

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

**Present** : As per sederunt sheets

**Apologies** : M Bhebhe, N Williams, I Mitev

**Attending** : G Lee, J Harrison, G Tulloch, K McEwan

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**1. WELCOME**

J McGrellis thanked council members for attending the first council meeting of 2013/14 and congratulated those members who had been newly elected in the autumn election.

**2. Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR)**

Gavin Lee gave a short presentation on ELIR. Discussion followed.

G Lee requested that council members contact him in the next couple of days should they wish to have further input to the review.

G Lee informed council that they would be looking to invite some members to meet with the Review Team in February.

**3. Introduction to Council**

J McGrellis informed council that training would take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

New council members were informed that their council email addresses would be available soon and that they would be contacted with details of how to access them in due course.

O Coombs asked council to use Student Voice as a means to contact students and added that school reps should receive notifications if issues are raised. Council were asked to feedback if they encounter any problems or have any comments.

J McGrellis encouraged council members to speak with one of the sabbatical officers before the next council meeting regarding their specific plans for the coming year .

Council were reminded to be sure to maintain dialogue with the wider student population and feedback to council on issues arising and results achieved.

J McGrellis informed council that the committee elections would take place toward the end of the meeting and outlined the possible changes to senate with the proposed introduction of a new council of senate. If passed the SRC would have 12 representatives made up of the 4 sabbatical officers and 8 college convenors with the convenors having the option to opt out if they feel they are unable to commit the time. Any unfilled positions would be elected. J McGrellis added that, as the new "Council of Senate" structure has not yet been approved, a further 4 council members would be elected to the general senate.

#### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

J McGrellis updated council on the apps being developed for the university and asked council to look at them and feedback any ideas to the sabbatical officers that could then be passed to IT Services

J McGrellis confirmed that the SRC representatives would have a vote at the new Senate if the changes were passed.

O Coombs informed council that the Exam Feedback Working Group would be in the first week in November.

J McGrellis informed council that the proposed changes to the Scottish water charges at halls of residence would no longer be being implemented.

G Tulloch asked that it be noted that he believed he had submitted apologies for that meeting.

The minutes for the 18<sup>th</sup> April were approved.

The minutes for 26<sup>th</sup> September were approved after the amendment of a typo.

#### **5. Reports and Updates**

##### **5.1 Freshers Week Report**

B O'Connor requested that council who were freshers' helpers to feedback on the report.

J McGrellis congratulated Breffni and all involved on organising a successful Freshers' week.

## **5.2 Council Reports**

J McGrellis thanked those council member who had submitted their reports and asked council members to ensure to submit a report for each meeting which would enable council to keep abreast of all current council member activities.

## **5.3 – J McGrellis SRC President**

J McGrellis advised council of her concerns regarding aspects of the current consultation around Estates Strategy and intends to discuss matters with Estates and Buildings and Corporate Communications in the hope of developing the consultation processes to be more inclusive with greater capacity to engage students in.

J McGrellis informed council on some other developments from Estates and Buildings :-

- The university has secured heritage lottery funding to purchase the Kelvin hall.
- A new heating system will be being fitted in the university that will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the university.
- Repairs to the bell tower have been requested.
- Installation of signage.

Lecture Recording - J McGrellis informed council that the issue of lecture recording was discussed at senate in October, noting that although very mixed feelings have been voiced on the issue, it was a worthwhile discussion. J McGrellis is hopeful that engaging with staff on the basis that it is an opt in rather than opt out policy will keep the issue moving forward.

O Coombs agreed that it had been a useful discussion and added that it would now be being taken to college level Learning and Teaching Committees to seek feedback on the policy, re-establish a working group and then remit back to senate for further consideration.

Q – H T Chan asked why there was going to be a bank on campus.

J McGrellis responded that it does bring funding to the university that will in turn benefit students. In addition, the services being offered to students from Santander such as internships are positive. J McGrellis advised she would be observing progress of this proposal closely in order to ensure that any final decision concerning the presence of a bank on campus would be based on consideration of maximum benefits to students.

J McGrellis added that Santander have a good universities program.

Q - G Tulloch asked about Campus Conversations and whether it was open to all students.

J McGrellis responded that it was a staff event that council had been invited to but added that she felt it would have been useful for some students.

C Hoy asked what ideas J McGrellis had to improve engagement with the consultations among students.

J McGrellis responded that video promotion was a possibility and that corporate communications were currently working on a video although she is sceptical about whether it will appeal to students.

Improvements to the questionnaire to make it more relevant to were also suggested. J McGrellis asked council to contact her if they had any suggestions on how to improve the consultations.

#### **5. 4 L Graham VP Student Support**

World Aids Day - L Graham informed council that she had attended a meeting with D Newell and the Sexual Orientation Equality Officer L King to discuss the upcoming World Aids Day. An Edo Zollo art exhibition is to be held in the library during Welfare Week and the south front of the university will be lit up in red.

Plagiarism - L Graham informed council that she had submitted a proposal to the Student Support and Development Committee suggesting re-establishment of a plagiarism working group. In particular she had stressed the general lack of awareness amongst some groups of students as to what actually constituted plagiarism. SSDC agreed a working group should be established.

#### **5.5 B O' Connor – VP Student Activities**

B O'Connor informed council that Glasgow University Service to the

Homeless (GUSH) had been required to change the location of its soup kitchen due to complaints from a multi-national bank. Consequently GUSRC require to decide whether GUSH should be supported/encouraged to operate independently. B O'Connor suspects that the upcoming commonwealth games may be the reason for the need to relocate and informed council that an article had appeared in the Glasgow Guardian on this matter. There will be a debate 'This house believes that the deprived communities will be the real losers of the commonwealth games' on Monday at 6pm and Breffni will keep council updated.

Global Entrepreneurship Week - B O'Connor informed council about Global Entrepreneurship week which begins on the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov in The Gilchrist. Council were requested to raise awareness of this event amongst postgraduate students.

International Women's Week – B O'Connor asked council to contact her if they have any ideas for events.

Movember – B O'Connor asked anyone wanting to take part to contact her.

Poppy Raid – B O'Connor asked council to contact her if they were interested in taking part.

Q - G Masulyte asked for details regarding the commonwealth games public lecture series.

B O'Connor will post the lecture titles on the Facebook page

**BO to post titles of public lectures on Facebook Page**

Q – N Mosson asked if there had been any resolution on the halls issue discussed at Cross Campus Freshers Week on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

B O'Connor responded that it had not yet been resolved.

B O'Connor informed council that one of the affiliated clubs had a licence to run a TEDx talk on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. At present they are concentrating on securing a venue. B O'Connor clarified that this was a different group than those who hoped to run one last year.

## **5.6 Oli Coombs VP Education**

Learning and Teaching Committee – O Coombs informed council that an extra place on the committee for council had been secured and that a course feedback working group to establish a set of questions to allow for

easy comparison of courses across the university had been set up and he had attended the first meeting. O Coombs added that the results will probably come into force in September 2014. The examination feedback working group was also set up at this meeting.

Academic Standards Committee – O Coombs informed council that in addition to absence reports being able to be submitted on MyCampus, they are also looking at being able to submit good cause claims on MyCampus also. Issues of confidentiality need to be looked at but it is hoped that this can be piloted next year.

Exam Timetables – O Coombs submitted a paper to the university regarding exam timetables and the high concentration of exams in the first two weeks rather than being over the whole four weeks. A working group is being established and O Coombs may be the chair but it has yet to meet.

J McGrellis highlighted that there was also the issue of when the timetables were released pointing out that the university had one of the latest releases of exam timetables in the Russell Group and Scotland.

E Zilberter asked if there were any reasons why the timetables were released so late on.

E Zilberter pointed out that, because of airfare rises at certain times of the year, the current process of scheduling exams was very costly for international students. J McGrellis informed him that this was an issue that had been raised in the paper presented to the university.

C Steeghs informed council that as international students officer she had received a number of complaints regarding this issue.

CS to meet  
with OC

Discussion followed

O Coombs asked council their opinion on having exams on Saturdays.

Discussion followed where it was pointed out that this put pressure on students who have to work at weekends and the difficulties they may have getting the time off at short notice in addition to the loss of money.

F O'Donnell pointed out that exams were also scheduled for bank holidays which meant that parts of the university were closed.

V Shankar asked how much influence the SRC council has on decisions taken by the university.

O Coombs responded that the council were in a good position to influence

decisions through sitting on important committees throughout the university.

C Hoy – Environmental Officer

C Hoy informed council that food co-op were hoping to work with the SRC to make more long term plans to secure space.

J McGrellis responded that BO, CD, GM had attended a consultation session where the needs of clubs and societies in terms of space were discussed and that this is an issue that is quite high on the agenda in the long term.

**CH to meet with BO to discuss options for short term solutions**

G Masiulyte - Charities Clubs and Societies Officer

G Masiulyte highlighted Movember and asked everyone to get involved. G Tulloch highlighted the mo-running event being held by the GUU on the 9<sup>th</sup> November members are running the 10k or 5k to raise money. There is a cost to enter the event.

J Williamson – UG Science and Engineering Convenor

J Williamson informed council that the issue of lecture recording had been discussed at the Science and Engineering LTC and it had been mentioned by a staff member from psychology that lecture recording had not led to a drop in attendance.

H Gower – School of Medicine

H Gower informed council that she was trying to produce and gain approval for a feedback questionnaire for students that have to re-sit examinations in the medical school in the last year. She has currently secured approval from the Dental School.

E Zilberter – School of Psychology

E Zilberter asked about problems some students encountered with psychology in Student Voice. O Coombs responded that he had spoken with persons involved with student voice and it will be possible to individually map them so they can access the appropriate areas on Student Voice.

**OC will look into further and contact EZ with more information**

K Wallace – School of Physics and Astronomy

K Wallace highlighted that she had received complaints regarding central

timetabling.

J McGrellis responded that this was an ongoing problem and a high priority for the university to resolve. J McGrellis requested that any problems be reported to her so that she can feedback to the university.

K Wallace informed council that the School of Physics and astronomy were considering moving careers meetings from 4<sup>th</sup> year to 3<sup>rd</sup> year to avoid deadlines.

**BO will follow up**

H T Chan – School of Geographical and Earth Sciences

HT Chan informed council that within his school there were issues around exchange student support and grade transfers.

J McGrellis responded that she understood that there is a university wide policy implemented 2012 that is not being followed by all schools. J McGrellis asked council to direct students with this problem to the Advice Centre. J McGrellis added that the way grades are transferred is something that the university is currently looking into.

**JM will report back to council on this**

C Davies – Maths and Stats

C Davies informed council that he would be holding a surgery on Friday for Maths and Stats students and asked any welfare or general or first year reps to come along if they were available.

D McKay – UG Social Sciences Convenor

Social Sciences Learning and Teaching committee the piloting of a change in how social sciences administer enrolment was discussed with the technical enrolment being passed to mycampus administrators.

O Coombs informed council that once all the class rep training was completed that he would be ensuring the relevant class rep lists would be made available to them.

**O Coombs will provide class rep contacts to council**

K McEwan commented that the system of class reps was different at Crichton and asked about their training. B Hay commented that this was something that was being discussed with Crichton campus.

## **6.0 Communication Guidelines**

J McGrellis asked council if they had any questions relating to the



communications guidelines document that had been circulated, pointing out that it was a flexible document that would have to be adjusted to keep abreast of the everchanging nature of communications and social media.

Discussion followed

O Mooney asked if it would be possible for general and first year reps to get their own src email accounts.

B Hay responded that it was something that could be looked at.

JM will discuss with general and first year reps

## **7.0 Strike 31<sup>st</sup> October**

J McGrellis informed council that there was a strike on campus on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and read out a draft statement from the SRC for discussion and approval from the council.

Discussion followed and it was decided that the word 'believe' should be changed to 'recognise' and then the statement was approved.

JM will post GUSRC statement on website

## **8.0 Technology Show and Tell**

O Coombs informed council that they are hoping to run a technology student show and tell to help the university learn the technology being used by students such as drop box etc and asked council to think about how they can get students involved.

Discussion followed

## **9.0 Reminders**

Reports – J McGrellis asked all council member to submit reports ahead of each council meeting.

Council Training 9<sup>th</sup> November – J McGrellis reminded council about the training and asked those that were unable to make it to let her know.

Surgeries – J McGrellis encouraged council member to hold surgeries and asked those wishing to do so to get in touch.

Publicity Team – J McGrellis asked council interested in some paid work in the publicity team to contact her.

Council Photo Album – J McGrellis informed council that a council photo album was being produced for the facebook page and asked any who did not want to take part to opt out.

Hoodies – J McGrellis informed the newly elected council members that they could order council hoodies for £13 and asked them to contact her if they are interested.

Remembrance Service – Council members wishing to attend and take part in the academic processions were asked to confirm by Friday.

Facebook Group – Council that do not have access to the facebook group were asked to contact J McGrellis

Welfare Week – L Graham asked council member to get involved with welfare week 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November. Those unable to get involved in running the events were asked to attend events where possible.

Student Teaching Awards – O Coombs informed council that STA nominations would open on the 19<sup>th</sup> November until February with the ceremony on the 13<sup>th</sup> March. He added that there was a new category for class rep.

## **10. Committee Elections**

Council were informed by the sabbatical officer of details of the various committees with seats up for election. The following council members were elected by either secret ballot or show of hands.

**Court Assessor** - D Mackay

**Council of Senate** – Cal Davies

**Senate** – Owen Mooney, Gintare Masiulyte, Cathy Steeghs, Hugh Roberts

**Health Safety and Wellbeing** – Nicky McComb

**Learning and Teaching Committee** – N. Mosson (arts), H. Gower (mvls), C Davies (sci & eng), R Vaughan (soc sci)

**Deans of Graduate Schools** – Vaishnavi Shankar

**Student Support Development Committee** – Liam King

**Senate Student Conduct** – Oscar Schafer, Marvin Karrasch, Naomi Duffy-Welsh

**Military Education Committee** – Mhairi Harris

**Academic Dress Committee** – Sarah Long

**Researcher Development Committee** – Vaishnavi Shankar

**Hunterian Strategic Development Board** – Hugh Roberts

**Library Committee** – Hannah Gower

**Christie's Education** – Katherine Raison

**Scotland Rural College** – Cal Davies

**Religion Belief and Equality** – Frankie O'Donnell

### **11.0 AOCB**

B O'Connor informed council that the SVSS were currently looking for volunteer tutors for conversational English and highlighted the upcoming Culture Club run by G Masiulyte.

B O'Connor informed council that RAG events would be held all year and asked council members to contact her about joining the RAG committee

N Mosson commented that there was a lot of out of date information on the website, such as Fiona Buckland still being listed as a contact for SVSS.

M Karrasch raised that he had submitted a report but it had not been circulated, this was also the case for C Davies and D Mackay.

J McGrellis informed council about the rebranding of a QMU clubnight Bedlam to Assylum. The publicity for the event had been offensive. J McGrellis hopes that the branding will be changed and commented that the QMU were in discussions with the external company that hosts the clubnight.

K Wallace asked if there was information on the rumoured new lecture theatre.

Meeting concluded at 10pm

**AB will look into missing reports and circulate if found**

**JM will update on facebook if she finds out more**