

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

**Present** : As per sederunt sheets

**Apologies** : N Llamas-Gomez, N Duffy-Welsh, J Harrison, C Hoy,  
K Raison, K Mcewen

**Attending** : G Connor

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**1. Motions**

1.1 GU Palestine Society – Motion to boycott G4S on campus (appendix 1)

C Meehan presented the motion on behalf of the Palestine Society

Discussion followed and it was decided that the motion be withdrawn pending more detailed information on the contracts the University have with G4S, if any.

1.2 Motion - University of Glasgow Fossil Free (appendix 2)

M Wilson and L Evans presented a motion to GUSRC asking for support in lobbying the University to become fossil free in its investments and make better provision of ethical careers advice.

Discussion followed.

The following items in the motion amendments were agreed

Point 1 *'To coordinate and put resources'* amended to *'To put support'*

Point 2 *'To lobby for and secure student representation on all university investment committees'* removed as already in place.

Point 3 *'to end all future investments in fossil fuel companies and'* *'immediately'* was removed.

Point 4 amended to *'To lobby the Careers Service to increase the provision of ethical careers advice'*

Point 5 removal of the word *'actively'*.

Council approved the amendments with a majority.

Council approved the motion with 23 in favour, 4 against and 7 abstentions

## **2. Annual Accounts**

G Connor presented the annual accounts and took questions from council.

L King asked if donations were made to GUSRC, G Connor responded that there were some book donations made through the Second Hand Bookshop.

M Harris asked what the bad debts consisted of , G Connor advised that in the main they related to marketing income due.

C Steeghs asked if GUSRC pay rent for the John McIntyre Building. G Connor responded that GUSRC have applied a nominal rental value of 27,000 p/a to the building and this is deducted from the block grant at source.

H Gower asked if funds carried over to the same service each year. G Connor responded that the budget is reviewed each year, based on last year's spend, ongoing commitments and future priorities,.

G Tulloch asked about the difference between the two Council administration costs on page 52. G Connor responded that this was due to some issues arising from the University's oversight of the e-voting system. Although the issues were resolved , the University offered to waive its usual charge. This had a knock on effect with the reallocation of anticipated costs to different budgets.

D Mackay proposed, and N Mosson seconded the approval of the accounts and they were approved.

Alexander Sloan were approved as the accountants for the following year.

## **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

O Coombs asked if the action point relating to 2.15 could be removed as he had said that he could contact SAAS only 'if required' rather than he was going to contact them.

B O noted, in relation to the action point on section 4, that she was unable to take the matter any further forward at present.

It was pointed out that there were two sections labelled 3.3.

AB to  
amend  
minutes

### 3.1 Matters Arising

3.1.1 – Action Point - L Graham informed council that that attack alarms were still available from GUSRC on request but it had been decided, not to use social media to push this due to the danger of messages causing unnecessary fear amongst the student populace.

3.1.2 – Action Point - Hunterian Development Board - J McGrellis informed council that the proposed meeting mentioned in 2.11 had not yet taken place but was arranged but would take place in the New Year

3.1.3 – Action Point - Textbook Availability - J McGrellis updated council that the meeting with herself, A Xu and M Karrasch had not yet taken place.

3.1.4 - Council Tax Box - On point 3.3 J McGrellis updated council that the council tax box had now gone for this year but informed council that she had contacted Student Services requesting that it be more visible next year.

3.1.5 Action Point - Council News Bullietins – Regarding point 9 J McGrellis apologised that she had not yet had the opportunity to look into this, but that she would for the next meeting in January.

## **4. Reports**

4.1 - L Graham informed council that a full report on Welfare Week would be completed in due course.

4.2 - O Coombs highlighted the Equality Officers Forum on the 27<sup>th</sup> November and changes from a series of forums to a series of meetings at school level from September 2014.

4.3 - M Harris highlighted that the General Rep Surgery was quiet and will hopefully get bigger signage for the next surgery.

4.4 - C Meehan informed council that she had met with the other Equality officers and that they hope to hold a joint surgery in January.

### 4.5 - Questions

Q - H Gower asked C Meehan about her upcoming meeting with GUMSA regarding women being discouraged from using the gym.

C Meehan responded she understood that the main concern is with the swimming pool.

Q - K Wallace asked for an update regarding Kelvin Building Tour.

L Graham will forward the report to K Wallace before it is submitted.

4.6 - I Mitev highlighted that he had spoken with I Macdonald, SVSS Coordinator regarding the potential for a pairing system for babysitting services for mature students.

H Gower pointed out that all medical school students have PVG certificates.

Discussion followed.

4.7 - L Graham thanked L King for all his work on 'Stand Tall Get Snapped' and all his other help throughout Welfare Week.

## **5. Sabbatical Action Plans Updates**

O Coombs, VP Education

- STA currently at 230 nominations, slightly down on 12/13 but further promotion was planned for the new year.
- Student Voice meeting planned for before Christmas.
- No update on Lecture recording
- Exam timetabling; first meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> December and O Coombs will draft a remit for the group.

L Graham, VP Student Support

- Has met with PC Ross Jackson who is promoting immobilise. Items are tagged and can then be added to a database when stolen. There is no date set yet for the bike marking scheme
- Money and Budgeting week has been changed to Issues Week
- Will arrange a group Meeting with Welfare Officers before the end of the semester.

LG to  
forward  
report to  
KW

B O'Connor, VP Activities

- RAG brand development ongoing and will hopefully be completed by January.
- RAG committee will have regular fortnightly meetings
- Culture Club events Stars and Stripes was successful as indicated by higher than average takings at The Gilchrist where it was held.
- Burns Supper and Chinese New Year events taking place in the new year

J McGrellis, SRC President

- Website still on schedule for first meeting in the new year.
- Student leaders network in Lund, student reps tbc.
- John McIntyre Building developments, expecting plans in the new year.

## **6. Schedule Amendment**

Council discussed the proposed changes to the schedule relating to election nominations from study abroad students.

Changes were to add a 'to' between 'eligible' and 'stand' in section 4.5 and in 5.3 to have 'for the positions of postgraduate college convener and postgraduate taught convenor' added to the bracketed section '(with the exception of the Gilchrist postgraduate club)'.

The amendment was passed.

## **7. AOCB**

7.1 - O Mooney informed council that it was his intention to bring a motion to council regarding the high proportion of zero contract workers employed by the university which is around 40% of the workforce, many of these workers are students.

Discussion followed.

O Mooney to post a link to the campaign Facebook page on the council

Facebook page.

J McGrellis informed council that this was an issue that was likely to be considered by University Court next week so there may be an update.

7.2 - N Mosson asked that GUSRCs condolences regarding the Clutha Helicopter Crash be put on record.

Noted that O Coombs and C Davies had lain flowers on behalf of GUSRC.

7.3 - N Williams asked if council would be getting involved in any anti rape campaigning as discussed in the first informal meeting of council regarding 'Blurred Lines' on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

L Graham responded that she has been in contact with Police Scotland regarding their 'We can stop it' campaign. Campaign materials are expected in January.

7.4 - C Meehan informed council that Sexual Assault Awareness month would be held in April and asked if this was something GUSRC would be involved with.

**CM to liaise  
with LG**

7.5 - I Mitev asked if the HR Section on the website could be updated with GUSRC information. L Graham has contacted the senate office regarding this.

7.6 - G Tulloch asked whether abuse of students crossing the picket lines, may contravene the work and study policy and whether GUSRC should take this into account when making a statement.

J McGrellis will discuss this with the unions in question if another strike is scheduled and also discuss with Council.

7.7 - S Farrer asked whether committee lists could be made available to students standing for election in future. J McGrellis responded that herself and O Coombs were trying to complete an audit on all university committees.

7.8 - B O'Connor highlighted that students were being charged 46p for hot water by hospitality services. She is currently seeking a meeting with the

head of Hospitality Services to discuss this and also discuss the potential for them to pass on end of day food to either food banks or GUSH.

7.9 - B O'Connor informed council that a follow up event aimed at local students is planned and B O'Connor asked welfare officers to consider ways to engage with 'living at home' students, particularly those from MD40 post codes, who were less inclined to be involved in campus activity and had a particulalry high high drop out rate in In the early part of the second semester

Meeting concluded at 20.45pm

Glasgow University Students' Representative Council *notes*:

1. That G4S is a British-Danish private security company that operates globally. It provides services and equipment for the Israeli security institutions and buildings operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [1] including:
  - a. The separation barrier/apartheid wall, which according to the International Court of Justice is a violation of international law. [2]
  - b. Prisons, whose inmates include Palestinians held without trial and those under the age of 18. This is a breach of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention. [3] [4]
2. That Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal under international law as acknowledged by the UK government. [5]
3. That the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian Territories specifically named G4S as one of the companies which "should be boycotted" for their role in Israel's occupation. [6]
4. That the Trades Union Congress in 2009 called for a "campaign for disinvestment by companies associated with the occupation". [7]
5. That G4S is directly responsible for the death of Angolan asylum seeker Jimmy Mubenga, who was killed as a direct result of inappropriate methods of restraint utilised by G4S staff in October 2010.[8]
6. That the University of Oslo moved in December 2012 to have its contact with G4S terminated by July 2013 as a direct result of the record of G4S on human rights. [9]
7. That Queen Mary University Students Union voted overwhelmingly in February 2013 to allow its contract with G4S to expire as a direct result of a campaign against G4S.

GUSRC *believes*:

1. That fundamental human rights and international law should be acknowledged and adhered to by states and corporations.
2. That our university should therefore have no commercial or other links to G4S, given its complicity in human rights violations.

GUSRC *resolves*:

1. Not to take out any contract with G4S in the future.
2. To call upon the University as a whole to divest from any holdings it may have in G4S.
3. To call upon the University to commit to having no future contact with G4S.

[1] <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/group4securicor-g4s>

[2] <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?pr=71&code=mwp&p1=3&p2=4&p3=6&ca>

[3] <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/politics/2012/09/how-g4s-helps-israel-break-geneva-convention>

[4] <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/israeli-prisons-equipped-notorious-security-firm-g4s-hold-palestinian-teens>

[5] <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/middle-east-north-africa/palestine-national-authority?profile=all>

[6] <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43376#.URtenuj2Ib2>

[7] [http://www.tuc.org.uk/the\\_tuc/tuc-16991-f0.cfm](http://www.tuc.org.uk/the_tuc/tuc-16991-f0.cfm)

[8] <http://www.irr.org.uk/news/two-years-on-and-no-justice-for-jimmy-mubenga/>

[9]

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/2012/university-of-oslo-to-end-g4s-contract-over-support-for-israeli-apartheid-10143>



**Motion to the SRC:  
University of Glasgow Fossil Free**



**The SRC Notes:**

1. That the University of Glasgow has public commitments to tackling change and has signed on to the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EUCA) initiative entitled 'Universities and Colleges Climate Change Commitment for Scotland' (UCCCFs), which is a public declaration of the University's intent to address climate change.
2. That the University of Glasgow has an endowment which, as of July 31<sup>st</sup> 2012, totalled £130 million, including investments in fossil fuel companies including Shell, BP, Chevron, Billiton, and Centrica currently totalling at least £19 million.
3. That Shell, BP, and Chevron are among the world's 200 largest fossil fuel companies, by proven carbon reserves, and that these reserves are well in excess of the amount of carbon that can be safely burned to have a chance of staying below 2C of global warming.
4. CarbonTracker's Unburnable Carbon 2013<sup>1</sup> report which highlights the overvaluation of fossil fuel reserves and the huge financial risks of investing in fossil fuels.
5. That People & Planet, in partnership with 350.org and others, has launched a Fossil Free UK campaign, calling on UK higher education institutions to divest from fossil fuels and sever their links with these companies.<sup>2</sup>
6. That 6 higher education institutions in the United States in addition to 17 Cities and numerous faith groups have already committed to divesting from fossil fuels for both moral and financial reasons.<sup>3</sup>

**The SRC Believes:**

1. That we are running out of time to keep global warming below 2C above pre-industrial levels- the limit for ensuring a safe and stable future for the economy, the planet and all people on it, as recently outlined in the IPCC's 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report.<sup>4</sup>
2. That the fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, promoting and facilitating the use of, selling and profiting from fossil fuels, as well as by having a major influence on government policy, is complicit in causing climate change and its catastrophic impacts.
3. That we must rapidly reduce the global use of fossil fuels and expand clean energy alternatives
4. That our university should be a role model in society, and take the lead amongst UK universities by acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone.
5. That the University of Glasgow's investments in the fossil fuel industry undermine its

1 'Carbon bubble will plunge world into another financial crisis - report', 19 April 2013, <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/apr/19/carbon-bubble-financial-crash-crisis>

2 <http://peopleandplanet.org/fossil-free>

3 <http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/>

4 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/27/ipcc-world-dangerous-climate-change>

- commitment to tackling change and reducing its carbon emissions by 80% by the year 2050.
6. That the University of Glasgow's commitment to tackling climate change should extend to its investment portfolio, as well as its own operations and research priorities.

#### **The SRC Resolves:**

1. To coordinate and put resources toward a high-profile Fossil Free campaign around fossil fuel divestment on campus, including the dissemination of information about the University of Glasgow's investments and the companies it invests in.
2. To lobby for and secure student representation on all university investment committees.
3. To lobby the university to end all future investments in fossil fuel companies and to divest from fossil fuel industry companies immediately.
4. To lobby the Careers Service to ensure no fossil fuel companies are allowed to recruit potential graduates onto campus, and to lobby for the provision by the Careers Service of ethical careers advice.
5. To actively work with the Climate Action Society, People & Planet and other external organisations involved in fossil fuel divestment and related campaigns.