

MINUTES OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY AT 6:30 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: E Porter, A Zahid, N Hirstozova, M Hussain, S Luan,
J Mac Sweeney, L King, J Benson, S Gill, A Awotunde

Attending: B Hay, K Fraser, D Borland.

1: Welcome and Apologies

2: IT Services – Dave Anderson

Short Presentation on IT Services regarding future service provision. The department is looking for feedback from students on current issues or services they can improve on.

Council members were encouraged to engage with IT services and help pass along feedback for continuous improvement.

3: Minutes of the last full meeting and matters arising

Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

4: Rectorial Elections

A Ibrahim gave an update on the Rectorial nominations which had reopened earlier in the week with the nomination process closing on the 3rd March. A full timetable of events such as hustings and details of candidates would be available via the University's website as it was a University election rather than an SRC one. The SRC would help raise awareness of the nomination and election process as has been the case in previous years.

5: SRC Spring Elections

A Ibrahim notified council that the nominations for the SRC Spring elections were now closed. A provisional list of candidates was now available on the SRC's website. A Ibrahim thanked council for their help in raising awareness of the election and wished those seeking re-election good luck.

6: Council Reports

6.1 President - Ameer Ibrahim

6.1.1 MaRIO – Meeting took place with R Sandison, the director of MaRIO on the upcoming report that is being drafted by MaRIO regarding the current fee structure for rUK Students. A Ibrahim advised that R Sandison confirmed there is no evidence currently to suggest there would be any benefit moving to charging fees for the full four years. The report will be in its final stages mid to late March and MaRIO have agreed to share the draft report with the SRC before its finalisation.

6.2 VP Education - Kate Powell

6.2.1:STA's

K Powell reminded council that it was the eve of nominations closing for the Student Teaching Awards so if there was any last minute nominations they should be completed as soon as possible.

6.2.2 Wednesday afternoon timetabling- classes scheduled on a Wednesday afternoon are still an ongoing concern. K Powell is investigating how various departments approach the scheduling given the apparent variance in practise across the University.

Q: H Hamid– What was the purpose of the Glasgow Guardian meeting noted in the written report? K Powell said the meeting was to clear the air after the recent Guardian article on SRC finances which contained many inaccuracies. The editors of the Guardian apologised for the article.

6.3 VP Student Support - Erin Ross

6.3.1 Suicide Prevention Meeting – train the trainers will happen in April.

Q- A Abushalla– Why is the training being offered? Has there been a rise in suicides? Erin responded it was due to requests for further training from staff and students.

6.3.2 Welfare Forum- will take a look at religious/faith equality now that there is no longer a university committee that specialises in this.

6.3.3 Library Access Issues

This is still ongoing and was raised at senate in the Library Annual Report. It is expected that this will be resolved by summer.

6.4 VP Student Activities - Mhairi Harris

6.4.1 VCS Awards

M Harris was pleased with the how well received the VCS awards has been with both a number of clubs, volunteers and staff celebrating the awards and it gave a strong point to build from for the next incoming VP Student Activities.

L Bergin congratulated M Harris for her work on the Volunteering, Clubs and Societies awards and for the smooth execution of the event.

6.4.2 RAG Week

M Harris is working with the RAG committee and Charities Clubs and Societies officer P Kariappa to formulate a programme of events for RAG week. Events so far include Alpacas on campus and Library fines going to charity for a day.

6.5 Other Reports

6.5.1 Gender Equality

T Ramdani informed council that organisation for International Women's Week in early March were progressing well. All clubs and societies had been invited to get involved with the week and there was collaboration between the student bodies in organising a wide range of events for students and staff.

6.5.2 Clubs, Charities and Societies

P Kariappa informed council that she had mostly been helping with the Raising and Giving Committee fundraising events upcoming in the next month as well as the preparations for both RAG week and International Women's week.

6.5.3 Environmental

C Holdsworth relayed that there would be another Hillhead litterpick upcoming over the next weeks and urged Council members to help get involved.

6.5.4 Disability Equality

L McDougall gave an update from the previous meeting regarding the Equality and Design workshop and possible child-friendly spaces on campus. It is hoped that these spaces will be implemented very soon and that there will be provision for quiet/reflective spaces on campus and that suggestions for these spaces would be brought forward for suggestions to the next Welfare forum.

6.5.5 UG Sci & Engineering

A Pancheva informed Council of her meeting with Prof John Davies, L& T Dean Sci & Engineering to examine the UESTC Degree Programme and what the preparation process and the degree structure would be each year over the course of 4 years for students. There was also the possibility of exchange programmes for students between UESTC and Glasgow.

6.5.6 PG MVLS Convener

Bob Rooney informed Council that he had met with B Hay to review the PGR experience survey at this point it looked like the survey was fairly extensive and would cover the main aspects of the student experience

Q: L McDougall ask that as many disabled students feel their needs are not met, if there would be space for a question on this in the PGR? B Hay responded that the deadline for additional questions had passed and it was unlikely that a question on this matter could be included this year but was something that should be considered for future surveys.

The Mental Health First Aid course had now been approved by the Counselling and Psychological Service since the last meeting.

B Rooney also advised that a rise in thesis plagiarism and the potential for plagiarism detecting software had been raised at Senate.

Q: X Weiss asked if there was no plagiarism software used with PG students? A Ibrahim answered that there was no blanket software used across the University for PG students and there was variance between departments. K Powell added that the University is currently considering whether there is a need for PG plagiarism software.

B Rooney advised that this would be more difficult due to the complexity of PG courses and felt there would be great difficulty in trying to find software that could cope with documents such as a Phd thesis and similar student submissions.

6.5.7 Humanities

H Todd – written report noted

6.5.8 Medicine

H Hamid- written report noted

6.5.9 Modern Languages and Culture

E Young– written report noted

6.5.10 Physics and Astronomy

A Brown – written report noted

6.5.11 Business

L Bergin – written report noted

6.5.12 General Rep

X Weiss updated Council that he was in the process of finalising the Hall Crawl to help disseminate information about the SRC in student halls

6.5.13 General Rep

F Nokhbatolfoghahai noted that the QMU reflective space appears to be now be under estates purview but doesn't seem to be moving forward with any urgency.

7: Islamophobia panel presentation

The SRC has hosted an panel on Islamophobia after the Brexit result in the EU referendum. Both A Ibrahim and H Hamid gave a debrief on the event of the 1st Feb. Overall the event was considered a success but there was areas that could be improved on such as general access for students and the public and advertising.

A full written report would be circulated to council.

8: International Symposium Presentation

T Hao and A Ibrahim gave an overview of the event, held on the 23rd January. It was noted by council that many of the issues that were of concern to International students were also concerns of the greater student

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population and there was a great deal of common ground to work on. These issues included:

- Students feeling they were not getting information from the University.
- Facilities such as the library, gym and food outlets closed too early
- Need more help with issues like rental guarantors
- The feeling that there were limited opportunities for PG Students.
- Concerns after Brexit and the US election about prospects after graduation.

There was also the possibility of continuing events such as this as a form of outreach programme to try and get continuous feedback from students from a range of backgrounds such as international, home, undergraduate and postgraduate.

A full report on Symposium findings will be circulated to council before the next council meeting

9: AOCB

There was no other competent business.

10: Date of next meeting

16th March, 6:30pm, Williams Room.
