

**MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JANUARY 2008 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

**ACTION**

**Present** : As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies** : Lucille Harvey, Mark Scott, Veer Shah,  
Sarah Tomlinson, Filippo Trevisan, Gareth Webb,  
Jennifer Wightwick, Jamie Wisbey, Zhaofeng Zhou

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**1 MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> COUNCIL MEETING  
6 December 2007 – Factual Corrections**

None.

**2 MATTERS ARISING**

**2.1 SALT Meetings (Support, Advice & Learning Team) (Refer 6.2)**

Notes from the meetings will be collated and circulated to Council in due course.

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**2.2 The Botanic Gardens Development (Refer 13)**

A letter had been sent to Hillhead Community Council and Kelvinside confirming Council's unanimous decision to oppose the G1 Group's proposed development in the Botanic Gardens.

**2.3 The US Ambassador's Visit (Refer 14.1)**

Council noted that the letter to the Principal in connection with the action taken by the Police and University Security Staff during the US Ambassador's visit was on the forum. M Wilson will incorporate any further comments from Council into the letter before sending it. It was noted that a local MSP had also written a letter of complaint to the Principal.

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Minutes adopted by Council.

**3 SABBATICAL DUTIES**

A paper was circulated to Council asking them to request the Executive Committee to issue an Executive Standing Order to change the job remit of the VP (Learning & Development), specifically in regard to Clubs & Societies support, to that of the VP (Student Support's) remit. It was suggested the following be moved from the VP (Learning & Development) job description to that of the VP (Student Support):

The Sabbatical Officer shall:

"Work with the Office and Volunteer Support Administrator in developing and delivering SRC support for Clubs & Societies, (e.g. assistance with affiliation, allocation of grants, C&S Fayre)".

Approved by Council.

#### 4 MOTION – THE RECTOR

The following motion proposed by Sam Beaton and seconded by Julie Sherry was submitted which read:

This SRC notes that Mordechai Vanunu:

1. Has made a huge contribution to the cause of removing nuclear weapons from the Middle East.
2. Remains the elected Rector of Glasgow University's students.
3. Was kidnapped from Rome and incarcerated for 18 years in prison in Israel in 2004 following his revelations about Israel's nuclear weapon programme.
4. Was held in solitary confinement for more than 11 years.
5. Remains subject to severe travel restrictions within Israel/Palestine.
6. Has been sentenced to a further six months in prison for 'speaking to foreigners' including many Scots.

This SRC demands that the Israeli government release Vanunu immediately to come to Scotland.

This SRC resolves to campaign vigorously to secure Vanunu's release from Israeli detention. To this end we will:

Inform GU students of Vanunu's record and current situation through posters, newspaper articles, campus meetings, etc.

Organise a delegation to meet with Vanunu in Israel, either in prison or in Jerusalem, and approach the University authorities, MPs and others to participate.

Organise a delegation to meet with officials of the Scottish government to ask them to pressure the Israeli Government to lift all restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu and allow him the freedom to travel.

Organise a Scottish conference at Glasgow University to support Vanunu's right to come to Scotland.

Approach others to jointly organise an international conference at Glasgow University to support Vanunu and other whistleblowers.

Extend an invitation to a spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy to come to Glasgow University to defend Israel's continuing detention and fresh sentencing of Vanunu.

Signed by the following:

Sam Beaton*	0700063	Tara Topteagarden	0601569
Julie Sherry*	0503978	Raymie Kiernan	0505682
Surfraz Yousaf	0511886	Campbell McGregor	9708478
Elyah Khamisha	0710300		

\* Council Member

S Beaton spoke on the motion. An open period followed. J A Wightwick proposed a direct negative. Only 3 voted in favour. The following amendments proposed by J Wightwick, H Dickson, G Lee and P Ramand were submitted which read:

Under This SRC notes, add at the end of point 2:

until February 2008.

After point 6, This SRC demands, delete:

to come to Scotland.

Under This SRC resolves, delete the following:

Organise a delegation to meet with Vanunu in Israel, either in prison or in Jerusalem, and approach the University authorities, MPs and others to participate.

Organise a Scottish conference at Glasgow University to support Vanunu's right to come to Scotland.

Approach others to jointly organise an international conference at Glasgow University to support Vanunu and other whistleblowers.

And insert:

To also support any SRC affiliated Clubs & Societies in appropriate activities related to a conference in support of freeing Vanunu.

These amendments were acceptable to the Proposer.

Motion now reads:

This SRC notes that Mordechai Vanunu:

1. Has made a huge contribution to the cause of removing nuclear weapons from the Middle East.
2. Remains the elected Rector of Glasgow University's students until February 2008.
3. Was kidnapped from Rome and incarcerated for 18 years in prison in Israel in 2004 following his revelations about Israel's nuclear weapon programme.
4. Was held in solitary confinement for more than 11 years.
5. Remains subject to severe travel restrictions within Israel/Palestine.
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This SRC demands that the Israeli government release Vanunu immediately.  
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Inform GU students of Vanunu's record and current situation through posters, newspaper articles, campus meetings, etc.

Organise a delegation to meet with officials of the Scottish government to ask them to pressure the Israeli Government to lift all restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu and allow him the freedom to travel.

To also support any SRC affiliated Clubs & Societies in appropriate activities related to a conference in support of freeing Vanunu.

Extend an invitation to a spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy to come to Glasgow University to defend Israel's continuing detention and fresh sentencing of Vanunu.

No further amendments. No direct negative. Amended motion passed.

## **5 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 29 Nov to 10 Jan 2007**

Council were encouraged to ask two questions from each of the Sabbatical Officers' reports.

### **MHAIRI WILSON, PRESIDENT (Copy of report circulated)**

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

##### **5.1.1 Rector's Group Meeting**

S Morrison asked about the Charter that all Rectorial candidates will be asked to sign up to agreeing to certain commitments during their term of office. M Wilson informed her that the document was now on the SRC website and once the nominations are announced the promotion of the role will be widely publicised.

##### **5.1.2 National Student Survey**

G Lee asked for an update on the NSS. M Wilson informed Council this had opened on Monday, 14 January for all final year students. There had been a good response and a report will be issued in two weeks as to the actual numbers.

### **6 FILIPPO TREVISAN, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)**

F Trevisan had submitted his apologies to the meeting.

#### **6.1 Questions or Comments for VP (Media & Communications)**

None.

### **7 GAVIN LEE, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT) (Copy of report circulated)**

#### **7.1 Computers in the Library**

G Lee reported that students had been experiencing problems on library

computers where they were being logged off randomly. As a result he had been in touch with the Academic Secretary and asked her to look into the problems that had been highlighted and, given the seriousness of it, requested that the system be suspended temporarily until the matter was resolved. G Lee hopes to hear back from her within the next couple of days.

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## **7.2 Questions or Comments for VP (Learning & Development)**

### **7.2.1 Student Advisory Needs Working Group**

S Beaton asked about this. G Lee explained the University instigated the review as a result of the National Student Survey where students felt unsupported and did not receive any feedback. The Working Group is currently looking at the way the role of the Advisor of Studies is used. The next meeting of the Group will take place in two weeks and it is hoped to have the review completed in the next couple of months.

## **8 STRUAN CAMPBELL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT) (Copy of report circulated)**

### **8.1 Conference in St Andrews**

S Campbell had recently attended a Rag conference in St Andrews with K Broad.

### **8.2 Questions or Comments for VP (Student Support)**

#### **8.2.1 Campus Services Meeting**

J A Wightwick asked about the meeting with N Campbell. S Campbell explained N Campbell is the Director of Campus Services and he had met with him to discuss various matters. It had been a very long but useful meeting and S Campbell will write a paper on SRC access to halls and arrange training events.

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#### **8.2.2 Mental Health Month**

A few events have been arranged for this – an Art Exhibition, free access to the Sport & Recreation Service, 21 – 27 January and a One Glasgow Gig Night in Jim's Bar, QMU on Thursday, 31 January. Council members have been invited to the launch on the 24 January at 5.30 p.m. in the John McIntyre Café.

#### **8.2.3 Waste Minimisation/Recycling**

L Jones asked what was happening regarding recycling. Council noted the University has introduced mandatory paper recycling and a small group has been formed to look at ensuring the policy is implemented and how more can be recycled. Waste electronic, electrical goods and cardboard are the next things to be targeted and a process to have everyone recycling will be developed.

## **9 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS**

Three reports had been submitted. One from the LBSS Faculty Convenor,

the Medicine Convenor and the Part Time Students' Officer.

### **9.1 Medicine Convenor's Report - Crèche Facilities**

S Morrison asked about this. M Wilson explained that some medical students had approached V Shah about crèche facilities on campus and had been unaware they could apply for a place in the University Nursery. V Shah is looking into the Estate's plan for shifting the location of the nursery to bigger premises.

B Hay left the meeting.

## **10 WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS TERM?**

Events planned for this term –

21 – 27 January – Free access to the Sport & Recreation Service

24 January – Art Installation – 5.30, John McIntyre Café

29 January – P/T Students' Cheese & Wine Event – 5.30, Williams Room

30 January – Nominations close for Rectorial Election

31 January – One Glasgow Gig Night in Jim's Bar, QMU

4 – 8 February – Media Week

11 February – Nominations open for Spring Elections

18 February – Budget Workshops

Democratic Processes afternoon talk about engaging with minority ethnic groups

21, 22 & 26 February – Student Rep Training plus a social event will be planned

22 February – Nominations close for Spring Elections

25 – 29 February – Rag Week

26 & 27 February – Rectorial Election

5 & 6 March – Spring Elections

S Campbell will be arranging flat hunting talks in the halls and in the SRC.

Help for the National Student Survey, Media Week and RAG Week would be greatly appreciated.

## **11 THE SCOTTISH BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT**

M Wilson updated Council on what has been happening since the last meeting.

- An email had been sent out by CHESSE through herself and the Chair to all MSPs and quite a few responses were received. Another letter signed by the Presidents of Strathclyde SA, Glasgow Caledonian, Stirling SA, NUS, the SRC, Dundee and St Andrews had also been sent. M Wilson will put these letters on the forum.
- A Chess meeting is taking place on Friday, 18 January at Strathclyde University and a few ideas to take forward will be discussed, i.e. individually signed letters asking people to send to their MSPs, a

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postcard campaign and a petition form from each of the institutions which will be presented to MSPs and the media.

**ACTION**

After discussion Council agreed a postcard campaign would be easier.

- M Wilson also informed Council that as a result of all the work that has been done with CHESS, Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning has set up a Joint Future Thinking Task Force on Universities and, although she has not asked for student panel members, she has asked for the views of NUS and CHESS. This will also be discussed at the meeting on Friday, 18 January at Strathclyde. Council shall be updated at the next meeting.

Council noted that another student summit will be held on 18 March and delegates from the SRC will attend.

## **12 FEEDBACK MECHANISMS**

G Lee reported that the University has established a Working Group to review feedback mechanisms. This follows from disappointing NSS results in Assessment and Feedback. G Lee is part of the Working Group who is being asked to find out what would suit students better and establish how the system could be improved. He asked Council for their views on current systems and for examples of good practice. After discussion the following suggestions were made:

- produce an electronic type feedback form from 1<sup>st</sup> year;
- a standardised minimum requirement form that all staff have to hand out after essays are handed in;
- tick box for lecturers to write comments on;
- give feedback to essays online;
- online feedback from students;
- end of course questionnaires;
- allow time during class to complete feedback forms
- snap questionnaires, one question every day when students' log into their web mail.

Anyone with anymore ideas should send them to G Lee.

## **13 AOCB**

None.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.