

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, JOHN MCINTYRE BUILDING**

Present: as per sederunt

Apologies: J Benson, R C Molina, L Henssge, B Rooney,
A Awotunde

Attending: B Hay, A Bankier, M Cusack

1. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

2. Council Reports

2.1 Ameer Ibrahim – President

2.1.1 – International Symposium: A Ibrahim highlighted the planning of the international symposium and informed council that the event would take place in the senate room on the 23rd Jan. Council were asked to contact A Ibrahim or T Ha if they were interested in getting involved with the event.

2.1.2 – Student Fees Update: A Ibrahim informed council that he had contacted R Sandison, Director of Marketing, Recruitment and International Office, regarding student fees but had been unable to meet with her as yet as she has been away. A meeting is scheduled for December and A Ibrahim will update council again in the new year. However, he informed council that R Sandison had stated that there was no current plan to increase fees from 3 to 4 years.

2.1.3 - L&T hub: A Ibrahim informed council that the business case for L&T hub would be brought forward at December's court meeting.

2.1.4 – PG wellbeing and Resilience Workshop: A Ibrahim explained that this workshop had reviewed issues around of the lack of integration of PG research students and the need to improve this.

2.1.5 - Vita accommodation – A Ibrahim informed council about an emergency meeting to discuss the problem affecting 95 students who have been displaced, as the construction of their accommodation is incomplete. These students are currently being put up in hotels. No estimate for the completion of the development has been given, but the students have been

offered various compensation packages. The Advice Centre is in contact with the studnets and has been advising.

2.1.6 – Kelvin Hall – A Ibrahim updated council that he had attended the official opening of the new space in the Kelvin Hall.

2.1.7 - Court induction day – A Ibrahim informed council that himself and court assessor L McDougall had attended the court induction day. They will also be meeting with D Newall in the following weeks to discuss the upcoming year on court. A Ibrahim reminded council that minutes of all court meetings are available online.

2.1.8 - Campus development committee – A Ibrahim informed council that the first meeting of this committee would take place the following day, and that he would feedback to council on progress in due course.

Q J Richardson asked what the reasoning behind the compensation offers ffrom Vita was? A Ibrahim will contact J Richardson after the meeting.

AI will forward
details of to JR

Q L King asked if the meeting with R Sandison to discuss tuition fees was expected to be a single meeting or the first of many. A Ibrahim responded that he saw this as an ongoing issue, and that this meeting would only be the start of dialogue.

Q F Nokhbatolofoghahai asked A Ibrahim to expand on his meeting with S Ashworth and 'Quiet Spaces' across campus. – A I responded that a 'reflective space' (name to be confirmed) will become available in the library this month. A Ibrahim added that he has also spoken with S Macquarrie on making other quiet spaces temporarily available on campus over the December exam period (5th – 16th December) and has been in touch with CTT for room availability. If successful this would hopefully be taken forward in the next semester.

2.2 Mhairi Harris – VP Student Activities

2.2.1 – Raising and Giving Committee – M Harris informed council that the first event would be taking place on the 1st December and that the committee were planning to bring back RAG week.

2.2.2 – M Harris informed council of a planned Christmas market (credit C Holdsworth), which would take place on the 2nd December. Clubs and socs will be able to set up stalls to raise funds. There will also be a Santa, and a leave and collect stall.

2.2.3 – Poppy Appeal – Mhairi thanked council members who had taken part

in fundraising for poppy Scotland and revealed the total funds raised to be £372.20.

2.2.4 – M Harris informed council of plans to have GUSRC affiliation also include information on affiliation with the unions.

2.2.5 - Paws for stress – M Harris informed council that first event was now fully booked, but that there were still some spaces left for the second event.

Q – M Shah – asked if all the RAG volunteers are recruited through the SRC. M Harris responded that the committee is set but that volunteers could come and go. M Shah suggested increasing clubs and societies involvement in RAG week. M Harris responded that she hoped that many clubs would be involved and that the program was not set in stone.

2.3 Kate Powell – VP Education

2.3.1- STAs – K Powell informed council that there had been 500 nominations so far and asked council members to take the time to nominate.

2.3.2 - LEAF Symposium and LTC away day – K Powell asked that if council members had any questions regarding this that they get in touch.

2.3.3 - Pop up study spaces – K Powell informed council that a number of spaces had been arranged for December. In addition there will be bookable study rooms in the Alexander Stone Building and there will also be spaces available in the Library and QMU.

2.3.4 PSRs – K Powell informed council that it had been agreed that PSRs should go to council members rather than sabbatical officers this year. She believed this was a more inclusive approach.

2.3.5 – Education Technology Conference – K Powell expects this to go ahead in 2017. Council members should contact K Powell if they are interested in getting involved.

2.3.6 – New Staff Resource - K Powell - informed council of a new resource for staff, developed by Dr H Purchase, Computing Science, which allows staff to share teaching tips with each other. K Powell thinks it could also be useful to council members.

2.3.7 - L&T Committee – K Powell informed council that two of the Deans had commented that capacity and space is a massive issue. Schools are very unhappy with the current situation as they don't have enough space. K Powell aims to provide additional written information around this issue

over the next few weeks

2.3.8 - Digital professionalism – K Powell asked for an MVLS student to volunteer for this project developing resources for students.

K Powell thanked F Nokhbatolfoghahai for her work on reflective spaces.

Q - X Weiss asked if the problem was that recruitment are not taking account of the departments advice on their capacity? K Powell responded that when staff are informed of the size of their classes the numbers are based on December figures after some students have dropped out.

J Vlcek commented that this was a recurring issue in psychology department and asked who is best to contact regarding the problem. K Powell responded that it was MaRIO

Jess Mac Sweeney asked if it was a CTT issue as there seems to be many empty spaces on campus. K Powell responded that schools don't know what rooms they will need so sometimes book out more rooms than they require.

2.4 Erin Ross – VP Student Support

2.4.1 – Exam distress programme – E Ross informed council that she was currently in the process of scheduling events and will have more information on this by the end of the week.

2.4.2 - Gender based violence Strategy Group – E Ross highlighted a link to a UUK's guidelines within her report for council members who would like further information.

Council members interested in getting involved should contact E Ross.

2.5 Other Council Reports Submitted

2.5.1 Moiz Shah – UG MVLS Convenor

M Shah advised council to refer to B Rooney's report for a more indepth account of the MVLS L&T committee

2.5.2 Alex Pancheva – UG Science and Engineering Convenor

2.5.3 - Jan Vlcek – UG Social Sciences Convenor

J Vlcek updated council on progress communications working group. J

Vlcek has met with the sabbatical officers and B Hay. The remit of this working group will be presented to council at the next meeting.

2.5.4 - Bob Rooney – PG MVLS Convenor

2.5.5 - Julia Kamenova – Business School Representative

2.5.6 - Leah Henssge – Critical Studies School Representative

2.5.7 - Joshua McCahill – GES School Representative

J McCahill raised issues of earth science fieldwork expenses, adding around £1000 to RUK students and asked who should be contacted in the university. L King advised that the issue was complex but the problem emanates from the budgets and financial priorities within the School.

KP?? Will contact school regarding this problem.

2.5.8 - Anwar Abushaala – Engineering School Representative

2.5.9 - Hannah Todd – Humanities School Representative

2.5.10 - Becky Adams – Interdisciplinary School Representative

B Adams highlighted ongoing issue they have organising drivers to take them to events as they don't get events publicity far and enough in advance to arrange. A Ibrahim responded that they would try and resolve the communications issues.

BA to speak with Mhairi

2.5.11 - Abbas Ali – Law School Representative

A Ali informed council that the Law School are proposing to remove the Medical Law popular module and asked there is anything GUSRC can do to challenge this.

Q Thais ramdani commented that in students were successful in getting modules added within the school of psychology.

AA will meet with KP to discuss

E Porter commented that the reason could be they don't have a lecturer who is suitably qualified. A Ali responded that they had not been informed of the reason.

Agreed that A Ali and K Powell would liaise on taking the matter forward.

2.5.12 - Madihah Hussain – Life Sciences School Representative

2.5.13 - Liam Bergin – Maths and Stats School Representative

L Bergin informed council that gender neutral toilets have been agreed with the school.

2.5.14 - Haseeb Hamid – Medical School Representative

H Hamid highlighted his meeting with with the head of the medical school regarding discrimination on placement. They are investigating the possibility of some kind of training to raise awareness of this problem amongst students. H Hamid may send an email regarding this and suggested council members get in touch with ideas.

2.5.15 - Andrew Brown – Physics and Astronomy School Representative

2.5.16 - Shutong Luan – Psychology School Representative

2.5.17 - Ellie Young – MLC School Representative

2.5.18 - Lauren McDougall – Disability Equality Officer

2.5.19 - Chris Holdsworth – Environmental Officer

C Holdsworth explained the potential impact the divestment movement could have on funding in earth sciences. J McAhill commented that researchers often have links with companies and that funding changes with the researchers.

C Holdsworth asked council members to come along and support the Christmas Market on the 2nd December.

C Holdsworth informed council that following a meeting with A Ibrahim it was his aim to meet with all environmental sustainability groups on campus to try develop a sustainability strategic plan.

Q - B Hay asked about the meeting with GUEST and their plans for a Student housing tenants union. C Holdsworth responded that their aims were provide a collective body where issues with private housing and accommodation could be addressed. B Hay responded that this was the remit of the Advice Centre, who are qualified to provide this kind of support. He would be concerned at these issues being taken to a group without experience in these handling housing problems.

2.5.20 - Thao Ha – International Students Officer

T Ha asked council to share and promote international week events.

T Ramdani commented that international week was great.

2.5.21 - Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai – General Representative

F Nokhbatolfoghahai updated council that the reflective space on level 6 will be opening up on the 21st November. They are currently looking to create an etiquette for using space and any suggestions from council would be welcome. F Nokhbatolfoghahai added that QMU have had funding approved to improve their reflective space, and that council members can get involved in a group set up to choose colour of furniture. Interested

council member were asked to contact F Nokhbatolfoghahai.

F Nokhbatolfoghahai informed council if they had any questions on her appendix report on the Religion Belief and Equality Group to get in touch.

2.5.22 - Jessica Brown – General Representative

2.5.23 - Struan Mclean – General Representative

2.5.24 - Xavier Weiss – First Year Representative

X Weiss informed council that he is hoping to take forward some project ideas and will contact council members for feedback.

A Ibrahim commented that he enjoyed the layout and structure of X Weiss' report.

3. University of Engineering Science and Technology Chengdu, Leadership Forum

A Ibrahim, A Pancheva, and M Cusak delivered a presentation on their visit to Chengdu and took questions from council members.

Q - J Richardson asked what the benefits of having this overseas campus? A Ibrahim responded that this was in line the the University's internationalisation strategy. He added that as university of glasgow students, the students at Chengdu and other overseas campus' are automatically members of GUSRC, and therefore GUSRC will support these students as far as possible.

Q C Holdsworth asked for further information on students at Chengdu being required to pay fees to both institutions. A Ibrahim responded that they have very limited information on this, as it was raised by students, but stated that they would be hoping to get more clarification.

Discusion followed on representation in Chengdu with concerns raised over lack of any support for disabled students, and the lack of democratic structures, being allowed as they are a product of cultural differences.

J Richardson questioned the value of having this kind of relationship with verseas institutions when such problems existed.

B Hay suggested that, given the questions now being raised. It may be more appropriate to suspend discussion pending a more structed debate at a later date.

4. Academic and Welfare Forum Updates

4.1 Welfare Forum - E Ross updated council on the recent welfare forum and informed them that minutes from the meeting would be circulated to council members.

E Ross informed council that the next meeting would take place on the 1st December and that it would be a workshop style session on preventing sexual violence. Any council members interesting in attending were asked to get in touch.

4.2 Academic Forum – K Powell updated council on the recent academic forum and informed them that there would be another meeting on the 15th December that all council members are welcome to attend.

ER to circulate minutes of welfare forum to council

5. Rectorial Elections

A Ibrahim updated council on the Rectorial elections which will be held on the 20th & 21st Feb 2017. The nominations close on Tuesday 24th January. The procedure for nominating is that ten current students are required to sign the nomination form which is also supported by a written letter of consent from the candidate. Council were asked to get in touch if they have any questions.

H Hamid asked who was responsible for reviewing the nominations and asked if there is there any regulation? A Ibrahim responded that would most likely be himself and the Principal.

B Hay commented that it is the university that runs the rectorial elections, not GUSRC. Therefore GUSRC are technically not meant to be heavily involved in the process. However, in practice GUSRC's role has increased.

Fo asked where had having Edward Snowden as rector been an issue over the last three years. A Ibrahim responded that it was impossible to know where having a more active rector would have made a difference, but added that he does support a rector who can be available on campus.

J Vleck asked if GUSRC have to remain impartial? A Ibrahim responded as GUSRC as an organisation would be impartial although each individual would have their own views.

A Ibrahim will keep council updated on developments.

KP to circulate minutes of Academic Forum to council

6. Freshers Week Report

M Harris presented her FW report to council and thanked helpers, and the GUSRC team for all their help.

M Shah commented that he felt the events were very alcohol centred and asked if there would be scope for more events cater to students who don't drink.

M Harris responded that all GUSRC events were not alcohol related. She added that unfortunately the promotion of clubs and pubs on university avenue was out of the universities control as it is a public road.

M Shah commented that the events that required the freshers pass were alcohol centred and asked if it might be possible to have some non alcohol events.

J Smith responded that the day time events at the QMU are not geared towards alcohol and that it would be something they would like to look into.

A Ibrahim commented that they were still awaiting the results of the Freshers Week survey which could further inform this matter, and recommended that M Shah contact M Harris with ideas for this kind of event.

J Mac Sweeney suggested that having an alcohol unit chart on the pass could help to promote drinking responsibly, and for the events, if there was a filter that could enable alcohol free events to be highlighted it would make it easier for students to find events they want to attend.

M Harris commented that this was something that had been discussed at cross campus but that it had been decided that as alcohol is optional, singling out events as alcohol free would divide students in a way they were not happy with.

M shah commented that many of the students that don't drink tend to be international students and culturally they will not attend events where alcohol is being served, and feel like they are being excluded.

M Harris added that the GUSRC evening events did not have any alcohol and suggested that council can contact her with recommendations to be taken to the cross campus meetings.

Jess Mac Sweeney clarified that she was advocating making it easier for students to identify alcohol free events rather than criticising the events that were there.

L King asked if the post freshers week review including the survey have

within its remit a look at the byzantine funding structure and pass sales system which underpins freshers week? A Ibrahim responded that will be updated following discussion with cross campus. A Ibrahim also highlighted that there had been some changes in 2016 where a flat door rate was charged on the Thursday and Friday night rather than the deposit system.

A Ibrahim thanked Mhairi for her report and for organising a great Freshers Week.

7. Motion to Council – Delete ‘Sexual Orientation Equality Officer’ from Schedule 2 and replace with ‘Gender & Sexual Diversity Officer’

D Beck and T Ramdani presented this motion to council.

The name of the group has been changed within the university and the position name change being requested is to reflect this.

J Mac Sweeney – asked if there was some confusion of the the roles of Gender Diversity and Gender Equality. E Ross responded that there is some cross over between both groups but that GUSRC are not concerned about any overrepresentation.

The motion to council was approved by council.

8. Islamophobia Awareness Month

H Hamid informed council about the Islamaphobia Awareness Month and asked if GUSRC could do something to highlight this important issue.

He added that the Muslim Education Development are an organisation who are offering free exhibitions to universities, and to send speakers to speak of this issue.

M Shah commented many students from the Jewish community have mentioned that anti Semitism is also a big issue suggested that of these issues could be addressed.

A Ibrahim asked H Hamid to meet with himself and Erin and report back to council.

A Pancheva suggested that muslim women in the west and women’s rights could also be looked into as part of any event/campaign.

A Ibrahim commented that he is hoping to organise an EU symposium for later in the year along the same lines as the international symposium which could look at concerns over brexit and other concerns of EU students.

AI and ER to follow up with HH and report back to council.

Discussion followed and council members were asked to contact A Ibrahim with ideas

9. AOCB

9.1 Living below the line - M Harris informed council on the cross campus fundraising committee, adding that the first event would be 'living below the poverty line' which would be taking place mon-fri next week. The idea is to live on £5 for 5 days with no freebies. All funds raised will go to the local food bank.

M Harris encouraged council members to take part. A Ibrahim added that the days did not have to be the same.

9.2 Transgender Day of Remembrance - D Beck reminded council that it would be Transgender day of remembrance, Sunday 20th November and that there would be a flag raising event at 12pm on Monday 21st and also an event at The Gilchrist at 7pm.

9.3 Principal EU forum 10am panel discussion surrounding issues for students and staff related to brexit and if anyone wants further info contact A Ibrahim.

10. It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be 8th December