Union.

4 DAVID LAMB, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS)

(Copy circulated)

Nothing further to add to report.

4.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)

4.1.1 Subcity in Qudos

G Brown informed Council he had met with Subcity to discuss bringing it back into Qudos.

5 MHAIRI WILSON, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)

(Copy circulated)

Apologies had been submitted. S Morrison offered to answer any questions.

5.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)

None.

6 KAT BORROWDALE, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT)

(Copy circulated)

Two further items added.

6.1 Health, Safety & Environment Committee

K Borrowdale had presented a paper to the Committee on Waste Recycling: A Student Perspective. Since the meeting the Committee is looking into making paper recycling mandatory in all departments.

6.2 Student Festival

K Borrowdale thanked everyone who had helped with Student Festival. £1500 was raised. Council noted their official thanks and congratulations to K Borrowdale on the success of the event.

6.3 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)

None.

7 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

7.1 Gavin Lee, LBSS Faculty Convenor

7.1.1 Plagiarism

Along with the Senior Advice, Policy & Training Officer, G Lee had attended a plagiarism software demonstration in the University. There will now be a trial run conducted in the Business & Management Department of the LBSS Faculty.

7.1.2 PDP Implementation Group

Council noted that G Lee is a member of this Committee set up within the LBSS Faculty.

7.1.3 Undergraduate Studies Committee

A proposal has been agreed by the Committee to make double sided printing an acceptable form.

7.2 Jennifer Wightwick, Mature Students' Officer

7.2.1 Various Items

J R Wightwick had attended the Planning Day, been involved with the Student Festival Quiz and attended the Publicity Committee. She will discuss 'hoodies' with S Morrison.

JW

7.2.2 Campaigns Committee

J R Wightwick and S Campbell have been attending the Campaigns Committee at the Queen Margaret Union and talking about getting mature students more involved.

ACTION

7.2.3 Meeting with Mature Students' President

J R Wightwick met with the President of the Mature Students' Association and discussed how best to increase linkages with Mature Students' and encourage this group's involvement with the SRC and Mature Students' Association. Consideration is being given to the following:

Compilation of a guide for mature students which is sent out before they start University.

The potential for the Mature Students' Officer and the Union Presidents to arrange a 'Welcome Talk' and organise an event during Freshers' Week highlighting what facilities are available for them.

7.3 Anders Roberts, Science Faculty Convenor

7.3.1 Faculty Reps

A Roberts has been focusing on trying to integrate faculty reps more as a number of student reps on Faculty Boards attend the first meeting then not the next. He is discussing with Faculty Student Support Staff to find out why students are not attending them and hopes to get some feedback. He asked other Convenors to look into this and find out if it is the same across the board. The Senior Advice, Policy & Training Officer will find out if there is any training available.

CONVENORS/
HS

7.4 Julia Braun, Women's Interests Officer

7.4.1 International Women's Day

J Braun has been involved in organising an event for International Women's Day on 8 March at 3 p.m. in the Williams Room. She hopes to have a speaker event on 'Women International Development' which will be open to both men and women. Anyone who is willing to help her publicise the event should contact her via e-mail. She will also contact Clubs & Societies and Faculty Secretaries. The event will be included in the e-mail being circulated publicising Media Week and the Elections.

DL

7.5 Patrick Walsh, Postgraduate Convenor

7.5.1 Postgraduate Representatives Meeting

Council noted that the first meeting of the group had not been well attended, however, P Walsh is investigating a couple of issues raised. One of the concerns was the induction and welcome of Postgraduates. He hopes to arrange an event at Freshers' Fair for non-undergraduate students. P Walsh will speak to M Wilson about this.

PW

7.6 Thomas Burns, Education Faculty Convenor

ACTION

7.6.1 Print Credits

Since the beginning of the academic year T Burns has been investigating the possibility of having a print credit machine installed in the Education Faculty and had discussed this with the Dean and members of DACE. However, an email was recently circulated by the University advising that this would not transpire. T Burns will now look at other options.

TB

7.6.2 Free School Meals Campaign

T Burns raised the matter of discussions underway in the Scottish Parliament regarding the provision of free school meals. T Burns will keep Council updated on this.

7.7 Struan Campbell, General Representative

7.7.1 Academic Fonts

S Campbell advised that as from 14 March, all academic fonts will be Arial 12. This is in line with the University's Disability Equality Scheme. S Campbell would like to hear if any Faculty thinks this is a problem.

7.7.2 QMU Campaigns Committee

S Campbell asked whether the SRC would be arranging an event for Fair Trade fortnight. K Borrowdale stated she is still considering having a fair trade picnic. Council agreed it is important that the SRC make a firm statement that they do support Fair Trade.

8 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The new training starts on Friday, 16 February and 290 students have signed up. This will take place next week too. A new online booking system has been introduced.

9 CRICHTON

S Morrison reported that as a result of the Scottish Funding Council not giving the University any additional funding and more funded places at Crichton the University are withdrawing from Crichton and will not be accepting any more students in September. S Morrison thanked the Crichton students and members of Council who had attended and protested outside Court. She will be writing to the Principal to raise the points she was not able to bring up at the meeting. S Morrison will keep Council updated on any developments. The Medicine Convenor asked if there were any initiatives for Crichton to write to people for funding. S Morrison informed Council that the University was asked for one more year to allow everyone to explore alternative sources of funding but they declined.

SM

10 GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

This had been discussed at the last meeting but no suggestions had been made regarding the manifesto. After discussion the headings suggested included –

Asylum Seekers
Prescription Charges
Tenancy Deposit Schemes
HMOs
Student Support and Student Loans for Top Postgraduate Programmes
Stop Climate Chaos
Safety & Transport
Tuition Fees
C-cards and waiting times for gum clinics
Spouses of international students pay Council Tax & part-time students pay 75% of their Council Tax

Council agreed not to organise a heckling meeting but publicise the manifesto on the website with a link to the form for registering to vote. It was also suggested having a banner with details on how to register and another one around the time of the election, asking people to vote. Election information will be publicised very soon.

**11 MINUTES OF THE CLUBS & SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING
5 June 2006 – Factual Corrections and Matters Arising**

None

12 AOCB

12.1 Meeting Time

S Morrison will be conducting a survey with current Council members and the incoming Council members to find out if future meetings should be rescheduled to 5.30 p.m.

SM

12.2 National Student Survey

S Morrison thanked members who had helped out with this. She asked for further assistance on Monday, 19 February to compile a list of departmental secretaries to send out fliers to. £6 per hour will be paid. It is hoped that the next round of flyering will be carried out by staff.

12.3 Exam Marking Processes

S Campbell raised this matter regarding exam marking regulations. These are available on the Senate website. It would appear that the process of students handing in work and receiving their results is not particularly clear and this is an important issue for students who might have certain exemptions. It had been suggested having a flowchart where the exam regulations are broken down to show the exact marking process and at what point certain criteria is taken into account and how it is worked out. This could be included in handbooks and on evaluation websites. After discussion it was suggested carrying out a survey to get official feedback as most of the complaints are about a lack of information. Further discussion will take place about this.

12.4 Recycling Issues

K Borrowdale is compiling a short questionnaire to circulate to Council on student views on the level of recycling facilities. Any responses would be welcome.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m.

ACTION

KB