

MINUTES OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY AT 6:00 PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: Jan Vlcek, F Nokhbatolfoghahai, P Kariappa, A Brown

Attending: B Hay, K Fraser, D Borland.

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### **1: Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt**

No further apologies were received.

### **2: Minute of the last meeting**

2.1 There was a small correction to the previous meetings minutes regarding the reference to 4.1.7. It was Court rather than Senate that had approved phase one of the Campus Development plan at their December meeting.

T Ramdani proposed that corrected minutes be approved and this was seconded by R Rutherford.

### **3: Matters arising**

**3.1 UESTC** - Liam King asked if there had been any further development since the 17<sup>th</sup> November council meeting. A Ibrahim responded that he; A Pancheva, and M Cusack would be meeting at some point this semester to compile a report for council regarding their visit to the Chinese campus

Q: J Richardson asked A Ibrahim if meetings had already taken place since the visit as he had received no notifications regarding meetings. A Ibrahim confirmed that details of future meetings would be passed on.

### **Break for Campus Capital Plan Presentation**

AI to lead report on UESTC visit and convey findings back to council.

AI to forward details of future meetings to JR

## **4: Council Reports**

### **4.1 Ameer Ibrahim – President**

#### **5.1.1 MaRIO**

Council members asked if a meeting had yet taken place between the Sabbatical officers and the Director of MaRIO concerning RUK fee hike to 4 years. A.Ibrahim confirmed that this meeting was now scheduled for February.

#### **5.1.2 Prevent Student Safety App**

**Q:** T Ramdani asked if there was more information on the safety app. What was its purpose?

A Ibrahim answered that the app had emerged through the 'Prevent' agenda and was for advice in extreme circumstances such as terror attack or natural disaster.

#### **5.1.3 SRC Campus Development Committee**

**Q:** L.King raised concerns with regard to creation of the SRC campus development committee; in particular the lack of transparency in the recruitment process and a potential conflict of interest of some members

A Ibrahim responded that he had sought balance of students on the committee which included Council and non Council members.

### **5.2 Kate Powell - VP Education**

Report noted

#### **5.2.1 Teaching Excellence Framework**

The University will not be joining the TEF, at least in the immediate future.

#### **5.2.2 College of arts project development board**

**Q:** E Porter- Would the move of Arts mean that this would separate teaching for UG and PG? K.Powell responded that generally teaching was separate already for UG and PG students in Arts.

### 5.3 Mhairi Harris - VP Student Activities

**5.3.1 Glasgow Student Forum** – This is a meet-up comprised of the sabbatical officers from various higher and further education institutions from across the city. The Forum is seeking to develop a campaign around the decision of First Bus to reduce its fares for the majority of customers with the exception of students.

**5.3.2 Volunteering, Clubs & Societies Awards**– Emails have gone out to all the short listed clubs, societies and volunteers who are in the running for an award, full details will be published on the SRC website and available to view. The award ceremony will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb volunteers who do 2 hours volunteering for the awards will receive free invites.

**5.3.3 Raising and Giving**- £495.55 raised for Beatson Pebble appeal for Christmas, totals are still being calculated for the Burns Ceilidh and Starbucks have donated various items to help raise money for the Scottish Refugee council. This donated merchandise would be sold at the Welcome Point to help raise funds.

### 5.4 Erin Ross – VP Student Support

#### 5.4.1 Language strategy working group

University is looking to catch up with language provision for non-language students with its new Language strategy.

**5.4.2 Welfare Forum** The next scheduled Welfare forum is the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, details would be circulated to all Welfare reps prior to the meeting.

L McDougall suggested the increase on funding to CaPS (Counselling and Psychological Services) mentioned at the previous SSDC in January should be on the agenda for the upcoming Welfare forum.

It had also been suggested by the SRC Advice team that there be an issue-based approach to next welfare forums, with common issues affecting students making up the agenda.

Council members asked to help publicise event on social media and attend.

Erin Ross to add to agenda for Welfare Forum

B. Hay commented that focus should perhaps be broadened beyond campaigning for more money for CaPS

**5.4.3 LGBT History month-** the month long programme launched successfully at the start of February, A Ibrahim gave thanks to D Beck; SRC Gender and Sexual Diversity Officer for their work in organising the programme.

## **5.5 Other Reports**

**5.5.1 T Ramdani** – report noted

**5.5.2 L McDougall** – In addition to full written report the first pre-workshop meeting for equality and diversity design standards has taken place. The workshop is seeking to create a design standards document that will impact on all new buildings in the Capital Plan. Things included such as reflective space, more social space, more baby changing and breastfeeding spaces.

**5.5.3 C Holdsworth** - Report noted

**5.5.4 T Ha** – Report noted

VP Student Activities; M Harris congratulated the International Officer for her hard work on SRC International week in January with its well attended and well organised events.

**5.5.5 F Gewirtz – O’Reilly** – report noted

**5.5.6 Jenny Benson-** report noted

**5.5.7 L Hennsgge** – report noted

**5.5.8 L Bergin** – report noted

**5.5.9 E Young** – report noted

**5.5.10 N Hristozova** – report noted

**5.5.11 S Luan** – report noted

**5.5.12 A Brown-** report noted in absentia

**5.5.13 J McCahill** – report noted

**5.5.14 A Pancheva** – report noted

**5.5.15 X Weiss-** Still working on developing the Interdisciplinary fair and a working group is being formed out of the general reps on Council. A report on what format the Fayre could take would be released to council soon. The Hall Crawl which focused on circulating information directly to students in halls was successful and looking to extend this to other halls including private accommodation but would probably require transport for this. Would be useful to have use of the SRC minibus and anyone able to drive it.

Council  
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publicity  
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**Q: J Benson** asked if it was possible to see feedback on the hall crawl from students and also was able to drive the SRC minibus license if help was required in future.

**Q: E Porter** - Interdisciplinary fair – would the format work on a larger scale? X Weiss responded that it could work well on a larger scale.

**Q: B Rooney** asked whether the fair would be open for both UG and PG students? Xavier replied that it would be open to all students.

**5.5.16 J Brown**- report noted

**5.5.17 S Gill**- report noted

**5.5.18 S Mclean** – GUSA Blood drive is currently underway and he was looking to include the SRC in this. It may not be possible due to current time constraints but it could be something for the SRC to get involved in, in future years.

**5.5.19 H Todd**- report noted

**5.5.20 A Ali** – report noted

**5.5.21 J McSweeney** – report noted

**5.5.22 B Rooney**- Report Noted

## **6: Classroom Representative Survey**

K Powell announced that the Class rep survey had now been completed and the findings would be fed back into rep training and publicity.

## **7: Rector Elections**

A Ibrahim confirmed there had been no nominations submitted to the senate office and the position of Rector would become vacant once incumbent Edward Snowden stepped down in April.

A. Ibrahim gave an overview of the current situation and suggested proposal for University Court on the 15<sup>th</sup> February as follows

- 1. Nominations are invited from Friday 17th February.**
- 2. The deadline for nominations is Friday 3 March.**
- 3. Elections are held on Mon/Tues 20/21 March.**

A Ibrahim advised he was aware of several individuals being asked if they would consider the role but rejecting nomination

**Q: T Ramdani** noted that there was potential for a date clash with the SRC elections and other student elections?

A Ibrahim said that he noted concerns but was assured that list of candidates wouldn't be published until after SRC elections.

Q: H Todd asked if there were any proposals on how student engagement and interest in the Rector position could be enhanced.

A Ibrahim answered that the process for publicising rector position had been similar to past years with coverage in student media, and emails to all students from the Uni and the SRC President. However there could be potential to develop better links with clubs and societies and inviting them to nominate candidates.

Q: L McDougall noted that at the previous Council meeting she had raised concerns around publicity, was advised there was more advertising to come, but nothing seemed to have been forthcoming.

A Ibrahim responded that a rector video by GUST had been viewed over 12 thousand times and generated a considerable number of enquiries to the the University.

A number of Council members voiced concerns that the lack of student engagement with the rectorship would mean that the position is weakened in the eyes of the university. Concerns were expressed that publicity from the University had been minimal.

Concerns were also expressed around the proposed timeline - with nominations and elections near exam time therefore potentially reducing lilly student turnout.

Given the differing views expressed, A Ibrahim brought the discussion to a close, suggesting that members who believed the proposed Rectorial election date was a misjudgement may wish to consider submission of an emergency motion with an alternative proposal

### **8: Council Motion- Name change of SRC School of Medicine representative**

H Hamid and K Powell presented this motion to council.

The name of the position has been changed to be more representative of the distinct specialisms of dentistry, and nursing within the school of medicine.

The motion was approved by council.

Council members would draft motion and prepare it for submission

## **9: Refreshers week Report**

M Harris informed council that the Refreshers week report was available and had been circulated to all council members.

## **10: SRC international Symposium**

T Ha reported that the International Symposium was well attended, particularly in the morning and a full report will be presented to council in the coming weeks.

A Ibrahim also added that there was potential for an EU student Symposium in light of the success of the first event.

## **11: AOCB**

**11.1 Report acronyms-** T Ramdani raised that acronyms in council reports are difficult to understand even for those who are familiar with the University and/or School structures. In order for council reports to remain understandable and accessible for those reading them, acronyms should be avoided.

Possible ways to avoid confusion would be the inclusion of an index with details of what the acronyms stand for.

### **11.2 Glasgow Guardian article-**

B.Hay advised that, given the recent Guardian article alleging "SRC Budgets Cut and Services Frozen" he felt obliged to clarify matters with Council, as the Trustees of the organisation.

B.Hay stated that he recognised the right of Guardian to conduct investigative journalism, did not intend to criticise, but felt it important that Trustees understood that the article was incorrect and misleading at some points

He gave a list of clarifications regarding the SRC's charitable expenditure. In particular he advised that the suggestion that services had been cut by £60,000 in year 2015/2016 compared with 2014/2015 was based around a misunderstanding of accounts. The article based on a simple comparison of expenditure over two years rather than any financial analysis. The following were highlighted as the key reasons for apparent reductions in expenditure and did not relate to cuts in services

<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Variation Over the two years</b>
<b>Holiday Pay Accrual initial one off initial figure in 2015:</b> The change in accounting regulations (SORP) meant that unused staff holiday entitlement now had to be accrued and shown in the accounts. This was a change to previous years and 2015 was the first year the SRC had to detail this in the accounts.	£17,272
<b>Mind my Mate Training:</b> This was a one off expenditure on a suicide awareness programme funded by the lottery. We received £10,000 in from the lottery fund then spent the £9,900 on the project. The SRC didn't apply for a lottery grant the following year so didn't spend £10,000	£9,900
<b>Depreciation &amp; Overheads</b> There were comparative reductions in expenditure in non service areas. Reductions in repairs, insurance and consultancy support costs along with depreciation led to a comparative reduction of over £14,000 in 2016	£14,064
<b>Employment Costs</b> Reduced by £12, 652. The review of the PG engagement role had taken time. The SRC has now recruited a Student Engagement Coordinator and Communications intern.	£12,652
<b>Reduction in Media Group Expenses</b> In 2015 the media groups brought in considerable additional revenue to fund anniversary expenses. The reduction in student media group net expenses of £6,143 the following year was a direct consequence of a reduction in their own revenue generating activity and no money being spent on anniversary celebrations	£6,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>£60,031</b>

B.Hay advised, in reference to the Guardian's comments regarding salary increase, that he received the same, nationally negotiated, percentage increase as all full time SRC Staff (part of single pay spine for academic and HE Support Staff) and that he remained on the same salary grade as when initially appointed.

## **12: Date of next meeting**

The next full council meeting would take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 6:30pm in the Williams Room.