

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT 6.30 p.m.  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

**Present:** L King, G Gratton, A Ibrahim, U Darragh, T Duah, M Deans, L McDougall, M Harris, E Napier, M Hau, K Powell, O Schafer, B Rooney, F O'Donnell, S Maier, E Ross, C Hill, C Watson, A Pancheva, H Kay, T Lohmus, L Kuheme, K Muat, R O'Fee, J Benson, D Guthrie, S Kholeif, F Nokhbatolfoghahai, M Sefton,

**Apologies:** C Kelly, S Yue, E Porter, M Dimitrova, F Taylor, I French, S Dallas, D White, B Simpson, H Curley

**Attending:** B Hay, A Bankier, E Graham, C Owens

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## **1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, there were no matters arising.

## **2. Reports**

### **2.1 Liam King – President**

#### **2.1.1 – Review of contractors arrangements in GUSRC**

L King introduced E Graham from ibp Strategy & Research who presented his report of contractors arrangements to council.

E Graham took questions from council members regarding the report.

Q - T Lohmus asked if E Graham had any quantitative measurement of the administration cost of moving the contractors to employed status?

E Graham responded that they don't have that information, explaining that if there was a move from the current contracts to zero hour contracts the system would be analogous to the current system and he would not expect any change but added that while it could be argued that setting up the system from scratch could lower admin costs in some areas they would possibly be increased elsewhere, although overall he expected the costs would be slightly less.

L King opened discussion on the report to council with the aim of working out the direction the service should take. He pointed out that the costs of

the service would become increasingly unsustainable going forward and, as the IBP report advised, this was a good opportunity to review the service as a whole.

L King asked council to help set up the parameters for what kind of service should be delivered.

L King pointed out that the the service in the morning was not a about student safety, as the need for the evening service was originally intended He used this as an example of what could be discussed.

Thoughts that were raised in the discussion included.

- *Students mainly see the service as a cheap an convenient way of getting from halls to the campus.* L King responded to this idea asking whether delivering this kind of service should be the remit of GUSRC? L King added that the university is currently looking a strategic travel and transport plan as part of the redevelopment.
- *Long term the need for the service will be reduced as it is the plan for halls to be closer to campus.* L King responded that there was even a question mark over the future of some halls with the university reassessing how it delivers student accommodation with changes perhaps coming in the next 5 years.
- *Students should pay to take the minibus.* Several council members voiced concern at this.
- *Halls on Kelvinhaugh street unnecessary in the mornings as it is not a long walk to the University*
- *What is the explanation of the cost increases.* L King gave examples of the cost of bus replacement and that keeping up with living wage rises.
- *B Hay commented to provide additional context informing council that the evening service was increasingly popular. Figures for 2005 were around 20,000 student journeys. This figure had increased to 75,000 student journeys in 2014/15.*
- *Dark in the morning as well as the evening.* L King commented that the issue of student safety was greater at night.
- *Most students are not aware that the service was originally developed to enhance student safety on their way back to halls in the darkness if*

*they'd been studying late*

- *Suggested restrict the service to evening only but run it for longer each night.*
- *Disabled access is an issue as the university is not delivering on its duty to provide. B Hay advised that GUSRC had previously owned a bus with wheelchair access. There is now an arrangement with the university garage where they will supply a suitable bus if and when required.*
- *Weather not really a student safety issue, most halls are in walking distance. Perhaps GUSRC should work with GCC with the aim of improving street lighting. L King commented that part of the masterplan is focused on how students move through the west end.*
- *Consider working with SPT for a subsidised service.*
- *Walking bus, would still have employees, would be much cheaper.*
- *Should not favour only students in halls of residence, home students have to make their way home at night too. It was commented that students in halls indirectly fund the service*
- *Local halls should be considered separately from Wolfson halls as Wolfson halls are much farther away.*
- *Students don't necessarily get to choose which halls they are in so they should not be charged for the service.*

Following the discussion it was agreed that student safety should be the focus of the review of the service.

L McDougall commented that the contractors should also be considered as GUSRC have a moral obligation to them.

L King informed council that the ideas will be taken forward with any changes hopefully being implemented at the start of 16/17.

#### 2.1.2 – Halls of Residence rent rises

L King informed council that he it was expected that there would again be an increase in rents above inflation and asked council members to get in touch

with L King and U Darragh if they want to get involved in opposing this.

### 2.1.3 - Election guidelines

L King asked council members to contact him if you have any comments on your experience in running for election with an aim of looking at ways of improving the experience.

## **2.2 Una Marie Darragh – VP Student Support**

### 2.2.1 Peer support scheme

U Darragh informed council that herself and G Gratton were organising an academic forum for the academic officers and that she hopes to be able to arrange for Susan Orr, from the Counselling Service to attend and talk about the peer support scheme.

### 2.2.2 LGBT History Month

U Darragh asked council members with ideas for events to speak with herself or I French.

### 2.2.3 International Women's Week

U Darragh asked council members to inform her if they would like to be added to the working group on facebook.

## **2.3 Gemma Gratton – VP Education**

### 2.3.1 Academic Forum

G Gratton informed council that the academic forum would be taking place some time in February and that she would will be in touch with the final date once it was set. Gemma hopes that Moira Fischbacher-Smith, who is the new VP for Learning and Teaching will be able to attend.

G Gratton asked school representatives to ensure that they check their emails and respond.

## **2.4 Ameer Ibrahim – VP Student Activities**

### 2.4.1 - Re-freshers Week

**GG will  
contact  
council with  
final date**

A Ibrahim informed council that the re-freshers event timetable was on the facebook page and was being updated by cross campus.

#### 2.4.2 - Home student Network

A Ibrahim asked council members to get in touch if they have any ideas for events that might help with home student engagement.

#### 2.4.3 Freshers Week Report

A Ibrahim presented his report on Freshers Week to council members.

A Ibrahim informed council that he was happy with the way the event went although pass sales were down on the previous year. He suggested better promotion of door sales could be a way of improving sales.

A Ibrahim highlighted the following problems encountered:

- The Welcome tent was not very well attended, probably due to building work on campus impeding access.
- The freshers helpers struggled to manage the large numbers of students waiting for nightbuses at the end of the night.

Q - M Hau informed council that during freshers week she had received a complaint regarding the International Society, who are a private company, flyering outside the venues when international events were taking place and asked if this had had an impact on the attendance. A Ibrahim responded that university avenue is not on campus so it is a GCC issue. U Darragh commented that there was no evidence that the flyering had had a detrimental effect on the international ceilidh which was well attended.

F O'Donnell commented that there had not been any great promotion of freshers' week in the pack that was sent out to new students. L King responded that this is something that will be looked into.

M Sefton commented being able to buy freshers passes the weekend before at the unions could improve pass sales.

B Hay advised that research conducted on freshers week, which had asked that specific question had found that it was not an issue for students.

A Ibrahim suggested that extra promotion over the summer could improve sales.

M Harris suggested that passes could be sold at halls the weekend before Freshers Week.

L King concluded that freshers week planning would begin soon and these issues could be looked at then in addition to other broad issues raised by the survey.

Q – A Ibrahim was asked what the university position was regarding the cost of rooms?

A Ibrahim responded that it was an ongoing debate over costs attached to certain rooms in university.

A Ibrahim asked council to get involved with re-freshers week, in particular signposting.

## **2.5 Other Council Reports Submitted**

Kate Powell – UG Convenor Arts

K Powell informed council that problems of retention in the College of Arts had been discussed at a L&T meeting with the reason for dropping out often being related to isolation. To address this, a plan was proposed to have students in years above to be on a system whereby, if required they could meet up with these students in a buddy system. K Powell asked other council members to get in touch if they know of any similar schemes in the university.

Oscar Schafer – UG Convenor Science and Engineering

Shereif Kholeif – General Representative

Jennifer Benson – General Representative

Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai – General Representative

F Nokhbatolfoghahai informed council that in response to an email to all religion societies for feedback there was a big demand for better prayer facilities.

L King responded that he had met with university librarian and asked about this in the library as there is currently no space available in the library. They have had meetings with GUMSA to talk through concerns and are looking to create a better facility when they get level two finished.

Liam encouraged F Nokhbatolfoghahai and U Darragh to take this issue to the Religion Belief and Equality Group.

Erin Ross – School Rep – MLC  
Susan Yue – School Rep – Culture and Creative Arts  
Tuuli Lohmus – School Rep – Physics and Astronomy Representative  
Alex Pancheva – School Rep – Computing Science  
Claire Watson – School Rep – Veterinary Medicine  
Bob Rooney – PG Convenor MVLS  
F O'Donnell – PG Convenor Social Sciences  
Ryan O'Fee – First Year Rep

R O'Fee highlighted the comments from bake sale events.

L King thanked R O'Fee for holding the event.

Kirsten Muat – First Year Rep  
Mhairi Harris – Charities Clubs and Societies Officer  
Milia Hau – International Students Officer  
Louisa Kuehme – School Rep – Psychology

L King informed council that they would not need to submit a further report for the 4<sup>th</sup> February due to the short gap between meetings.

### **3. Strategic Plan**

B Hay presented the draft strategic plan to council.

L Mcdougall asked about the council handover documents mentioned in the report and commented that they had not really been in place.

L Mcdougall – suggested that there should be more contact to newly elected council members when they are elected.

M harris commented that the lack of handover information given newly elected council members was a problem adding that she is compiling a document for her successor.

L King commented that a effective handover needs to be integrated into the way council works.

L King agreed that induction should be a process rather than an event.

B Hay suggested staff would assist help develop a standard element to the handover documents.

U Darragh commented that she has already started to write a welcome document.

E Napier asked for clarification on what is meant on page 10 by low level commercial activity to break even and whether it was a requirement to only aim to break even?

B Hay said that it is low level to ensure that GUSRC does have the opportunity to generate funds but not intended to be restrictive.

L McDougall asked what was meant by 'rogue officers' in the SWOT analysis

B Hay advised that this was a term used by the researchers and it would be amended.

B Hay informed council that there had been a slight change in this iteration with the additional stated intention to monitor the diversity of those involved with GUSRC.

L King asked council if they were happy to approve the plan as the direction of GUSRC going forward.

Council approved the plan.

#### **4. Campaign Spending Limits**

L King informed council that within the constitution there is an executive standing order that allows for the creation of a procedure which is approved by the Exec and then endorsed by council.

L King informed council that it is planned that this will be used to introduce spending limits on candidates standing for the SRC elections.

M Deans presented the case for introducing spending limits to council and asked they consider the following.

1 – Should you limit what can be spent on a campaign

2 – What should the limit be – M Deans suggested £200 for sabbatical positions and £50 for non sabbatical positions.

3 – Proposal that for non sabbatical positions receipts would only be required to be submitted if there was a query raised. For sabbatical positions receipts would always have to be submitted.

Following discussion it was agreed that introducing limits at the suggested

LK to  
update  
election  
procedures



rates was a positive move overall and that L King would take the feedback from council members and use it to inform the detail of how this new policy would be implemented and bring it back to council on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**5. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February