

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

**Present** : As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies** : Kirsten Broad, Karen Jespersen

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**1 WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT**

G Lee welcomed everyone to the first meeting. He started the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and state what role they have on Council and what they hope to get out of meetings this year.

**2 MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL MEETING  
15 May 2008 – Factual Corrections**

Agreed as a correct minute. Minutes adopted by Council.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

**3.1 Crèche Facilities (Refer 2.1)**

Ongoing. G Lee will be involved in future developments.

**3.2 SPT Underground Price Increase (Refer 2.8)**

G Lee confirmed that the information had been passed to the President of Glasgow School of Art and the letter sent.

**3.3 Employability Marketing (Refer 4.1)**

Ongoing process.

**3.4 Proposed Introduction of Local Income Tax (Refer 12)**

The consultation period had ended and G Lee wrote a response making it clear the SRC was not in favour of the current proposals. The way it is planned at the moment would mean that students would be charged for something they cannot afford, putting them further into debt. G Lee has not had an official reply but he did hear back from one SNP MSP who didn't take kindly to his response.

**4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 1 July – 18 September 2008**

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

**GAVIN LEE, PRESIDENT  
(Copy of report circulated)**

**4.1 Mobile Texting Pilot**

G Webb asked about this. G Lee informed Council that this had been ongoing since last year and some departments are using it to remind students about lecture changes and upcoming assessments. It has been well received and is now able to reach about 80% of students. It is still in

the pilot stage which will be finished by the end of this Semester and reviewed next Semester. Hopefully it will be rolled out for 2009/10.

#### **4.2 CHESS Meeting**

S Beaton asked about this. G Lee reported back on the following:

- \* Local income tax proposals were discussed and sent out.
- \* The Joint Future Thinking Task Force report came back and CHESS discussed how to respond to it. G Lee has now sent the response and it should be published on their website.
- \* CARDAS (Campaign Against Raising the Drinking Age in Scotland) attended and gave another presentation on what work they had been doing. CHESS had given its support. However, as a result of some reports about how CARDAS was being run and the approach they were taking, G Lee decided to remove the SRC's support at the meeting.

#### **4.3 CARDAS Website**

It was noted that the SRC logo is still on the website. G Lee confirmed that he has contacted the Convenor of CARDAS asking that the SRC logo be removed.

### **5 JAMIE WIGHTWICK, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT) (Copy of report circulated)**

#### **5.1 FRESHERS' WEEK**

J Wightwick was delighted with the success of Freshers' Week. There had been a reduction in the turnout of small businesses for the Freshers' Fair but not a reduction in student numbers. There was a return of some favourite events such as meet the author and yoga sessions and there was also the world record Ceilidh event. The final number attending the Ceilidh was 637 with over 40 nationalities participating. More publicity about this will be circulated soon.

One new event this year was 'Toddlers in the Tent' which was a great success. It gave student parents the opportunity to meet and even parents whose child had not secured a place this year had been invited along.

There were a few internal issues which could have been better, mainly how roles could be divided up, but J Wightwick will cover this in his report.

As Freshers' Week preparations took up an enormous amount of everyone's summer J Wightwick was extremely appreciative of the support he had received from the other Sabbatical Officers.

#### **5.2 Convenors**

J Wightwick hopes to have regular meetings with Convenors and find out what is happening in their Faculty and work on how to engage with student reps more.

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

### **6.1 Publications**

G Webb asked how the Publications teams were settling in. Z Grams is happy with the way things are going and intends to organise an event with all the media departments so they can get to know each other and talk about different ideas.

### **6.2 GUST**

The QM Union President informed Z Grams that he is looking at space in the QM Union to install a screen. It was agreed last year screens would be installed in the John McIntyre Building and the Unions but due to structural problems in the QM Union this had not happened. This is now being sorted out.

### **6.3 Communications Strategy**

Z Grams informed Council that over the next few weeks and months certain parts of the Communications Strategy that the past VP Media & Communications worked on last year will be implemented.

### **6.4 Council Documentation**

Council noted that the Executive is working on an 'Introduction to the SRC' document to ease everyone into Council life. This will include a lot of helpful suggestions. If anyone has anything they think would be useful please let Z Grams know. This document will form a strong basis for Council Training in November.

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

### **7.1 Clubs & Societies**

L Laws informed Council that a full review of the affiliation and grant system has now been carried out and a first draft is on the SRC website. It is hoped this will be finalised next month.

### **7.2 Accommodation Office**

S Beaton asked how the meeting had gone. He asked if there had been any inroads made into issues that have been going on for the last few months. L Laws informed Council a letter had been sent to the Accommodation Office detailing all the problems re utilities etc. and she got a reply back challenging her claims. L Laws is in the process of obtaining someone's contract which she will forward to the Accommodation Office. In the meantime the Accommodation Office has changed all their publicity, their website, the halls booklets and the contracts.

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

G Lee informed Convenors & Officers that report back forms will be circulated to them for completion, so that they can be included in future Council papers. Completed reports should be returned to the PA to the

Permanent Secretary in time for the Agenda and papers being circulated, one week before each meeting.

## **8.1 Gareth Webb, Arts Faculty Convenor**

### **8.1.1 Introduction**

G Webb had sent out an email to the Arts Faculty introducing himself and inviting feedback.

## **8.2 Iain MacDonald, Postgraduate Convenor**

### **8.2.1 Halls Training**

I MacDonald had been attending halls meetings and training and hopes to send out a mass email re postgraduate related issues.

Council noted that anyone wishing to send out a mass email should send it to Z Grams who will provide the class codes.

## **9 Reports**

B Hay referred to the reports and stressed how important it is that the work being undertaken by members is recorded and acknowledged. This information would be particularly important in terms of informing the Annual Report and reflecting the range of work undertaken by the SRC.

## **10 STUDENT HARASSMENT POLICY**

G Lee explained that at the last meeting of Council a motion had been passed asking the University to produce a Student Harassment Policy. As a result, a draft copy of the University's Student Harassment Statement was circulated to everyone for discussion.

The following points were raised:

- There should be more information if it's a member of staff you are complaining about. Are they going to be taught by them and will the member of staff know they have complained?
- Will they find out who has made the complaint? Who will receive the information? Students might feel very uncomfortable going to a member of staff in case the staff member is a friend of the one the complaint is about.
- Student Harassment Advisors must be clarified. There had been a proposal that Staff Harassment Advisors could take on the responsibility and deal with complaints but it was felt that this could possibly be a conflict of interest between the two roles. G Lee will push for Harassment Advisors for students in any further discussions.
- How far up the chain does it go? Who would deal with it? MI5 has monitored a students' association in the past. How would the Harassment Policy deal with something like that?

**ACTION**

- It was noted that age was not listed in the legislation (Appendix A) – this should be amended.

Council noted that the SRC has already produced a guide on the Complaints Procedure.

G Lee and L Laws will be meeting with the Committee next week so if anyone has any more questions they would like included they should be forwarded to them.

**11 LATE SUBMISSION PAPER**

This had been discussed at the last meeting of Council and J Wightwick had been looking into the penalties for late submission of coursework from a variety of departments. He had produced a document which was circulated to everyone for information and discussion. The idea is that there should be one guideline for all, every department should be the same, unifying the policy. Council were asked for their thoughts on the following proposal:

*1 point per week day late submission, with a maximum of 5 weeks (22 points penalty) should be adopted.*

Some members expressed a view that 5 weeks could be too much and the length of time should be revised. J Wightwick and G Lee will consider the document again and circulate it to Council before submitting it to the Committee in the next month or so.

JW/GL

**12 RAG WEEK**

This will take place from 19-23rd January 2009 and L Laws hopes to raise about £10,000. Council noted the events she hopes to run during Rag Week and she asked for help from Council members to organise a campaigns team. K Harris, S Hall, K Law, S Rodger & J Harwood volunteered.

The following charities have applied for donations from any charity events run:

BLISS (a charity who gives money to families who have premature babies)  
Action Against Hunger Scotland  
Barnados Boutique  
National Autistic Society  
Disability Sports Events  
Everyman (Male Cancer Campaign)  
An International Charity

After discussion about which charities should receive donations Council agreed that the Executive meet and discuss it and email everyone with their decision.

EXEC

**13 AOCB**

ACTION

**13.1 Protest Against Fuel Payments**

J Wightwick informed Council that J Foley had contacted him to make Council aware of a protest taking place against Scottish Power in connection with the high rise in fuel prices. This will take place on 1 October at 12 o'clock at Atlantic Quay, Robertson Street. No official delegation will be sent but J Wightwick will put the information on the forum for any members who would like to attend. S Beaton added that prominent speakers from various organisations and political parties will be attending.

JW

**13.2 Graduate Endowment Tax**

Iain MacDonald referred to the abolition of the graduate endowment tax and pointed out that it was not abolished for a small minority of PG students in Scotland who graduate now. I MacDonald gave the background to the situation and had spoken to the Rector about it who seemed to agree it was unfair. I MacDonald will discuss this further with G Lee.

**13.3 Cross Campus Political Forum**

K Law had received an email from the Debates Committee at the GUU regarding a cross campus political forum they want to set up so that politically minded societies can come together and discuss their events etc. He wondered if it would be better for the Clubs & Societies to organise.

G Lee & L Laws will look into this and clarify a few matters. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

GL/LL

**13.4 SRC Housing Policy**

S Beaton asked about the SRC Working Group that was formed at the last meeting to formulate the Housing Policy. The Executive will discuss this further and include it in the SRC's intentions for the year. Council will be updated at the next meeting.

EXEC

**13.5 NOVELL**

G Webb asked what was happening about NOVELL. Z Grams will email the University and find out.

ZG

**13.6 Election Website**

The following Council members offered to test the election website

G Webb, D MacGowran, I MacDonald, K Law, A Hunter, S Hall.

**13.7 Resignations**

G Lee informed Council he had received two resignations, one from the Charities Officer and one from the Science Faculty Convenor. These positions will now be included in the Autumn Elections.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m. and members headed to the QM Union for a drink.