

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM.**

**Present** : As per sederunt sheets

**Apologies** : L Hinton, S Long, N McGuire, L Evans, T Smits,  
H Curley, F Taylor, L Taylor, R Kerr, K McEwan

**Attending** : Phil Quinn

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1. Phil Quinn, Head of Counselling and Psychological Services
2. Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Reports
4. STAs
5. Internal Elections for Committees
6. Anti-Terrorism Guidance
7. QEF
8. Refreshers' Week Report
9. Student Voice
10. Council Engagement
11. Elections
12. AOCB

**1. Minutes**

1.1B O'Connor brought up the previous action point of the glass building in Garscube, L Taylor has made significant headway regarding this, as the development of the building, which was right next to the library, was causing disturbance. The school has found alternate spaces for

**B O'Connor  
will follow  
up  
regarding  
getting a  
rep on the  
meetings**

students to study.

1.2 The consultation paper and higher education document has been passed to council, B O'Connor is still waiting for a response from them.

1.3 B O'Connor is meeting with the Education Minister, Angela Constance, and will report back to Council.

for the  
developmet  
of the glass  
building.

## 2. Reports

### 2.1 B O'Connor:

- The Advice Centre and SVSS will be working together to develop a new initiative involving student volunteers visiting prospective flats for students who may be living too far away from Glasgow to visit themselves.
- There have been recent discussions with the University about communications with students. B O'Connor outlined her concerns around the need for effective communication and for a dedicated, student focused, communication department; Possibly sitting within student services.
- Transnational Education - This is a growth area for Glasgow and it is doubtful that engagement and support to the students at the satellite campuses can be as effective as that offered to Glasgow based students. B O'Connor is looking at other Universities, in particular Heriot Watt, at better ways to structure and fund the representative system to support them.
- Voter registration - You now need a national Insurance number in order to register to vote. B O'Connor requested support from Council to help spread awareness of this. She asked for any council members prepared to help to get in contact with her directly.
- Strategic Plan - The SRC is currently working on its new strategic plan. Focus groups with a range of stakeholders will be held in the next couple of weeks, and B O'Connor wants council members to participate in this discussion.
- Learning & Teaching Hub B O'Connor gave an update on the new Learning and Teaching hub. The University have sent out a tender to invite proposals from architects, B O'Connor is seeking an SRC representative on the interview panel.
- Student Manifesto - B O'Connor is working on a Student Manifesto to feed into a Glasgow-wide student manifesto in conjunction with other Glasgow HEI student reps.
- Consent - B O'Connor and members of council are working on a Preventing Sexual Offending workshop which will take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, including a variety of groups around the university and in the community such as Rape Crisis, Sexpression, Police Scotland, Prevent Rape Taskforce, security, and corporate comms.

- Non Academic student debt to the University is an ongoing matter. B O'Connor is engaged with ongoing communications between Glasgow City Council's Trading Standards, GUSRC and the University.

#### 2.2 L King:

- L King is looking to establish a disabled students network.
- Issues are arising within residential services. They are trying to put a limit on overnight visitors, and they are not allowing condoms in halls.
- L King is looking to set up a 'rate your landlord' site in order to help students find safer accommodation and share experiences.

#### 2.3 G Masiulyte:

- G Masiulyte highlighted several campaigns including Refreshers' Week, One Dress One Month, Dogs on Campus, and Media Week. She presented a review of Refreshers' Week and its successes.
- G Masiulyte asked for councils' support especially with One Dress One Month (donations) and Media Week (attendance).

#### 2.4 C Davies:

- Urkund is being developed to replace Turnitin. C Davies asked for members of Council to test the new system when it is running, and raise any questions, offer feedback to the relevant university staff member.
- C Davies noted his appreciation the council members who were setting up meetings with their class reps, and offered his support if members needed it.
- C Davies thanked the council members who helped out at the Education and Technology Conference, and said that in general the feedback was good from the day.
- C Davies discussed a "day on the hill" to talk about feedback, pencilled in the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.
- C Davies and R Brown are heading to Singapore next week for a U21 event. While they are there, they are going to visit one of our satellite campuses.

#### 2.5 Open Questions:

- L King updated council on the UCU strikes, at the moment the strike is off for this year as the UCU has accepted the offer that the University has offered.
- J Richardson asked about Mr. Thrifty, B O'Connor introduced him as the new SRC mascot.

- J Richardson asked if there should be a cap on campaign spending. The general consensus is that this would be hard to enforce. Work would be required to evaluate the implications so couldn't be considered for this election.

#### 2.6 Y Abdel:

- Y Abdel is working on tackling cultural appropriation, the QMU is on board, but she is still in negotiation with the GUU because they feel there is a 'grey area'. R Brown asked what this 'grey area' meant, and Y Abdel explained that it had to do with identifying a person's race based on their looks, and enforcing this. L King suggested that members with additional questions hold on to them until the policy has been developed and presented for review.

#### 2.7 L Astica:

- L Astica has had a complaint brought to her concerning the behaviour of an academic. It was suggested she contact the Advice Centre.

#### 2.8 K Leslie:

- Wants to set up a meeting with her fellow class reps, and will meet with Cal Davies in due course to discuss.

#### 2.9 R Brown:

- R Brown provided an update on a campaign meeting she attended around the area of anonymous job applications. Hopes it's something we can support.

#### 2.10 M Karrasch:

- M Karrasch is organising a chess event, but needs to secure a date and apply for funding. G Masiulyte advised that he should proceed quickly.

#### 2.11 H Curley (Presented by L King):

- H Curley is organising a march on Buchanan Street regarding suicide and gender identity in reaction to Leelah Alcorn's death. She is also currently lobbying to have transgender awareness included part of the Med School's curriculum.

Asked L King if he had seen email he had been copied into, and if he could advise.

M Karrasch to speak to G Masiulyte regarding the chess event.

### 3. STAs

The STA nominations close on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. There will be closing week marketing, and C Davies has asked for help from the council to run this, especially since he will be in Singapore at this time. He will also need help to pick a short list and to select the

winners.

#### **4. Internal Election for Committees**

S Dallas was elected as a Council Representative at Council of Senate meetings in order to fill the space left by a recent council member's resignation. G Gratton was been elected for the E-Learning Implementation working group.

#### **5. Anti-Terrorism Guidance**

B O'Connor has been trying to keep up to date with feeding into this document since it is being revised at an accelerated rate. She is concerned about how it will affect the student experience, and explained some of her negotiations with the Scottish Government regarding it. C Steeghs asked if council could support B O'Connor with this, and B O'Connor indicated that she hopes to protest the bill, and will look to the council for support in this.

#### **6. QEF**

C Davies advised the that response to the Quality and Enhancement Framework consultation was almost ready for submission.

#### **7. Refreshers' Week**

G Masiulyte discussed her report on Refreshers' week and said that the events were well attended, and that the clubs ran some successful events. B O'Connor pointed out that there were difficulties with organising the event and the unresponsiveness of GUSA and GUU in this process.

#### **8. Student Voice**

C Davies is hoping that Student Voice will be able to provide a list of student representatives starting next term. He advised that the Freshers' section of Student Voice is not well used, but there was a general consensus among council that many people did not know that section existed. C Davies also confirmed that the representative section was not well used either, but once again the general consensus is that it was not well publicised.

#### **9. Council Engagement**

B O'Connor highlighted the fact that there have been a large number of meetings missed by council members, and a number of times apologies were not given beforehand, and a large number of missing reports. B O'Connor is concerned that this could deteriorate after elections as council members might feel even less engaged when they have someone replacing them, but has urged council to keep active over the next couple months.

## 10. Elections

B O'Connor has asked council to help market the elections and raise awareness about them. She also highlighted that many council members will be running against each other, so make sure to be kind to one another. She also asked council members to be approachable to potential candidates, and to share their experience of their role with others. B O'Connor also highlighted that she will need council members to test the online elections before they go live, since GUSA elections are interfering with them this year as they are running on the same dates, and also online.

A discussion followed asking about clarification of the elections in regards to GUSA. Council raised it's concern that this situation had arisen and at GUSA's behaviour in refusing to organise elections on a different day. B Hay advised that he had only recently found out about the proposal and was concerned

## 11. AOCB

- 11.1 B O'Connor said Frank Coton needs council members to join the learning and teaching consultation strategy on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.
- 11.2 B O'Connor announced that the Annual Reports have been published and are available to collect.
- 11.3 B O'Connor and G Masiulyte announced that Jackie Bird is coming tomorrow and Subcity is throwing a party at Nice N Sleazy's as part of Media Week.
- 11.4 B O'Connor gave us an update on the use of dictionaries in exams. B O'Connor is liaising with the working group in order to progress the matter. A discussion ensued regarding possible solutions, but there was no general consensus on the next step. B O'Connor asked council to submit any suggestions to her, as well as raise this issue at their SSLC meetings and feedback to her on views expressed.
- 11.5 C Davies still has council hoodies, if a council member has yet to pick theirs up please see C Davies.

**B O'Connor said she will post information online.**