

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

- Present** : As per sederunt sheets
- Apologies** : C. Sibbald (GUU), L. Howes (GUSA),
T. Gore (Past Pres.), K. Hill (QMU), S. Tuckwood,
S. Rainey, E. Taylor, A. Daly
- Attending** : Helen Speirs (Advice Centre), Gina Connor, (Senior
Finance Administrator)
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A: Items for Discussion

1. WELCOME

1.2: Sederunt and Apologies

2. Minutes from the meeting held on 20 October

No issues raised. Minutes approved.

3. Financial Report (circulated)

G. Connor briefed Council on the main issues of the past financial year, including a financial overview and financial activities for the last year. Some departmental activities were also outlined. Questions were then welcomed from the floor.

- E. Docherty asked if any cost savings had been identified for this year. G. Connor explained that this was an ongoing and continuous process and that budgets were adjusted proportionally. She did not expect large cost savings over the coming year due to block grant cuts. It was also noted that there were no plans to increase income through trading activities, though Residential Services were expected to contribute more to the running of the halls to campus minibus service. B. Hay also emphasised that GUSRC did not intend to make profit from providing student services, although he was happy to hear from members who had other suggestions on this point.
- E. Docherty suggested looking at external sources of funding, or sponsorship for extending the minibus service. J. Harrison noted that GUSRC raised revenue during Freshers' Week, but that this was limited and would be unlikely to cover annual maintenance costs.

- F. Weber suggested that GUSRC hire advertising space on the buses to the University. G. Connor explained that the University would have contacted GUSRC if they were interested in advertising. It was also explained that GUSA and the Vet School had been contacted to attempt to come to an agreement to secure a regular minibus service to Garscube, but their enquiries had not identified a noticeable desire for such a service. It was also noted that charging students was not an option as students living in halls were already paying to do so.
- F. Weber raised the issue of S. Ritchie's salary and its re-investment in GUSRC. He hoped that this could be established at the current meeting. G. Connor noted that, usually, nothing would be allocated until six month accounts had been completed. Other budgets within GUSRC would then be taken into account, before budgets could be readjusted.
- J. Helle asked whether GUSRC tours were turning a profit. G. Connor explained that no profits had been recorded to date, but that setup costs had been incurred in 2011, so this was not a fair reflection of the overall project and that profits were not expected in the first year. Profits were expected to begin in spring/summer 2012.
- E. Docherty requested more information on the better understanding of recycling facilities and bulk uplift regulations as students had approached her about this subject. G. Connor explained that this appeared in the Trustees' Report and suggested that A. Johnson take this issue up.

A. Johnson
E. Docherty

The Financial Report and Trustees' Report were approved by Council. It was also agreed for Alexander Sloane to audit GUSRC for the coming year.

4. John McIntyre Building Plans

I. Smith went over some of the background to the John McIntyre Building plans, explaining that it had been GUSRC's intention to move downstairs for some time in order to develop into more of a central hub for students. It was also noted that the University did not have a final plan of how the building should be remodelled. I. Smith then presented Council with the University's latest plan for the building, noting that the University's lack of clarity as to the building's use was an ongoing issue, as the current plans suggested a combination of GUSRC working space, University welcome area, and reception desk. I. Smith conceded that there was a slight clash of ideals as to what the University and GUSRC were looking for with regards to this space.

B. Hay noted that negotiations had been ongoing for 5 years, with the current plan appearing unannounced only weeks prior to this meeting. The current plans suggest the University wishes to advertise the building as an exhibition centre, relegating GUSRC to a small area of the building and removing the cafe completely, detracting from any attempts to create a student hub.

I. Smith explained that, at the moment, there was no formal University committee which met to discuss these plans, highlighting such a lack of communication as a clear problem. D. Newall, Secretary to Court, had been contacted to make it clear that the current plans were unsuitable for GUSRC's needs. It was hoped that the next step would be a meeting with D. Newall to discuss this further.

J. Helle questioned how logical it would be to have a potential exhibition centre next to the current visitor centre and asked if the University had explained what their vision for the John McIntyre Building was. I. Smith explained that the University did not appear to have consulted with the architect in detail, and that the architect would now be required to return to the plans. J. Helle also suggested that an argument could be made to install a third photocopier.

L. Dhillon asked if there was a timetable for this work to be completed. B. Hay explained that September 2012 was the ideal scenario, but I. Smith noted that this was by no means a deadline.

D. Ralston asked why not official working group had not been established to coordinate this project. I. Smith explained that the project did not appear to be a priority for the University. B. Hay explained that there had been a working group, but that it had drifted away. He suggested that the John McIntyre Building become a standing item for Council meetings.

E. Docherty raised a general point on what facilities existed outside of the unions for students to use. It was explained that many Schools made 'common room' space available for students. It was also noted that a new postgraduate space had been agreed upon.

5. PG Social Space

It was noted that a business plan was being drawn up for the upcoming pg social space. A survey was also to be circulated to all pg students. The plan would then be put to the Capital Expenditure Committee.

6. VP Student Support, Amy Johnson

6.1. Dress Code

A. Johnson noted that council had not been informed as to the dress code for University committees. She recommended that 'smart' would be fine for committees. For Senate, she advised shirts, skirts, trousers, smart shoes etc. Formal occasions and occasions where robes are worn, such as graduations, must be very smart.

6.2. Health Week Update

A. Johnson thanked all those who volunteered their time for Health Week. She also noted a special thanks to D. McCusker for his successful 'It Gets Better' video.

6.3. Carers Policy Launch

A. Johnson noted that the GUSRC Carers Policy was to be launched on 6/12/11. This was particularly notable as GUSRC were the first university body to implement such a scheme. All Council members would shortly receive invitations and were encouraged to RSVP to SVSS Coordinator, Fiona Buckland.

7. VP Learning and Development, James Harrison

7.1. PG Study Space

J. Harrison noted that this had been brought to the attention of the executive a couple of weeks previously. He explained that Arts and Social Sciences PGR students currently had office space in the Gilbert Scott Building, but were being relocated to make way for the Business School. Emails circulated to PGR students about this inferred that a full consultation was taking place with GUSRC, which was not the case. I. Smith noted that GUSRC had been extremely vocal in their displeasure at this. As a result, The executive have met with Andrea Nolan and held an open meeting with PGR students to discuss the situation. PGR students would now be informed and kept up to date with all developments and their input to the layout of the space would be welcome.

- It was also noted that GUSRC was aware of a lack of desk space across the University, specifically in the College of Arts. **A FOI request for this had been submitted to the University and was pending.**

SRC Exec

7.2. Student Teaching Awards

Nominations were opening from 21/09/11 and would remain open throughout January into February. A Facebook page was currently being

promoted and more targeted publicity would be launched shortly.

7.3. Provision of resources for taught courses

J. Harrison would follow this up with an email.

J. Harrison

7.4. Library Focus Groups

J. Harrison explained that he had been approached to provide some volunteers for a library survey. Applicants would receive an Amazon voucher.

7.5. RUK Fees Protest

The details for a protest in Edinburgh were circulated. A. Johnson would be coordinating GUSRC efforts. Travel costs for council members would be subsidised by GUSRC. L. Dhillon noted that other universities across Scotland were sending buses to Edinburgh and asked if GUSRC would be doing the same. I. Smith explained that he had not even been made aware that the protest was happening until the day before the meeting, and there did not appear to be a great demand from GU students to attend. If this changed, then the possibility would be considered.

8. VP Media and Communications, Iain Smith

8.1. Student Media Update

- Subcity – I. Smith noted that there had been a delay in getting shows up and running and that this was becoming a concern. He would be meeting with Phil Kennedy, station manager, in the coming week to update on this issue.
- Guardian – It was noted that Guardian had had some difficulty with the last issue due to a large number of illnesses. It was also noted that there had been factual inaccuracies printed in the last issue. This would have to be addressed through an improvement in Guardian communication.
- GUM – GUM appeared to be running well, with the new issue and website well-received.
- GUST – GUST had received attention for their involvement in the 'It Gets Better' campaign and deserved credit for their contribution.

I. Smith

8.2. Publicity Update

Drew McCusker's 'It Gets Better' campaign had been a focal point for publicity, and was also featured on the main University website.

Health Week and the Carers Policy launch had also been well publicised. Reports for these events would be forthcoming at a later meeting.

Student Teaching Awards – publicity was currently being developed for this event.

Principal's open meeting – publicity had been circulated for this. I. Smith noted that it would be good to see Council members raise issues at this meeting as student participation had been low in the past.

8.3. Media Week

Events were being organised for Media Week. More information would be discussed at upcoming meetings.

9. Same-sex marriage consultation

K. Law ran through the background of the Scottish Government consultation on registration of civil partnerships and introduction of same-sex marriage. He proposed that a working group be formed to prepare a response predicated on supporting the proposition, which would be presented to Council at a later date. Any interested members were encouraged to contact K. Law. B. Hay noted that he would check the legality of aspects of the issue in terms of GUSRC's charitable status, but did not foresee any difficulties.

10. Halls of Residence Community

S. Tsolakidis raised the issue of increasing a sense of community among students living in halls of residence. He proposed setting up a working group to discuss ideas. A sheet was circulated for interested parties to sign. A. Johnson would also liaise with S. Tsolakidis and the Accommodation Office.

11. Energy Saving Competition

E. Docherty suggested introducing an energy saving competition to halls of residence. She had discussed the idea with Neil Campbell, Head of Residential Services in May. J. Harrison suggested that E. Docherty liaise with A. Johnson in order to raise the issue with Residential Services through GUSRC.

AOCB

- **F. Weber, Recording Lectures**

F. Weber noted that in order to record lectures, permission needed to be obtained from the tutor or lecturer. He believed that international

students would benefit from being able to record lectures and noted that only students with a registered disability were currently permitted to do so. He suggested that GUSRC seek to overturn this rule. **J. Harrison explained that as far as he was aware, there were no restrictions on recording lectures, though he would investigate further.** K. Law noted that lectures were the intellectual property of lecturers and that, presumably, the only way to allow students to record lectures would be to change lecturers' contracts.

J. Harrison

- **L. Dhillon, STC Anti-Racist march, 26 November**

L. Dhillon highlighted this march and urged Council members to attend. She also noted a forthcoming 'reclaim the night' march on the 28th of November. She also noted the UCU strikes on the 30th of November and sought clarification of GUSRC's position on the matter. J. Harrison explained that a position was being discussed.

- **F. Weber, School Representatives**

F. Weber noted that some School Representatives had not been contacted to attend School meetings because some Schools had fallen back into the habit of selecting class reps to attend such meetings. He urged GUSRC to ensure that this practice was ended. J. Harrison requested a list of these Schools and urged any School Reps affected to contact him.

J. Harrison

- **F. Weber, Level 2 Entry**

F. Weber noted that the University intended to encourage entrants to apply directly to level 2 of courses. He suggested that this would be of detriment to the social benefits of first year and that GUSRC could highlight this. J. Harrison noted that this was an aim of the University's, but was not yet a serious matter. I. Smith requested that such issues were brought to the attention of sabbatical officers prior to Council meetings in future in order to ensure a considered response.

- **F. Weber, Open days**

F. Weber noted that the University wanted to create more interactive open days. It was suggested that GUSRC give an induction talk. J. Harrison agreed.

- **K. Law, University Computers**

K. Law explained that he had attempted to use a library computer but after attempting to log in, was informed that it had been booked for another user. J. Harrison agreed to raise this at the Library Committee.

- **L. Dalgleish, Media Week**

L. Dalgleish suggested that Media Week could branch out into science media given its popularity at the moment.

B: Items for Approval

12. Proposal for Executive Structure until June 30 2011 (circulated)

-Approved-

13. Autumn Election 2011 Report. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

C: For Information

14. Reports -noted-

J. Meaden, General Representative

J. Meaden noted that any Council members wishing to take part in the Winter Graduation Procession should contact Irene Aitken in the Senate Office. J. Harrison requested they also copy 'president@src.gla.ac.uk' and do so in the next week.

15. Strategic Plan 2011-15

B. Hay summarised the new Strategic Plan.

16. Council Hoodies

Any final orders needed to be paid for after the meeting.

The next meeting of Full Council will take place at 1830 on 26 January 2012

The next meeting of Council Committee will take place at 1830 on
1 December 2011

The meeting concluded at 20:30