



**UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

**STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

**CONSTITUTION**

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## CONSTITUTION

### 1. NAME

There will be a students' association known as the 'University of Glasgow Students' Representative Council' ('GUSRC').

### 2. DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution, schedules and any standing orders:

'Academic session' has the same meaning as given under the University of Glasgow's regulations.

'Code of Practice' means the Code of Practice issued by the University from time to time in accordance with the Education Act 1994.

'Council' means the governing body of the students' association known as the University of Glasgow Students' Representative Council.

The term 'Executive Officer' and 'Sabbatical Officer' should be regarded as interchangeable.

The term 'Executive Committee' and 'Sabbatical Committee' shall be regarded as interchangeable

'Member' means a registered student of the University of Glasgow who has not opted out of representation by, or membership of, GUSRC under the terms of the Education Act 1994.

'Semester' has the same meaning as given under the University of Glasgow's regulations.

'GUSRC' means the students' association known as the University of Glasgow Students' Representative Council.

'Student' means a member.

'University' means the University of Glasgow.

Reference to any statute or regulation includes reference to any legislation which repeals and re-enacts with or without modification.

Words in the singular include the plural.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of GUSRC are to:

3.1 Represent and promote the general interests of students of the University.

- 3.2 Advance civic responsibility by providing a recognised means of communication between students and the Court and Senate of the University.
- 3.3 Prevent and relieve poverty and advance health by providing welfare services for students and potential students.
- 3.4 Advance the arts, culture, education, heritage, science and sport by providing amenities and supporting activities for students.
- 3.5 Promote equality of opportunity amongst students and challenge all forms of discrimination whether based on sex, age, race, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, religion, cultural background or other such status.

#### **4 EDUCATION ACT 1994**

Every registered student of the University shall be represented by Council and shall be a member of GUSRC unless a student exercises his or her right not to be, in accordance with the Education Act 1994. Procedures for opting out of representation and/or membership are outlined in Schedule 1 and are in accordance with the Code of Practice.

#### **5 COMPLAINTS**

GUSRC shall have a complaints procedure. Any complaint concerning the conduct of a Council member must be dealt with in relation to the published procedure and with reference to Schedule 3 – Code of Conduct. Any complaint concerning GUSRC staff must be dealt with by the Permanent Secretary and where appropriate the Staffing sub-committee.

GUSRC's Complaints Procedure shall be created and reviewed by Executive Standing Order and will be available on request from GUSRC Reception.

#### **6 MEMBERSHIP OF GUSRC**

Membership of GUSRC is automatic for all students of the University. Any member of GUSRC may seek nomination to, and participate in, the election of Council in accordance with Schedule 2.

#### **7 MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT OF COUNCIL**

Council is representative of all students of the University

- 7.1 Council shall:
  - a) Be elected by students in accordance with Schedule 2.
  - b) Consist of *ex officio* members in accordance with Schedule 2.
  - c) Consist of no more than 49 members.
- 7.2 Council shall participate in the development of GUSRC policy and strategy.

- 7.3 Council shall be responsible for scrutinising, reviewing, and retrospective endorsement of Executive policy initiatives and activities where time has not permitted prior endorsement.
- 7.4 Council shall be responsible for reviewing, from time to time, the Constitution and Schedules.
- 7.5 Council shall review and develop policy on all matters relevant to the organisation's objectives as set out in Paragraph 3.
- 7.6 Council shall receive the audited accounts and reports on all activities of the Executive.
- 7.7 Council shall elect/appoint representatives to University Committees, with the exception of those places held for Executive members by the University.
- 7.8 Council may establish sub-committees in pursuit of its aims.

## **8 OFFICE OF PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENTS: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A President and 3 Vice-Presidents shall be elected in accordance with Schedule 2 and will form the Executive Committee.

- 8.1 The Executive Committee shall have responsibility for implementing and representing GUSRC policies within the University and externally in accordance with Schedule 4.
- 8.2 The Executive committee shall be accountable to Council but shall have the capacity to agree short term policy and campaigning initiatives where required.
- 8.3 All Executive Committee members shall report back to Council and be subject to questions on actions and activities.
- 8.4 The President will chair meetings of Council and Executive subject to Schedule 7. The President shall be the spokesperson on behalf of GUSRC.

## **10 OFFICE OF PERMANENT SECRETARY**

The Permanent Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive and will undertake responsibility for the day-to-day management of GUSRC services on behalf of the Executive in accordance with Schedule 4. The Permanent Secretary must not be a full-time or sabbatical student of any educational body.

## **11. POWERS**

11.1 Subject to paragraph 12, the Executive, on behalf of Council, will have the same powers as Trustees under Scots law and in particular will have power:

11.2 To lease or rent land or buildings from the University.

11.3 To operate within the University; shops or other facilities to provide students with such goods and services as Council may decide.

11.4 To borrow and to raise money in pursuance of any of Council's functions.

11.5 To invest the monies of GUSRC, not immediately required for the performance of its functions, in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit.

11.6 To employ such staff as it believes necessary in order to achieve GUSRC's stated aims, and to determine terms and conditions of employment.

## **12. FINANCE**

The Executive must ensure that all funds provided to GUSRC by the University are used only in accordance with the Education Act 1994, the Code of Practice, the objectives of GUSRC set out in paragraph 3 of the Constitution, and other statutory requirements or such conditions which the University may from time to time decide. In particular the Executive must through the Permanent Secretary:

12.1 Keep any and all bank accounts in GUSRC's name.

12.2 Keep accounts and accounting records in accordance with ordinary professional accounting principles.

12.3 Maintain a sound system of internal financial management and control.

12.4 Plan and conduct GUSRC's financial affairs so as to ensure that annual income is sufficient to meet total annual expenditure, with any divergence from this requirement requiring prior approval of the University.

12.5 Obtain the prior written consent of the University to any transaction involving land, buildings and equipment worth in excess of the sum prescribed in the Code of Practice.

12.6 Obtain the prior written consent of the University to the borrowing of money for a period in excess of twelve months.

12.7 Not give any guarantee or indemnities incurring contingent liabilities other than in the normal course of business.

12.8 Maintain adequate property and public liability insurance cover.

12.9 Not proceed with any expenditure decision exceeding the prescribed sum without the prior agreement of at least one financial observer. The Secretary of Court shall appoint two financial observers who will be invited to, receive papers for and have the right to attend, all meetings of the Executive Committee in a non-voting capacity. The prescribed sum for the purpose of this sub-paragraph will be no less than £1,000 or such higher sum as may be authorised in writing by the Secretary of Court.

### **13 SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTS AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

- 13.1 All contracts and legal documents must be signed on behalf of GUSRC by the President and the Permanent Secretary. The Depute President may act as a substitute signatory for the President where the President is not available. Where the Permanent Secretary is absent he or she, or the Secretary of Court, may appoint another member of GUSRC staff as a substitute signatory, subject to such conditions as deemed appropriate.

### **14 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

- 14.1 No meetings of Council, Yearly Reporting Meetings, Emergency Meetings of Council or Extraordinary General Meetings may be held outwith the University semesters or on a University holiday.

#### **Meetings of Council**

- 14.2 Council shall meet a minimum of six times each calendar year, the first meeting being not later than two weeks after the annual Council autumn elections have taken place. Subject to room capacity, any student may attend a Council meeting but may only participate with the permission of the Chair.
- 14.3 The Permanent Secretary, appropriate GUSRC support staff and the University's Financial Observers may attend meetings of Council.
- 14.4 A minimum of three Council meetings shall take place in the first semester and a minimum of three in the second semester. The Executive Committee shall set the precise dates for Council meetings. Notification of meetings shall be provided to all Council members through the Offices of the Permanent Secretary.

#### **Emergency Meetings of Council**

- 14.5 The President, whom failing the Permanent Secretary, must call an Emergency Meeting of Council if requested by at least one third of the current membership of Council, Fractions are rounded up. All requests must be in writing and indicate the purpose of the meeting. An Emergency Meeting of Council must be held within two weeks after a proper request is received and Council members will be given one week's notice of this meeting through the Office of the Permanent Secretary, notwithstanding paragraph 14.1 restrictions.
- 14.6 No business other than the express content of the written request (including any motions) will be discussed at an Emergency Meeting of Council. No amendments can be made to the written request once submitted.

#### **Extraordinary General Meeting**

- 14.7 The President, whom failing the Permanent Secretary, must call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the membership of GUSRC if provided with a request in writing signed by 2% of GUSRC's membership.
- 14.8 The written request must be in hard copy with legible names, student numbers and signatures.
- 14.9 All requests must be in writing and indicate the purpose of the meeting.
- 14.10 An EGM must be held within two weeks after a proper request is received and validated; notwithstanding paragraph 14.1 restrictions. Council members will be given one week's notice of this meeting through the Office of the Permanent Secretary.
- 14.11 No business other than the express content of the written request (including any motions) will be discussed at an EGM. No amendments can be made to the written request once submitted.
- 14.12 Any motions passed or recommendations made at an EGM must be discussed at the next meeting of Council

#### **Yearly Reporting Meeting of GUSRC**

- 14.7 A Yearly Reporting Meeting of all members of GUSRC may be held in each academic year, no later than one month after Council spring elections. The 'one month' period shall not include University holidays. All members shall be given at least two weeks notification of the Yearly Reporting Meeting through GUSRC publications or general notices. The purpose of this meeting is to provide students with information on the work and finances of GUSRC over the last year, including details of subscriptions and donations made to affiliated organisations.

#### **Chairing of meetings**

- 14.8 The President will chair Council and Executive Committee meetings. If the President or Chair is absent, meetings will be chaired by the Depute President, whom failing a member of the Executive as may be agreed by Council.

#### **Voting at meetings of Council**

- 14.9 Each Council Member is entitled to cast one vote on any decision put to Council. Votes are not transferable and only members present at the time a decision is put to a meeting may vote. The method of voting for elections to Council sub-committees, University committees or any other external body is at the discretion of the Chair.

#### **Vote of no confidence**

- 14.10 In the event of a vote of no confidence in the Chair the Permanent Secretary will chair Council for the purpose of that vote. Where a vote of no confidence is upheld the



meeting shall be chaired by the Depute President, whom failing a member of the Executive as may be agreed by Council.

- 14.11 All motions and decisions of Council at an Emergency Council Meeting shall be regarded as recommendations to be considered by Council.

#### **Conduct of meetings**

- 14.12 Rules concerning the conduct of all meetings are set out in Schedule 7.

#### **Minutes**

- 14.13 Minutes of the meetings of Council, will be kept by the Permanent Secretary and will be open to inspection by any student or member of the public subject to paragraph 14.12
- 14.14 No information falling within the Data Protection Act 1998 may be released to any student or third party.

### **15 AFFILIATION TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 15.1 GUSRC may affiliate to external organisations so long as this is compatible with paragraph 3 of this Constitution, the Education Act 1994 and the University Code of Practice.
- 15.2 The Permanent Secretary will keep a record of all affiliations to external organisations with details of any subscriptions or donations made. This list will be available on request.

### **16 SCHEDULES AND STANDING ORDERS**

Council may make or amend such Schedules and Standing Orders as may be necessary for implementing the provisions and aims of this Constitution subject to the following conditions:

- 16.1 A simple majority of those present and voting at a properly called meeting of Council is obtained and provided that at least seven days written notice of the precise terms of the order has been given to all members of Council through the Permanent Secretary.
- 16.2 In the case of an amendment to a Schedule, no amendment will come into effect unless and until the University Court gives its written approval to the President and the Permanent Secretary.
- 16.3 Where a proposed amendment or addition to a Standing Order or Schedule has been unsuccessful, a proposal of a similar outcome may not be moved again until a period of at least 3 months has elapsed. The Chair, whose decision under this sub-paragraph is final, will decide the question of whether a proposal is similar to an unsuccessful proposal. In reaching a decision the Chair should have regard to any advice given by the Permanent Secretary.

- 16.4 The Executive may make or amend such Executive Standing Orders as may be necessary for implementing its remit under this Constitution subject to the approval of 75% of its full membership voting at a properly called meeting of the Executive is obtained and provided that at least seven days written notice of the precise terms of the order has been given to all members of the Executive by the Permanent Secretary. Such standing orders, once enacted, should be endorsed by the next properly called meeting of Council

## **17 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended with the approval of two-thirds of those present and voting at a properly called meeting of Council subject to the following conditions:

- 17.1 The Permanent Secretary has given Council members at least fourteen days written notice of the precise terms of the amendment, and advertised the details of the proposed changes.
- 17.2 No less than two-thirds of the actual membership of Council is present;
- 17.3 No amendment to the Constitution will come into effect unless and until the University Court gives its written approval to the President and the Permanent Secretary.
- 17.4 Where a proposed amendment to the Constitution has been unsuccessful, a similar proposal may not be moved again until a period of at least six months has elapsed. The Chair, whose decision under this sub-paragraph is final, will decide the question of whether a proposal is similar to a previously unsuccessful proposal. In reaching a decision the Chair should have regard to any advice given by the Permanent Secretary.

## **18 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- 18.1 The Constitution will be subject to review by the University at intervals of not more than five years.

## **19 DISSOLUTION**

- 19.1 GUSRC, with the prior written agreement of University Court, may be dissolved by a 2/3 majority of Council Members attending an Extraordinary Council Meeting called specifically and only for that purpose. If any assets remain after GUSRC has been wound up or dissolved and all debts and liabilities have been satisfied they shall not be distributed amongst the membership of GUSRC. Such assets shall, instead, be transferred to the University of Glasgow whose governing body (University Court) shall distribute or otherwise apply these assets for one or more of the charitable purposes set out in paragraph 3 of this constitution.

## **SCHEDULE 1 – Membership**

- 1.1 Every registered student of the University is automatically a member of GUSRC and will be represented by GUSRC.
- 2.1 Students have the right to opt out of membership of GUSRC and/or representation by Council. A decision to opt out may be exercised once per academic session and will be valid for the duration of that academic session only.
- 3.1 Any decision to opt out in terms of this Schedule will be notified to the Permanent Secretary who will keep a record of this decision and will advise Council and University Court of the number of students opting out, from time to time.
- 4.1 Students who opt out in terms of this Schedule will continue to enjoy full access to GUSRC services but will not be entitled to participate in Council affairs as a voter, electoral candidate and/or officer.

## **SCHEDULE 2 – Elections**

### **1 Entitlement to vote**

- 1.1. Every member is entitled to vote in polls for the Executive Officer, Welfare and Equal Opportunities and General Student constituencies. Every member is entitled to nominate candidates within those constituencies.
- 1.2. Members are entitled to vote for and nominate candidates in those Academic constituencies where they are eligible to stand.
- 1.3. Voting must be by secret ballot.

### **2 Eligibility for election**

- 2.1 Only members, as defined in paragraph 2 of the Constitution, may stand for election to Council.
- 2.2 No member can stand for more than one position on Council at the same election.
- 2.3 No member can hold more than one position on Council at the same time.
- 2.4 No member is eligible for election to an Executive Officer position which they have already occupied or where they have held a sabbatical position at the University of Glasgow for two years.
- 2.5 All members are eligible to stand for posts in the Welfare & Equal Opportunities or General Student constituencies.
- 2.6 No member is eligible for a seat in the Academic constituency unless they are a student registered and studying at the college/school to which the position relates.

2.7 In the event of any ambiguity arising in application of schedule 2, the decision of the Returning Officer, who has full discretion, shall be final.

2.8 With regard to paragraph 1.2 and 2.6 of this schedule the returning officer may draft additional guidelines as to their interpretation and definition of terms therein. Such guidelines should have the same force as if they were part of this schedule.

### **3. Dates of elections**

Unless the retiring Council, with the written agreement of the University Court, directs otherwise, the election of the Executive, Academic and the Welfare and Equal Opportunities constituencies will be held in the second semester, not later than four weeks after, the end of the spring break,. The Executive elections, at the discretion of the Executive, may be held on a separate date from the Academic and Welfare & Equal Opportunities Constituencies, provided they are within the aforementioned timescale. When the elections are held on separate dates they shall not be deemed the “same election” as per 2.1 above. Successful candidates will take up office on the first day of July in that same year. These elections are called the ‘GUSRC Spring Elections’.

3.1 Elections to all other positions will take place not earlier than three and not later than five weeks after the start of the First Semester. These elections are called The ‘GUSRC Autumn Elections’.

3.2 Subject to paragraphs 3 and 3.1, the precise date of elections shall be decided by The Executive.

3.3 The procedure for notifying students of elections may be made by Executive Standing Order and will ensure that prominent notification of elections is given at least two weeks before the opening of nominations and until the closing date for nominations.

3.4 Where insufficient candidates are nominated in any constituency or where a vacancy occurs, such vacancies may be filled by a by-election as the Executive Committee may decide. The procedure to be followed for by-elections may be made by Executive Standing Order. By-elections shall be deemed the ‘same election’ as the preceding election.

### **4. Nominations & publicity**

The procedure for nominations will be made by Executive Standing Order subject to the following basic requirements.

4.1 Nominations will be made on a prescribed form by candidates who must show their student ID card to the Returning Officer, or authorised depute. The prescribed form

must be signed by the candidate and the Returning Officer, or authorised depute, before it can be accepted. The candidate will then be issued with a receipt.

4.2 Nomination forms must be submitted on the days specified by the Executive Committee, which will be no less than seven days before the election. Submission of nominations will remain open for ten consecutive working days from 9.00am on the first day to 4.00pm on the tenth day. The Returning Officer will declare any nominations received after this time invalid.

4.3 Nominations for the following positions will be signed by a set minimum number of members who will append their student registration numbers to the nomination form.

**Positions and minimum nominees are as follows:**

**Executive Officers:** thirty members;

**Undergraduate Academic Convenors and Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officers:** fifteen members;

**Postgraduate Convenors;** six members

**All other seats:** six members.

4.4 Each member should be eligible to vote for the seat for which he or she is making a nomination. The decision of the Returning Officer regarding the validity of a nomination is final.

4.5 Study Abroad and Erasmus students are eligible to stand in the Spring Election if they are due to return to the University of Glasgow campus in the following academic session. Study Abroad and Erasmus students must email a scanned copy of the prescribed form, hand signed, with a copy of their student ID card and evidence that they are on Study Abroad or Erasmus to the Returning Officer, or authorised depute, from their student email account. The candidate will then be issued confirmation on receipt.

The process of submitting nomination signatures, or their equivalent, for Study Abroad and Erasmus students shall be determined by the Returning Officer and published in the Election Guidelines.

4.6 **Publicity**

The procedure for election publicity will be set by the Returning Officer subject to the following minimum requirements:

Candidates must, before close of nominations, submit a hard copy and an electronic copy of their manifesto, which will be no longer than 500 words in the Executive

Constituency. For Non-Executive constituencies and positions in all other constituencies' manifestos must not be longer than 200 words.

Candidates must provide an electronic passport sized photo along with their manifesto.

It shall be the duty of each candidate to ensure that the submitted manifesto does not contain any offensive or factually inaccurate material, does not breach GUSRC's equal opportunities policy and does not exceed the prescribed length.

Any potential breach of the aforementioned conditions will be considered by the Returning Officer who may, at his or her discretion, request the candidate to amend the manifesto or direct that it be displayed subject to the deletion of any infringing material.

#### **4.7 Post Election**

In the Autumn elections; where a candidate remains unopposed after the time period for nominations has closed, there will be a ballot offering the option of a Yes or No vote.

Elections for executive positions shall offer the option of re opening of nominations should the position be either contested or uncontested.

Candidates, whether opposed or not, shall not be deemed to be elected until the close of the ballot on the day of election

#### **5. Canvassing**

5.1 It is not permitted for candidates to permanently affix, chalk, glue or paint campaign material; all campaign material must be able to be removed at the close of polls. Failure to comply may result in disqualification in accordance with paragraph 6. Campaign material which contradicts this paragraph and GUSRC Election Guidelines is likely to be removed. GUSRC bears no responsibility for campaign material.

5.2 Candidates are not allowed to be canvassed for or financed by persons other than registered students of Glasgow University, who have not opted out of GUSRC representation for this academic year under Schedule 1.

5.3 Canvassing is not permitted in the Gilbert Scott Building (with the exception of the Gilchrist Postgraduate Club for Postgraduate College Conveners and Postgraduate Taught Convener), Fraser Building, The John McIntyre Building, The Glasgow University Union or The Queen Margaret Union, or any of the other buildings listed in the GUSRC Election Guidelines. Candidates should not campaign in University Computer clusters or any other areas deemed Polling Stations in GUSRC Election Guidelines.

- 5.4 Canvassing using 'mobile polling stations' is not permitted. this includes smartphones, laptops and other web enabled devices
- 5.5 With the exception of purchased photocopying services, candidates are not permitted to use GUSRC facilities, including intellectual property, for the furtherance of their campaign.
- 5.6 The use of non-purchased University of Glasgow resources, including but not restricted to the electronic mailing system, virtual learning environments and staff in their capacity as paid employees of the University, to further your campaign is not permitted.
- 5.7 The use of loudhailers on Gilmorehill campus is prohibited by order of the University Court.

## **6 Infringement of election rules**

- 6.1 Any malpractice leading to an infringement of these or other rules governing an election should be reported to the Permanent Secretary, who will immediately inform the Returning Officer who has the power to invalidate the nomination of the offending candidate, or disqualify a successful candidate.

## **7 Returning Officer**

- 7.1 Prior to each election the Executive Committee will appoint a Returning Officer who will be responsible for –

- The proper conduct of elections.
- The observance of the contents of this Schedule.

No person shall be eligible to be appointed Returning Officer if they are –

- A member of Council.
  - A GUSRC employee.
  - A registered student of the University of Glasgow.
  - A close relative of any candidate in a GUSRC Election. The University Court must approve the appointment in writing.
- 7.2 Subsequent to each election the Returning Officer shall submit a written report regarding the conduct of the election to the University Court and Council, and will make him or herself available to council members in order to answer any questions on his or her report.
- 7.3 The Returning Officer may be removed or suspended from office on good cause at a General or Extraordinary General Meeting of Council where two-thirds of those present and voting agree, and the prior written approval of the University Court has been obtained through the Permanent Secretary.

## 8. Poll

- 8.1 All elections will be held by secret ballot which will normally be online and will be decided by the following single transferable voting system:

Online ballot papers will be marked in order of preference

Voters will have the option to spoil their ballot paper by clicking on the appropriate box

The number of votes required to secure election shall be:

*Total No. of Votes Cast - (Total No. NTS) +1 Number of Vacancies +1  
This figure will be referred to as the quota.  
NTS = Non-Transferable and spoilt votes.*

If a candidate receives more than the quota all that candidate's votes will be split according to the next available preference.

If no candidate in any count fulfils the quota the votes cast for the bottom candidate in the count will be divided according to the next available candidate. If more than one candidate ties for bottom place in the count, the candidate with fewest first preferences will be eliminated. If this occurs in the first round, it will be decided by drawing lots.

- 8.2 The results of the election will be supervised by the Returning Officer, who must publish them as soon as they are known. The data and basis for the election results may be inspected and independently validated by the Secretary of Court.
- 8.3 In the event of a tie, a by-election will be held for the seat in question. All questions relative to the validity of an election must be submitted to the Returning Officer within 48 hours of announcement of the result. Decisions on any such questions shall be made by the Returning Officer, who may consult with the Secretary of the University Court. If any election is declared invalid, a by-election will be held.

## 9. Membership of Council

- 9.1 On the first day of July all members of Council shall vacate office and the members elected at GUSRC Spring Elections in that same year will assume their positions.
- 9.2 Council is representative of all students of the University and shall comprise of the following elected member positions:

FOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (subject to paragraph 12):

- President
- Vice President (Education)



- Vice President (Student Activities)
- Vice President (Student Support)

FOUR COLLEGE CONVENORS:

- College of Science and Engineering Convenor
- College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences Convenor
- College of Arts Convenor
- College of Social Sciences Convenor

FOUR POSTGRADUATE CONVENORS

- Postgraduate Representative; College of Science and Engineering.
- Postgraduate Representative; College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences
- Postgraduate Representative; College of Arts
- Postgraduate Representative; College of Social Sciences

EIGHT WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICERS:

- Sexual Orientation Equality Officer
- Age Equality Officer
- Race Equality Officer
- Gender Equality Officer
- International Students' Officer
- Students with Disabilities Officer
- Mental Health Equality Officer
- Charities, Clubs and Societies Officer
- Environmental Officer

ONE POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT CONVENOR elected from amongst the postgraduate taught community.

FOUR GENERAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES who will be Council members without portfolio from across the student community.

TWO GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES who will be first year undergraduate students

EIGHTEEN SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES one of whom will be elected from each school.

- 9.3 The Past President of GUSRC will be an *ex officio* voting member of Council. The Past President is the elected member who held the office of GUSRC President prior to 1 July in a current election year. In addition the President of the following bodies (or their legal successors) will be *ex officio* members of Council and Council but may only vote if that body has a reciprocal Council *ex officio* voting member:

- Glasgow University Sports Association
- Glasgow University Union
- Queen Margaret Union
- Crichton University Campus Students' Association – (Glasgow student representative)

## **10. Court Assessor**

10.1 At its first meeting after the Autumn elections, Council shall elect a non-Sabbatical Council member to be the GUSRC Assessor on the University Court.

## **11. President-elect, Vice Presidents elect and Depute President**

11.1 A member elected to a position on the executive at GUSRC Spring Elections will be known as the President-elect or Vice-President elect, as appropriate, until he or she takes office on the first day of July in that same year. The President-elect and Vice-Presidents elect are entitled to attend and speak at meetings of Council and Executive but not to vote. When members of the Executive Committee take office the President will select one Vice President to become Depute President. The Depute President's role is to substitute for the President in the chairing of meetings and signing of contracts and legal documents in his or her absence. The Depute President may not act as spokesperson for GUSRC without the prior consent of the President. In the event of the resignation of the GUSRC President during his/her term of office there is no automatic right of the Depute President to succeed to the position.

11.2 Should any member of the Executive demit office for any reason, the remaining members of the Executive shall submit proposals as to how they will progress matters.

## **12. Executive**

12.1 The remit and number of Executive (Sabbatical) posts may be altered subject to endorsement by a simple majority of Council, the approval of University Court, and the retention of at least two Executive Members, of which one will be known as the President. The maximum number of sabbatical posts shall be five.

## **13. Sub Committees**

13.1 Council may create and delegate functions to such committees as it considers necessary in order to progress its stated aims. This provision cannot be used to delegate any functions which are within the remit of the Executive Committee as described in the Constitution.

## **14 Sub-committees of the Executive**

14.1 The Executive Committee may create and delegate functions to such subcommittees as it considers necessary in order to progress its remit as set out in the Constitution,

subject to the following: Complaints or any matters relating to GUSRC staff must be dealt with by the Staffing sub-committee. The Staffing sub-committee will comprise of the Executive Committee and the Permanent Secretary. It will be chaired by the President. All staffing matters must be kept confidential to members of that sub-committee. The above section is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. 1998

## **SCHEDULE 3 – Code of Conduct**

### **1 Conduct of Council members.**

Council members must adhere to the following standards –

- 1.1 Act in the interests of students and in doing so uphold the aims of this Constitution and act in accordance with its Schedules.
- 1.2 Contribute to and share responsibility for collective decisions, and represent Council's policies on appropriate public occasions. Any Council member unwilling to so do should resign.
- 1.3 Prepare for and attend all GUSRC pre-meetings and meetings of GUSRC, University and other committees of which they are a member as a result of their position on GUSRC Council.
- 1.4 Council members who miss more than three meetings of Council will be deemed to have resigned unless they have provided good reason to the satisfaction of the Chair.
- 1.5 Be accessible to the people whom they have been elected to serve and to represent their interests conscientiously. In representing people's interests, Council members have a duty to respect individual privacy, unless there are overwhelming reasons in the wider public interest for disclosure to be made to a relevant authority.
- 1.6 Ensure that confidential information acquired as a result of their position is not disclosed to anyone other than those who have a legal right to that information. Ensure that confidential information is not used for the personal advantage of either him or her or of others known to them.
- 1.7 Take decisions solely in terms of the interest of students. They must not act in order to gain financial or other material benefit for themselves, their family or friends. Where a financial or material conflict of interest arises during a decision or discussion this should be disclosed and Council member should refrain from participating further on the matter.
- 1.8 Council members have a duty not to place themselves under any financial or other obligation to any individual or organisation that might reasonably be thought to influence them in the performance of their duties.

- 1.9 Act honestly and declare any private interests relating to their duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the interest of GUSRC.
- 1.10 Be accountable and open about their decisions and actions to students. Consider issues on their merits, taking account of the views of others.
- 1.11 Ensure their actions do not cause a nuisance or harassment to others. Avoid any language or behaviour likely to cause offence to others.
- 1.12 Foster respectful, working relationships with fellow Council members and GUSRC staff.
- 1.13 Not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs during GUSRC meetings or whilst representing GUSRC whether in an official capacity or otherwise (with the exception of alcohol where it is provided as part of a social event in relation to your position as a Council Member).
- 1.14 Ensure they do not breach GUSRC's Equal Opportunities Policy

## **2. Complaints Regarding Council Member's Conduct**

- 2.1 Any complaint concerning the conduct of a Council member must be dealt with in accordance with GUSRC Complaints Procedure, which is available on request from GUSRC Reception..

## **SCHEDULE 4 – Services & Finance**

### **1. Services**

- 1.1 Subject to GUSRC policy and resources, GUSRC will provide a range of services for students including:
  - Welfare, money and legal advice for students and prospective students
  - Advocacy for students in University appeals, disciplinary hearings and complaints
  - An overnight listening service staffed by student volunteers
  - A centre for coordinating student volunteers and community projects
  - Support for clubs and societies in accordance with Schedule 5
  - Support for student support groups in accordance with Schedule 6
  - Editorially independent student media
  - Notice board space for student notices and advertisements for jobs
  - A mini-bus service between campus and halls of residence
  - A second-hand bookshop, and
  - Fax and photocopying facilities.
  - A facility/space which promotes informal Postgraduate engagement through social and academic activity

1.2 Day to day management and administration of GUSRC services is the responsibility of the Permanent Secretary. The allocation of GUSRC resources, including financial and human resources, is the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

## **2. Finance**

2.1 The Executive is responsible for the finances of GUSRC in accordance with, and subject to, paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Constitution. It may delegate this responsibility to a Finance sub-committee, established in accordance with paragraph 15 of Schedule 2. The Permanent Secretary will provide a written financial report to one meeting of the Council each Semester.

2.2 The powers of the Executive Committee in accordance with paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Constitution may be delegated temporarily to the Permanent Secretary where urgent action requires to be taken in the interest of GUSRC. Power may only be delegated temporarily where the President or in his/her absence the Deputy President provide permission and any written approval must be reported to the next meeting of GUSRC.

2.3 Council shall appoint solicitors and auditors each financial year. Solicitors must be qualified in Scots law and hold an unrestricted practicing certificate. Auditors must be persons qualified for appointment as auditors of a company registered in Scotland. The auditors will report to Council on their audit of GUSRC accounts for the financial year. The auditors will report to Council whether or not all expenditure has been properly authorised and incurred in accordance with the Constitution. The audited accounts will be presented to Council. A copy of the audited accounts must be sent to the University Court and be made available for inspection by any student.

## **SCHEDULE 5 – Clubs & Societies**

In this schedule the word club includes societies.

### **1. Affiliation and grants**

1.1 Decisions regarding affiliations and grant applications for clubs will be made by the Clubs and Societies Committee who will publish a Clubs & Societies Handbook which will include:

- an affiliation form
- details of the facilities provided by GUSRC to affiliated clubs and the rules on using them
- the procedure and criteria in allocating grants.

1.2 Any club on University campus is entitled to apply to GUSRC for affiliation. Only affiliated clubs may use GUSRC facilities and apply for funding.

- 1.3 Clubs must abide by the terms set out in GUSRC's Clubs and Societies Handbook, and Equal Opportunities Policy.
- 1.4 Money allocated to a club from GUSRC must not be used to purchase alcoholic drink, or be used to make donations to any external organisations.

## **SCHEDULE 6 – Regulation of Meetings**

### **1. Quorum and general rules**

This Schedule applies to all GUSRC committee meetings. The word committee in this Schedule includes Council, Executive, sub-committee and any other meeting of GUSRC. The quorum for any meeting will be one third of the actual membership of that committee. Fractions are rounded down. Only committee members may speak at meetings unless the Chair agrees otherwise. Votes are not transferable and only members of a committee who are present at the time a decision is put to the meeting may vote.

### **2. Chair**

Council and the Executive Committee will be chaired by the President or in his or her absence by the Depute President. Where the President has lost a vote of no confidence, a new chair may be elected by a simple majority vote on a show of hands at a meeting of Council. Only a member of the Executive Committee is eligible to stand for election as Chair.

### **3. Motions to Council**

- 3.1 Motions may be submitted to the Chair through the offices of the Permanent Secretary in writing no later than 5pm, two days before an Ordinary meeting of Council. This does not include items submitted under Any Other Competent Business. Business submitted under Any Other Competent Business can be deferred to the next meeting of GUSRC Council at the discretion of the Chair. The word 'motion' in this Schedule includes any amendment to a motion. Motions under this Schedule require the written support of two Council members or fifteen GUSRC members. The Chair may invite the proposer of any motion to speak in favour of same. In the case of fifteen or more GUSRC members one member may be permitted to speak on behalf of the proposers. A proposer may withdraw a motion at any time. The Chair may invite other members of Council to comment on the proposed motion. The Chair may allow each proposer to make a short closing speech. The Chair may allot such time to speakers as he or she decides. Council may approve or reject any motion on a simple majority. Any rejected motion may not be submitted again until three months have elapsed. Council may remit any motion to one or more of its committees or a newly established sub-committee for further consideration.

A committee which receives a remitted motion must provide a report to Council with its recommendations on that motion within three months.

**3.2** Emergency motions must be submitted to the Offices of the Permanent Secretary in writing no later than 12 noon on the day of the Ordinary Council meeting. Emergency motions will only be accepted if they are time-dependent and require discussion before the next scheduled Ordinary Council meeting. Emergency Motions are accepted entirely at the discretion of GUSRC President. Emergency Motions will progress as in paragraph 3.1.

#### **4. Conduct of meetings**

The purpose of meetings is to conduct the business of that meeting as set out in the meeting's agenda. Standing agendas for meetings should be decided in advance by the meeting. No later than one week before a meeting any member of Council may submit an item to the Chair for his or her consideration as an agenda item. The Chair through the Permanent Secretary will circulate agendas for Council and Executive Committee meetings. The Chair's decision on the conduct of a meeting is final. Any person who ignores the Chair's decision on conduct or disrupts a meeting may be expelled from that meeting on a simple majority vote. The Chair may adjourn any meeting subject to disruption or abusive language for such period as he or she decides. The Chair may also submit a complaint with reference to Schedule 3 where any member disrupts a meeting or uses abusive language at a meeting. Further procedure for the conduct of meetings may be made by Standing Order in the case of Council, or by Executive Standing Order in the case of any other committee.

### **SCHEDULE 7 – Council Policies**

#### **1. Adoption of Policies**

All Policies must have been agreed by Council or Council in accordance with such procedure as may be made by Standing Order.

#### **2. Recording of Policies**

**2.1** The Permanent Secretary will keep a record of all current policies which shall be made available to members on request.

**2.2** Any policy adopted by Council, which contradicts an earlier policy, will be deemed to amend the earlier policy. The Permanent Secretary will ensure that such amendments are recorded.

#### **3. Duration of Policies**

**3.1** Any two members of Council or fifteen GUSRC members may, in accordance with Standing Orders, make a proposal to revoke or amend any current policy.

- 3.2 All policies shall automatically be revoked four years after being adopted or last amended. Notice will be given at Council meetings of those policies which are due to be revoked at the following Council meeting. A motion may be proposed, in accordance with Standing Orders, to retain, with or without amendment, any such policy for a further period of up to four years. This paragraph shall not apply to the Equal Opportunities Policy
- 3.3 Any policy revoked in accordance with 3 or 3.1 above will be deleted from the Record