

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Stuart Rodger

1 WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

G Lee welcomed the recently elected members to their first meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

25 September 2008 – Factual Corrections

Agreed as a correct minute. Minutes adopted by Council.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Late Submission Paper (Refer 11)

This is ongoing. A discussion had taken place with the Advice Centre and further examples around the University are now being investigated. It is hoped to have a document finalised shortly. Council will be updated at the next meeting.

GL

3.2 Rag Week (Refer 12)

The Executive had agreed on the following charities to receive donations from any charity events organised:

BLISS
Action Against Hunger Scotland
Barnados Boutique
National Autistic Society
Disability Sports Events
Cancer Research UK
The Red Cross

3.3 Protest Against Fuel Payments (Refer 13.1)

J Wightwick had publicised the protest on the forum but had not received feedback regarding the event.

3.4 Cross Campus Political Forum (Refer 13.3)

It was reported that a couple of meetings had taken place with Clubs & Societies with similar interests to discuss how to work together and cross publicise their events.

3.5 SRC Housing Policy (Refer 13.4)

The Executive had reached a joint view that the preparation of a draft housing policy/manifesto was perhaps best drafted with a view to being finalised nearer the next election.

3.6 NOVELL (Refer 13.5)

Z Grams is still waiting to hear back as to when this will actually happen. It is unlikely it will be this term, probably 2009/10.

ACTION

3.7 Election Website

C Hall informed Council that he had received some feedback from students regarding the website. Some felt it would be more helpful if the details about candidates, including manifestos, were on the one page rather than having to link to a separate page. This will be investigated for the next election.

EXEC

4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 22 Sept – 30 Oct 2008

Council were invited to ask questions pertaining to each of the Sabbatical Officers' reports.

GAVIN LEE, PRESIDENT (Copy of report circulated)

4.1 Rector Group Meeting

K Law asked why G Lee was strongly opposed to 'Rectors for all Universities'. G Lee replied by saying that having four Rectors in Scotland speaking for the ancient Universities gives students a different side to the arguments they want to be making; there are many ways to be represented at national level along with other Universities through CHESSE etc. He feels that having 'Rectors for all Universities' would weaken the voice of Rectors if there were to be voices for all Universities and it would be difficult for them to agree to one policy. He believes there is a lot that the Rectors' Group, in its current configuration, can do at the moment.

4.2 Lunch with Equality & Diversity Unit

C Hall asked about this. G Lee informed Council the lunch gave the Sabbatical Officers and EDU team the chance to meet and discuss areas of common interest.

4.3 Carnage Pub Crawl

G Webb asked about this. G Lee reported there had not been much feedback but it had been publicised on the SRC website and a press release sent out. The event in Glasgow had now passed and it would appear that the associated issues had not manifested significantly in Glasgow. If it comes back to Glasgow the SRC will continue to oppose it.

4.4 Disability Equality Group

L Durnan asked what was discussed at this meeting. G Lee informed Council there had been a lengthy discussion about placing a 'doggy toilet' on campus for guide dogs for the blind. Other items discussed included the Equality Impact Assessment, a document written by the Equality & Diversity Unit outlining measures requiring to be taken in light of recent equalities legislation. G Lee will be feeding back discussion to the EDU about the quality of the document and hopefully getting some changes made.

4.5 HUB Services Interviews

Council noted that a team of 6 have now been appointed and will be taking up their positions in December.

4.6 QMU Board

S Rossi noted that G Lee had met with the QMU and asked if he meets with the GUU. G Lee informed her that he sits ex officio on the QM board but not on the GUU board. He explained that the SRC President had been removed from the GUU board many years ago, as a result of asking about women being allowed in to the GUU. G Lee will continue to try and get back on their board and will keep Council updated. He also added that he would be having lunch with the GUU President next week.

4.7 Court Meeting/Relationship with the Rector

F Trevisan asked about this. G Lee is happy with the way things are going and believes it is a lot easier for the SRC to have points raised at Court now that the Rector chairs the meetings.

**5 JAMIE WIGHTWICK, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT)
(Copy of report circulated)****5.1 Academic Standards Committee**

I MacDonald asked if there was any update on this. J Wightwick reported that the University is currently expanding its PGT provision. One of the key aspects is the progression marks to carry on to dissertation stage of a PGT. J Wightwick expressed the view that this could have a disproportionate negative effect on international students, given the difficulties some may experience during the first semester in terms of adjusting to life in a different country which in turn can impact on their marks. J Wightwick further advised that, as a consequence, the University is considering lowering the mark required to progress to a dissertation level. J Wightwick is concerned at this proposal and is monitoring the situation in conjunction with the Advice Centre.

5.2 Absence Policy Working Group

A Cohen informed Council the introduction of students' recording on Web SURF when they are absent and problems with GPs giving reports back had been raised in the Science Faculty. She asked if there was any update. J Wightwick confirmed that the current policy is that students who are going to be away for any length of time now have to complete an absence report on WebSURF. There are two stages to the report: the first one only asks for dates and reason for absence, but the second one asks for a doctor's letter or other medical evidence.

J Wightwick pointed out that as there is no legal obligation for doctors to provide such evidence for absences of less than two weeks' duration, this requirement is unfairly demanding on students: furthermore, this poses potential problems with respect to appeals involving absences of illness over a shorter period as the University's code of assessment requires supporting medical evidence in such cases.

J Wightwick is monitoring this closely and will update Council at the next meeting.

ACTION
JW

5.3 Mahara & uses of E-PDP demo

D McGowran asked about this as he understood it was quite a straightforward system. J Wightwick reported that a lot of faculties are doing various projects around PDP and Mahara only exists as a link outside Moodle. He believes Mahara needs to be promoted to raise awareness amongst students. A Cohen agreed, especially promoting it to levels 2, 3 and 4 as the Science Faculty is introducing it to all level 1 students. J Wightwick expressed a view this is something that should be discussed further amongst the Convenors.

Convenors

5.4 Acronyms

Some new Council members pointed out that they did not know what a lot of the acronyms were. J Wightwick suggested a glossary would be useful for everyone.

JW

5.5 Halls Talks at QM

S Ritchie asked about the halls visits and if Murano Street would be included. L Laws informed him all the talks were now finished.

5.6 Aldwych Meeting

L Durnan asked about the Ethical Investment issues. J Wightwick informed him that Ethical Investment was discussed very briefly at the end of the meeting but it will be discussed further at the next Aldwych meeting. He will keep Council updated.

JW

5.7 Student Rep Moodle

A Cohen pointed out that students should be made aware of student rep Moodle. J Wightwick confirmed that he is having a lot of technical problems with getting it to a workable stage but he hopes the problems will be rectified very soon and this will be discussed further with Convenors.

JW/
Convenors

6 ZOE GRAMS, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)

6.1 Hub Meeting

S Ritchie asked what had been the result of the discussions about communicating internal changes once the Hub is open. Z Grams explained that this was really to do with staff being moved from different departments around the University into the Hub and how they would spread emails and the language used in them. They also discussed how to advertise the Hub once it opens. No faculties are moving only service departments. The Hub website is being updated and this will include all the details of the departments that are moving into it.

6.2 Subcity FM Broadcast

T Gore asked about Subcity and if any decision had been made to

broadcast on FM. Z Grams confirmed the broadcast will go ahead; they had been waiting until after the Halloween Party to assess their financial position. The event was a success and the revenue generated will enable the broadcast to proceed. The broadcast will take place mid February to March for one month.

6.3 Elections

J Harrison asked about the turn out being lower than last year's Council elections. Z Grams believes that getting more posters out, having a manifesto booklet for the different candidates and getting the IT department to send out a message earlier might help increase turnout; she pointed out that sometimes mass emails can take up to 8 hours to reach some addresses. She added that, overall, looking at the trends of figures, the turnout this year was good.

L Durnan asked about the texting student service and asked when this was likely to be introduced. G Lee explained that this is currently a pilot scheme and will be completed in the next couple of months. He added that the University would bulk buy text messages at a considerable cost so the SRC would not have access to use of the facility unless they paid for it and in light of the current costs of running an election this would have to be considered very carefully.

It was suggested that on the morning of elections students be reminded at lectures that the election is taking place. Some members also felt that holding the election on a Monday was not a good idea. Z Grams informed Council that election statistics had been calculated to show where the majority of the votes had been made. These showed that the QM Union and the John McIntyre Building polling stations were the most popular. Unfortunately due to technical problems it had not been possible to set up a polling station in the Postgraduate Club. It was noted that specific departments were targeted and the Vet School was one of them. L Durnan had been disappointed he had not been able to attend the Heckling Meeting but had only found out the date of it when he handed in his nomination form. He felt that this information should be publicised in election material much earlier.

6.4 Council Handbook

Council noted that the Handbook will be available for Council Training. If anyone wants anything included they should email it to Z Grams asap.

7 LAURA LAWS, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT) **(Copy of report circulated)**

7.1 Gender Equality Group

J Harwood asked what women's issues had been discussed. L Laws informed her that they had discussed the female staff network and the general consensus was that they didn't feel it was much use. They are going to try and reintroduce it into training. The SRC had also raised the issue of maternity leave entitlement for students as the University did not

have a policy on this matter. A paper will be drafted by the SRC for the Student Support Development Committee.

ACTION

7.2 Clubs & Societies Procedures

S Hall asked if this was just the affiliations and grants procedures. L Laws confirmed it was and some Clubs & Societies have been collecting forms. There is no deadline for submitting forms and Clubs & Societies can apply as often as they like for additional support. When forms are submitted for additional funding consideration will be given based on the costs and benefits to students.

7.3 Sexual Health at Glasgow Week

A Cohen asked how the preparations were going. L Laws has emailed all the Clubs & Societies and a couple of them have responded saying they would like to put on events as part of the week. L Laws asked Council members to contact her if they would like to help with the distribution of condoms at the Unions' club nights.

7.4 Poppy Appeal

Council noted that the Charities Officer had organised a collection during the American Presidential Election and raised over £100 for the Poppy Appeal.

7.5 UNDESD Conference

F Trevisan asked what had happened at the conference regarding the NUS President's speech. L Laws explained that the President was supposed to be telling the conference how environmentally friendly purchasing was and instead he told everyone he didn't speak to anyone for 24 hours and sat on top of a hill during a rain storm and got back to nature.

8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS

8.1 Iain MacDonald, Postgraduate Convenor

I MacDonald had met with a student recently who had been concerned about the lack of information regarding the Disclosure Scotland Act. He had been informed that he would have to sign the form and although the student did not have a problem with that he was concerned there was not enough information. G Lee informed Council he is meeting with the HR Department in the next couple of weeks to discuss the SRC's procedures and inform them of the SRC's view on what they should be doing.

8.2 Gareth Webb, Arts Faculty Convenor

8.2.1 Undergraduate Studies Committee

G Webb pointed out that further discussions will take place with Convenors and VP Learning & Development regarding NSS issues.

9 REPORTS

G Lee encouraged members to submit their report back forms as it was important to share information and move the organisation forward together.

It was noted that some members were unsure as to how to complete the forms. G Lee will add this to the Council Training Agenda.

10 REPORTS & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

G Lee pointed out that, as trustees of the organisation, Council members have responsibilities so it was extremely important that they read over the accounts.

G Lee highlighted a few items from the Trustees Report -

- The Advisers of Studies Survey was as a result of a lot of information being received about students' level of satisfaction with their advisor of studies.
- Consultations on issues on housing – a big review of the future of housing in Scotland. The SRC was one of the few student bodies in Scotland to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation document "Firm Foundations". This is still ongoing.
- Student media had a very successful year and swept the board at the 2008 Herald Scottish Student Press Awards. They won every award but one.
- GUSRC had a significant increase in their media coverage through its views and issues.

G Connor, Senior Office & Finance Administrator presented the accounts. Council noted a small surplus of just over £17,000 which was achievable through some additional funding from Residential Services. They gave £12,000 towards increased costs in running the minibus service and also towards the cost of buying a new bus last year. £9,000 was also received from the University for graduation photography commission. Without these additional financial contributions there would probably have been a small deficit of £4,000. Reserves have risen slightly to £365,800, still short of what the organisation hopes to reach of £450,000.

A few questions were asked.

- Why was there an increase in the salary costs at Crichton Campus? Council noted this was the first full year of a part time staff member's salary. The year before was only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the salary.
- Was the contribution that Residential Services gave the SRC last year spent on purchasing a new bus? Council noted that the SRC had funded half the bus and Residential Services covered the other half and the rest of the money went towards running costs.
- What are the projected revenue figures from the cash machine in the John McIntyre Building? G Connor reported that the cash machine was

not installed until September 2007 and commission is paid a year in arrears.

- Why do the main accounts show a surplus of £28,503? G Connor explained that Crichton has to be shown separately due to it being restricted funds. Crichton had a deficit last year as a result of them not receiving a grant; their grant was given two years ago for a three year period.
- Was the increase in costs in 2008 based on the fact there are more full time staff? Council noted there was a reduction in staff employed because the previous year the Student Information Desk staff were part of the SRC and the SRC received a grant from the University to fund their salaries but after the pilot year the SRC and the University decided not to continue funding the project.
- How does the block grant change? It was noted that the block grant has changed its format and the split is completely different. The SRC's allocation of the block grant had increased when the University decided it did not wish the SRC to reopen its shop (previously in the Hub). The SRC had been compensated for the loss of this revenue through an increase in the block grant. Previously each of the student organisations were allocated a fixed percentage from the block grant, now the allocation is based on an analysis of the services provided. A budget proposal outlining projected future activity has to be prepared and submitted to the Student Finance Committee who decides the block grant based on, and evaluation of, activities the previous year and future plans.

Council noted the Reports & Financial Statements for year ended 30 June 2008.

Proposer, H Dickson; Seconder, C Hall.

Council thanked G Connor for attending and explaining the financial statements.

11 ELECTION TO UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES, SRC COMMITTEES & COURT ASSESSOR

L Durnan asked about the Sustainability Group and if it could be included in the Committee elections. G Lee explained the background to the Committee and agreed to discuss it further with him.

The following were elected to serve as SRC Representatives on relevant committees:

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (2 reps)

Howard Dickson (ELECTED)

James Harrison (ELECTED)

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES COMMITTEE (1 rep)

Tommy Gore (ELECTED)

LIBRARY COMMITTEE (1 rep)

Laurence Durnan (ELECTED)

STUDENT SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (1 rep)

Filippo Trevisan (ELECTED)

SENATE (4 reps)

President

VP (Media & Communications)

VP (Learning & Development)

VP (Student Support)

Gareth Webb, Arts Convenor

Keiron Harris, Education Convenor

Alex Thomson, Engineering Convenor

Kenneth Law, LBSS Convenor

Sabrina Rossi, Medicine Convenor

Ana Cohen, Science Convenor

Veterinary Medicine Convenor (Vacant seat)

Iain MacDonald, Postgraduate Convenor

Tuula Eriksson (ELECTED)

David McGowran (ELECTED)

Alice Munro (ELECTED)

Stuart Ritchie (ELECTED)

LEARNING & TEACHING COMMITTEE (3 reps)

Tuula Eriksson (ELECTED)

Sabrina Rossi (ELECTED)

Gareth Webb (ELECTED)

SENATE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (3 reps)

Ana Cohen (ELECTED)

Chris Hall (ELECTED)

Stuart Ritchie (ELECTED)

RELIGION & BELIEF EQUALITY GROUP (1 rep)

Jessica Harwood (ELECTED)

ACADEMIC DRESS COMMITTEE (1 rep)

Kenneth Law (ELECTED)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (7 reps)

Tommy Gore (ELECTED)

Sophie Hall (ELECTED)

James Harrison (ELECTED)

Jessica Harwood (ELECTED)

Kenneth Law (ELECTED)

Iain MacDonald (ELECTED)

Stuart Ritchie (ELECTED)

ACTION

COURT ASSESSOR

Filippo Trevisan (ELECTED)

12 COUNCIL TRAINING

This will take place on Saturday, 15 November in the Williams Room from 10 – 4.15 p.m. For catering arrangements, confirmation of attendance should be sent to Noreen Jennings as soon as possible.

13 DPTLA SUMMARY

J Wightwick explained that a Departmental Programme on Teaching & Learning Assessment report is carried out on a six year cycle where a body of examiners reviews a department to find out what is going well and what could be improved. He informed Council that the report ended up 20 pages long so the SRC asked the Senate Office if they could produce a summary. The Senate Office reduced the report to 2 pages. J Wightwick asked if some members would meet with him and consider how the report could be presented to students in an accessible and easily understandable format. A Cohen, I MacDonald, K Law & L Durnan volunteered. J Wightwick will circulate the document beforehand.

JW

14 AOCB

14.1 Remembrance Sunday

K Law, I MacDonald and S Rossi had agreed to attend the service on Sunday, 9 November.

14.2 Senate Guest Night

The following will be attending the Senate Guest Night on Thursday, 13 November:

Gavin Lee & Guest, Jamie Wightwick, Zoe Grams & Guest, Laura Laws & Guest, Iain MacDonald, Kenneth Law & Guest, Sabrina Rossi & Guest, Ana Cohen & Guest.

14.3 APPROVAL OF SOLICITORS FOR 2008/2009

Council approved the recommendation that Mike Dailly of Govan Law Centre be re-appointed as the Council's Solicitor for the financial year beginning 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2009.

Proposer: H Dickson; Seconder: S Ritchie

14.4 APPROVAL OF AUDITORS FOR 2008/2009

Council approved the recommendation that Alexander Sloan be re-appointed as the Council's Auditors for the financial year beginning 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2009.

Proposer: F Trevisan; Seconder: T Gore

14.5 MOTION: BNP WHITE HISTORY MONTH

The following Motion proposed by L Laws and seconded by C Hall was submitted which read:

Council Notes:

- That the BNP are actively targeting University towns and cities to gain support and recognition for White History Month in response to Black History Month. They are campaigning to get the month officially recognised by the government, politicians and the BBC amongst others in the same way Black History Month (October) was endorsed.
- That the BNP campaign involves the BNP, Youth BNP, Student BNP and BritishPride.org and will consist of leaflets and campaign literature distributed across the country, promoted by their 'Truth Truck' – which will follow the campaign around the country.

Council Believes:

- That there is no place for racism at University of Glasgow. The SRC believes that a campaign which encourages 'White Pride' and employs the slogan "a month where you can be proud to be white" is nothing more than a badly conceived, badly veiled, racist campaign with no positive benefits to the student population.
- That the articles found at their website www.britishpride.org which claim to tell the 'truth' about various topics (e.g. slavery, British Empire) display views which are abhorrent to modern values, and incongruous to the University environment.
- That in a university which takes pride in its international reputation and community the SRC should not ignore, but condemn the actions of a campaign that thrives upon bigotry and promotes white supremacy and prevent the BNP from attempting to impose their values upon vulnerable students.

Council resolves to:

- Encourage all students at University of Glasgow to boycott the BNP White History Month Campaign should it come to Glasgow University.
- Issue a press release advertising our condemnation of BNP White History Month.
- Refuse to recognise or endorse White History Month.
- Ban the promotion of White History Month in the John McIntyre Building.
- Work with student media to increase awareness on campus of these issues, and the SRC stance.

L Laws spoke on the motion. A discussed followed. The following amendments were made:

Under Council Resolves to:

Delete 'BNP' in the first and second bullet points.

This was acceptable to the Proposer.

Under Council Resolves to:

Insert another bullet point which reads:

- Where ever possible to actively work with other bodies on campus to encourage the University and the student Unions to restrict the promotion of this campaign on campus.

This was acceptable to the Proposer.

No direct negative. Motion passed. Motion now reads:

Council Notes:

- That the BNP are actively targeting University towns and cities to gain support and recognition for White History Month in response to Black History Month. They are campaigning to get the month officially recognised by the government, politicians and the BBC amongst others in the same way Black History Month (October) was endorsed.
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- Refuse to recognise or endorse White History Month.
- Ban the promotion of White History Month in the John McIntyre Building.
- Work with student media to increase awareness on campus of these issues, and the SRC stance.
- Where ever possible to actively work with other bodies on campus to encourage the University and the student Unions to restrict the promotion of this campaign on campus.

14.6 Kelvinhaugh Gate

D McGowran reported that he had been speaking to a student who lives in Kelvinhaugh Gate and he was complaining that students who have to pay rent are not being given the date when the payments are being taken off their bank accounts or told what the amounts are. He felt this was unacceptable particularly with the situation regarding bank charges. G Lee suggested that he pass the information to the Advice Centre and ask the student to speak to someone there.

14.7 CARDAS (Campaign Against Raising the Drinking Age in Scotland)

J Harrison asked what G Lee's concerns had been in connection with CARDAS. He informed him his main concerns were CARDAS receiving funding from brewery companies.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.