

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

**ACTION**

**Present** : As per Sederunt Sheets

**Apologies** : Morven Boyd, Dominic Boyle, Gavin Carre,  
Ana Cohen, Dij Davies, Katy Fraser, Caragh Nimmo

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**1 PRESENTATION FROM DOROTHY WELCH, COURT OFFICE,  
RESTRUCTURING PROJECT TEAM**

L Laws welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dorothy Welch who was present to speak about the University restructuring.

D Welch updated Council on the current situation and the objectives of the restructuring.

Council noted that the names of the Colleges and Schools have all been agreed as follows:

Arts will be made up of

- School of Humanities
- School of Critical Studies
- School of Creative Arts & Culture
- School of Modern Languages & Cultures

Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences will be made up of

- School of Life Sciences
- School of Medicine
- School of Veterinary Medicine

It is probable there will be three research institutions within this college.

Science & Engineering will be made up of the Faculties of Physical Sciences, Engineering and Information & Mathematical Sciences, i.e.

- School of Chemistry
- School of Computing Science
- School of Engineering
- School of Geographical & Earth Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physics & Astronomy
- School of Psychology

Social Sciences will be made up of the Faculties of Law, Business & Social Sciences, Education and Glasgow University Dumfries, i.e.

- Business School
- School of Education
- School of Interdisciplinary & Applied Sciences at Dumfries
- School of Law

- School of Social & Political Sciences

Each college will have its own graduate school, which will be the home for PG Taught and PG Research students. The Heads of College interviews will take place in April/May.

Currently four Working Groups are looking at HR, Finance, Research & Teaching Infrastructure Services and one looking at Academic Administration. There is also one about to be set up to look at the student experience and membership of this group has yet to be finalised. As far as academic governance is concerned a paper will be going to Senate at the end of April which will look at Committees.

There are 8 objectives of the restructuring. Three directly related to students are:

- Enhancing the postgraduate research student environment;
- Supporting strategies to improve student success;
- Build on the high quality of student experience.

Everything will be measured against these objectives. This is about making sure Glasgow survives and flourishes into the future.

The feedback the University has had from students falls into a number of categories.

- How will this affect my studies? What does this mean for the curriculum?  
*It will have no impact whatsoever.*
- Will it have an effect on the degree I graduate with?  
*No it will not affect the degree.*
- How will it affect my interaction with teaching staff?  
*It won't affect interaction with teaching staff.*
- There was concern expressed that it may be more difficult to reach departmental secretaries.  
*The idea is that structures are established so that students are not dependent on one person.*

A discussion followed.

D Welch reiterated that the changes will not affect incoming students and they will be offered the same courses. She directed Council to 'My Glasgow', the section on the University website where it contains the most relevant information.

Council felt it would be a good idea to hold a public meeting on a Wednesday afternoon in each faculty, publicising it widely and inviting a senior University Manager to attend.

It was also suggested that each school or department organise a reorientation day for students progressing into next year where students can ask questions, in addition to the new intake.

ACTION

As a result of the restructuring there will be implications for the SRC and L Laws confirmed that the structure of Council will require to be looked at for next year.

L Laws agreed to feedback to D Welch and thanked her for attending the meeting. D Welch left at 7.15 p.m.

LL

## **2 MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

### **21 January 2010 – Factual Corrections**

None. Minutes adopted by Council.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING**

### **3.1 Notes from Informal Council Meeting on 24/9/09 (Refer 2.1)**

Council noted an Executive Meeting had taken place recently and they had looked at the feedback from the above meeting. The minutes of the Executive Meeting will be circulated in due course by email.

EXEC

### **3.2 Glasgow University Students Living in Caledonian University Accommodation (Refer 2.5)**

M Wilson confirmed that C Ingram had followed up with SAAS the possibility of students being able to claim back some of the additional travelling costs. It was noted that SAAS do not pay the first £159 of a travelling expenses claim but anything over that can be claimed. This information will now be passed to the Accommodation Office.

MW

### **3.3 Digital Natives Survey (Refer 4.2)**

M Boyd had passed the information to J Wilson.

### **3.4 Health, Safety & Environment Committee (Refer 6.1)**

S Hall had spoken to Estates & Buildings about the possibility of the lighting along University Place being improved. It was noted that this area is not solely owned by the University and that talks need to take place between the University, NHS and Glasgow City Council in the near future. Lighting between the Library and the Q M Union has improved and the University is committed to making campus safer.

### **3.5 Student Reps in the Science Faculty (Refer 7.3.1)**

Council noted that M Boyd is in the process of contacting other faculty reps to encourage them to arrange 'meet and greet' sessions for student reps. She hopes this will be arranged before the end of the Semester.

### **3.6 Graduate Attributes (Refer 14.1)**

N Jennings had circulated the information to everyone.

### **3.7 10K race at Garscube Challenge (Refer 14.2)**

N Jennings had forwarded the link to the entry form for anyone wishing to take up A Daly's challenge.

#### **4 SABBATICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS – 14 January – 11 February 2010**

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

##### **LAURA LAWS, PRESIDENT (Copy of report circulated)**

Nothing further to add. No questions from Council.

##### **5 MORVEN BOYD, VP (LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT) (Copy of report circulated)**

M Boyd had submitted her apologies to the meeting. No questions from Council.

##### **6 JIM WILSON, VP (MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS) (Copy of report circulated)**

###### **6.1 Flickr Page**

J Wilson has set up a Flickr Page to increase awareness of the SRC. If anyone wants to send in photographs of events that have been held he will include them.

###### **6.2 Elections**

J Wilson confirmed that the Election website has been updated and old information removed. He has set up an Events page on Facebook for the Heckling meeting and hopes members will promote it to friends.

##### **7 SOPHIE HALL, VP (STUDENT SUPPORT) (Copy of report circulated)**

###### **7.1 Rag Week (15-19 March)**

Council noted that S Hall has received confirmation from Global Village for Rag Week. More information is available on the SRC website. The QM Union President confirmed they have advertised events on Facebook.

###### **7.2 GU Anti Cuts Group**

L Laws and S Hall had met with this group to discuss their concerns about restructuring. They will continue to meet with them. The group do not believe that restructuring is not linked to academic cuts. L Laws thanked S Hall for attending the meeting with her.

###### **7.3 Benefits Week**

This is going well and has been supported by University staff.

#### **8 CONVENORS, OFFICERS & COURT ASSESSOR'S REPORTS from November 2009**

### **8.1 G Carre, Engineering Convenor**

G Carre had submitted his apologies. There were no questions from Council.

ACTION

### **8.2 J Harrison, LBSS Convenor**

Council noted that J Harrison had attended the Executive Committee on 16 February and the LBSS Faculty Committee meeting on 17 February 2010.

### **8.3 A Silkoff, Minority Ethnic Officer**

#### **8.3.1 Scottish Defence League March**

A Silkoff had met with a member of the Scottish Defence League regarding the march in Edinburgh on Saturday, 20 February. He wondered whether it was appropriate for Council to comment on it. After discussion it was agreed that A Silkoff would send a quote and appropriate links to J Wilson.

AS

### **8.4 T Gore, Clubs & Societies Officer**

#### **8.4.1 STaG Top-Up Grant**

F Weber referred to the meeting that had taken place with STaG regarding their top up grant. He did not think that Societies were aware that one of the conditions of being awarded a grant was that they would have to recognise help given from the SRC. T Gore confirmed that this was not a condition of receiving a top-up grant but it was par for the course that if a Society is being given a large sum of money then the SRC would appreciate some publicity on their web page. S Hall confirmed that Societies are now asked for feedback when they are awarded a top-up grant so that the SRC can measure how money given to clubs has aided students and all reports received so far have been very positive.

### **8.5 L Armstrong, General Representative**

Nothing further to add. No questions from Council.

## **9 DISCUSSION ABOUT RESTRUCTURING**

Council agreed it would be worthwhile if the University is going to have discussions over the summer for postgraduates that the Sabbatical Officers should attend and speak about how the SRC works.

## **10 WEBSITE STATS**

A copy of the website stats had been circulated to everyone for information. The stats detail how many visitors visit the website each month, where they are from and which sites they visit. It was suggested this information might be included in the next SRC Annual Report.

## **11 VCS WEEK REPORT**

A copy was circulated to everyone. Most of the events had gone really well but S Hall was disappointed with the number of Council members who had attended. She mentioned that if Council would like to see certain events it is important they give feedback and suggestions of what they would like to see in future. J Wilson thought VCS Week was a really good initiative and

acted as a top up for Media Week in November.

ACTION

## **12 MARIO CONTI – HONORARY DEGREE**

L Laws was delighted with the publicity they had received as a result of their press release and thanked everyone for their feedback. She reported that Senate reps had promoted their position on awarding M Conti a degree at a recent Senate meeting even though it had not made a difference. A short discussion followed and a vote was taken, which decided that a protest should be organised. The following members agreed to form a Protest Committee:

L Laws, T Gore, S Dunn, J Harrison, M Morrison, V Strouvelle, F Weber, L Irving, A Silkoff, A Lynch, A Daly, M Boyd, G Lee.

LL

Council also agreed the Rector should be contacted to find out his views.

## **13 HILLHEAD AREA COUNCIL**

It was noted that S Hall has been invited to sit on this Committee. Council approved.

## **14 JOHN McINTYRE BUILDING**

The date for the transfer to Southpark Avenue will take place on 22 March, the same day the John MacCafé closes. The SRC has been allocated spaces for all the services with a few adjustments being made to the internal design of the building. The main issues will be signposting and rebranding. It is likely that the SRC will be out of the John McIntyre building for two years.

## **15 SRC ANNUAL REPORT + PRESENTATION TO COURT**

A copy of the SRC's Annual Report was circulated to everyone. The report highlights the SRC's activities and achievements.

L Laws' presentation to Court had also been circulated with the committee papers. This presentation will go to the Student Support & Development Committee in March. Council should let L Laws know if anything else should be added to it.

## **16 AOCB**

### **16.1 10K Challenge at Garscube**

Anyone wishing to take up A Daly's challenge should let him know. He had registration forms for anyone interested in taking part.

### **16.2 Postgraduate Taught Forum**

A postgraduate forum for all PGT students will take place on the 16 March in the Williams Room to discuss a variety of issues to see what students think and what questions should be put on the upcoming PTES student survey. If anyone knows any PGT students please let them know.

**16.3 General Elections**

J Harrison wondered if the SRC had any plans to advertise how to vote in the forthcoming elections. L Laws felt that advertising how to register for voting was a good idea and this will be put on the website, on Facebook and in emails to students. After discussion it was agreed that the SRC would create a poster campaign based around issues which would affect students at the next election to aid students in deciding upon an MP to support. It was noted a similar campaign was run at the last general election and that L Laws would speak to M Wilson, who was SRC President at the time.

ACTION

LL/MW

L Laws thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.