

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

Present : As per sederunt sheets

Apologies : **S Law, S Liu, A Deery, E Zilberter, H Gower,
J Harrison**

Attending :

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

L Cameron

2. Council Reports

J McGrellis – SRC President

Council of Senate - J McGrellis informed Council that the new Council of Senate had been passed at the extraordinary meeting of senate and that SRC representatives on Senate were now full members and that the first meeting of the Council of Senate would take place in April.

Rectorial Elections -J McGrellis informed council that she had met with all the available rectorial candidates, and asked that council members help promote the elections.

Gilchrist Ramp Plan - J McGrellis informed council that there was now a plan for installing a ramp at The Gilchrist which is something that has been ongoing for over a year. J McGrellis added that it was planned that the work take place at weekends to minimise disruption.

SRC Elections - J McGrellis reminded council that the SRC elections would be taking place before the next meeting of council and asked that council members encourage students to stand, and also aske that they consider running again.

L Graham – VP Student Support

Mental Health Policy – L Graham informed council that the Mental Health

Policy had been passed at the recent meeting of senate.

Flagraising – L Graham thanked council members who attended the flagraising.

B O'Connor – VP Student Activities

Media Week & Refreshers Fair – B O'Connor thanked Council members who helped with these events.

Go Green Week – B O'Connor highlighted that this event would take place the following week (10th – 15th February). B O'Connor added that she had not yet received publicity materials but would promote when she did.

International Women's Week – B O'Connor informed council that a number of events would be run by GUSRC as part of this.

L Graham thanked B O'Connor for running a successful Media Week

G Masiulyte – Charities Clubs and Societies Officer

One Dress One Month – G Masiulyte promoted her blog on this event to council.

3. Sabbatical Action Plans

The sabbatical officers updated council on their progress with reference to their action plans.

J McGrellis updates

- New Website - feedback has been taken on board and implemented.
- Election Regulations – Study abroad guidelines have been produced to enable study abroad to run in the elections.
- Student Summit – 13th – 15th May in Glasgow. Theme is employability and graduate attributes and they will be looking for helpers.

J McGrellis added that she would be looking at PG representation at MVLS, fossil fuel divestment, zero hours contracts, and the committee audit, electoral registration before the referendum.

O Coombs updates

- Lecture Recording Policy – this has been re-written without consultation with GUSRC which is disappointing. Policy now has less guidance which may make it easier to pass but there is no reference to SRCs input on the policy.
- Examination feedback – O Coombs thanked council members who had been involved in the process of producing this policy. It is hoped that it will be in place for next academic year.
- Student Voice – O Coombs commented that SRC may have to reconsider whether to support StudentVoice as there are problems with students not using it.
- Class Representative Training – 688 reps trained in semester one of 1200 class reps in the university. It is expected that around 150 more reps will be trained in semester 2.
- Student Teaching Awards – 500 nominations so far, email promoting further to students is still to be circulated. O Coombs informed council that all council members were invited to the event and asked council members to get involved in publicity if they were available.
- Peer to Peer strategy - N Duffy-Welsh has been working on this in the School of Critical Studies. O Coombs is hoping that this could be expanded into other schools.

OC will circulate policy to council members

B O'Connor updates

- Media Week – A full report will be written in due course.
- Culture Club – One further event will be held towards the end of the semester. Council were asked to contact G Masiulyte if they were available to help out.
- RAG – around £1000 raised so far from events. Council were asked to pass on any ideas to Breffni to take forward and to get involved if available.
- VCS awards – nominations opening soon.
- U21 Student Summit taking place in May

L Graham Updates

- Mental Health Policy – passed at senate.
- Student Mental health agreements working group – Although it has been mostly going well there has not been much interest from staff members but it is hoped that this will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Security leafleting – leaflets are being left at unattended belongings in the library and being posted through open windows at halls to highlight the risks of theft.
- Budget week – no longer happening but there will be a series of campaigns starting with the landlord campaign in consultation with a representative from Shelter.
- Supporting Welfare Officers – flagraising, fairplay project, white t-shirt day, welfare officers surgery at local students event have all been supported.

4. Course Feedback

O Coombs gave a short presentation to Council on proposals on the questions that will be used for course feedback and asked for their thoughts. Discussion followed.

O Coombs thanked council for their feedback and informed council that the university should have the wording of the questions in the coming months and that he would hope to get further feedback from council at this time.

5. AOCB

5.1 – Strike Action

J McGrellis informed council that there would be more strike action taking place on Monday 10th February. J McGrellis added that all pay from previous strikes has gone to hardship fund and scholarships and that she expected that this would also be the case this time. J McGrellis informed council that at present there was no indication at this time that there would be marking penalties.

Discussion followed

Concerns over allegations of students being harassed whilst crossing picket lines were voiced and the fact that some students may be unaware of the meaning of crossing a picket line, J McGrellis agreed to contact Unison and Unite regarding this issue. J McGrellis will circulate information on this to students.

5.2 Rectorial Elections – L King asked for some clarification on the rules for rectorial elections in light of there being a non-student flyer on behalf of Edward Snowden.

5.3 Principals Question on Zero Hour Contracts – L King asked O Mooney the results of his question to the principal at Senate. O Mooney responded that the answer given was very brief, reiterating the universities stance. J McGrellis added that herself and O Mooney had met with the director of human resources Christine Barr to discuss zero hour contracts and she felt that that progress was being made on this issue.

5.4 White T Shirt Day – N Williams asked council members to get involved in this event.

5.5 Alcohol Awareness – C Hoy commented that he would like to see more publicity on Alcohol awareness at halls of residence.

5.6 Careers Service Research - B O'Connor informed council that Jane Weir from the careers service requires ten students to take part in some research. The two groups she is interested in are those with no experience working abroad and those who have volunteered abroad outwith university.

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