

MINUTES OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER AT 6:30 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt
Apologies: Becky Adams, A Bankier

Attending: B Hay, K Fraser.

1: Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

A Ibrahim gave welcoming remarks for the 1st council meeting of the new academic session as well as congratulations to the newly elected council members.

2: Minute of previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting on the 28th April were approved with no amendments.

3: Matters arising

In response to a question on the potential restructuring of the four student bodies A Ibrahim advised the meetings have taken place over the summer between the student bodies and the university to investigate how the student bodies can go forward and how to avoid duplication of efforts as was raised at the previous meeting. Representatives of the 4 student bodies continue to meet regularly to find where common ground may exist.

4: University Committee Elections

There were a number of SRC positions on UofG committees that are required to be filled for the new academic session.

The following council member was elected by secret ballot for a clear majority:
SRC Assessor on Court - Lauren McDougall.

Academic Dress Committee : Struan McLean

Military Education Committee: Jess MacSweeney (PG Science & Engineering Convenor)

Deans of Graduate Studies Committee: Bob Rooney (PG MVLS Convenor)

Researcher development committee : Bob Rooney (PG MVLS Convenor)

Health Safety & Wellbeing Committee : Jessica Brown (General Rep)

Hunterian Strategic Development Board: Thais Ramdani (Gender Equality)

Learning and Teaching committee: The following members were elected to the four available positions

- College of Arts: Jenny Benson
- College of Social Sciences: Ellie
- College of Science & Engineering: Liam Bergin
- College of MVLS: Madihah Hussain

Library Committee

The following were elected to the one undergraduate and one postgraduate vacancies.

- PG position: Flynn Gewirtz O'Reilly (PG Taught Convener)
- UG position Amna Zahid (First Year Rep) was elected

Religion and belief equality group : Disbanded

Student support Development committee: Thais Ramdani (Gender Equality)

Christie's education: Position already filled by Ryan Rutherford (Culture & Creative Arts)

SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) : Joshua MacCahill (Geographical & Earth Science)

Enhancement Themes Project Board: Pritasha Kariappa (Clubs, Charities and Societies Officer) was elected.

5: Council Reports

5.1: *Ameer Ibrahim – President (Questions in addition to report)*

A Ibrahim confirmed David Duncan had been appointed as Secretary of Court. The current incumbent, David Newall is due to leave in April 2017.

M Shah (UG Convenor MVLS)- Sought clarification on UofGs approach to the implementation of the UK Government's *Prevent* strategy?

A Ibrahim Confirmed that the University has a statutory duty to formulate an approachIt is something that he will follow closely.

L King – Asked about the development of Sabbatical Goals for the year and whether Council would receive reports on progress against stated outcomes?

A Ibrahim- Sabbatical goals for 16/17 would be on the agenda and are included in written reports. He was hoping to organise more alumni and postgraduate events. Investigations into the impact of Brexit on the student population at the university and how support for home students can be increased are now underway. Sabbatical goals will be continuously re-assessed throughout the year, in order to stay current with events.

5.2: Erin Ross – VP Student Support (Questions in addition to report)

E Ross - There was a concentration on welfare issues during Freshers week involving the SRC welfare officers to help raise awareness. Events included: mental health panels, asexual awareness as well as the organisation of other more general welfare forums. Meetings of the newly established Welfare Forum would be convened approximately twice per semester.

B Hay sought confirmation on the mechanisms for reporting back to Council.

E Ross advised that Council would receive minutes of the meetings as well as any additional reports which would help the SRC going forward.

F Nokhbatolfoghahai asked about the Religious Belief Equality Committee?

E Ross advised that the RBEG has now been disbanded and the University is now looking to engage with student religious groups on campus as they felt the previous committee setting wasn't working well.

M Shah asked about SRC representation on this going forward?

Erin Ross advised that the University's Equality and Diversity unit will be taking forward a consultation over the coming weeks and will be in contact with the heads of religious student groups on campus.

5.3 Kate Powell – VP Education (Questions in addition to report)

K Powell- The first academic forum is for all academic reps on council will take place on the 3rd November at 6pm in the Williams room. Forum is open for all council members to attend and welfare and general reps are welcome to attend.

Student Teaching Awards (STA's) nominations will open next Thursday. Looking for council members to assist with promotion and nominations.

K Powell noted that there had been issues with academic reps being unable to contact class reps due to data protection issues. The SRC has made with contact with the DP office to see how to deal with this.

In response to questions on Pebblepad K Powell gave a short summary of it's capabilities and advised that she was optimistic that Uof G would adopt it but discussions were still at a fairly early stage so there were no firm timescales as yet.

5.4: Mhairi Harris – VP Student Activities (Questions in addition to report)

A full report on Freshers Week will be circulated at next council and thanks to all council members for help received during FW.

A Ibrahim congratulated M Harris on an excellent Freshers' Week.

Council Members Reports

Council considered written reports submitted prior to the meeting by the following

- UG Arts Convenor – Jenny Benson
- College of Social Sciences Convenor – Jan Vlcek
- UG MVLS College Convenor – Moiz Ali Shah
- UG Sci & Engineering Convenor – Alex Pancheva
- PG MVLS – Bob Rooney
- Welfare – Disability – Lauren McDougall
- Welfare – Environment – Chris Holdsworth
- Welfare – Gender – Thaiis Ramdani
- Welfare – International – Thao Ha
- School Rep Humanities – Hannah Todd
- School Rep Maths and Stats – Liam Bergin
- School Rep Modern Lang and Culture – Ellie Young
- School Rep Psychology – Shutong Luan

Council members to take information to constituencies to encourage nominations

M Harris: Circulate FW report to council members at

4.5: UG MVLS College Convenor

M Shah- Ongoing lack of representation from the Vet School is a concern. In previous years, when there is a vacant SRC position what has been done to ensure these students are represented and their feedback noted?

K Powell- As a college group, representatives could see if elected reps could split responsibilities and try and represent those who are in unrepresented constituencies by sharing the workload.

4.6: UG Science & Engineering Convenor

A Pancheva- There are growing concerns in the school regarding the over recruitment of students and how this effects the student experience as well as learning and teaching. How can we address this with the Uni?

A Ibrahim- Admissions is centralised by the UofG and space is at a premium due to the lack of available rooms and the lack of staff resources. There is work ongoing on this with the uni to solve this issue.

4.7: Welfare – Disability

L McDougall- Number of freshers applications was bigger than ever. Would it be possible to apply some positive discrimination during the Fresher helper application process to encourage more applications from non traditional backgrounds?

A Ibrahim- There annual Freshers' survey report will make recommendations for next year. This can possibly be included in the report.

4.8: Welfare – Environment

C Holdsworth – Recent meeting with senior staff from Earth sciences who have been given funding to see how postgrads, alumni and undergraduates can interact and how to improve future job projects, the UofG careers service is keen for SRC engagement in this project.

A Abushaala asked about progression the University's planned divestment from fossil fuels.

C Holdsworth advised that the divestment situation appeared fairly complex and UofG had been fairly quiet on the issue recently. Some follow up investigation was required by the SRC to identify and report back on progress. X Weiss asked about

current sustainability projects being undertaken by the University?

A Ibrahim advised that UofG has invested in a new heating system and is implementing a new sustainability strategy.

4.9: Welfare – Gender Equality

T Ramdani- Trans day of remembrance on the 20th Nov, aim to have an event on the 21st on campus. Feedback from asexual awareness sessions has been really helpful for the future.

4.10: Welfare – International

T Ha - Priority currently is international week which is upcoming. Focus will be on celebrating international students and their cultures. The schedule is still in the planning stages but would be available to council members for input.

4.11: School - Humanities

H Todd- Students looking to put in a formal complaint regarding their lack of History Honours choices.

Concerns were expressed by some members about difficulties arising from classes which combined UG and PG students. Differences in learning styles as well as differences in previous attainment levels (where PGs came from different institutions) has led to discontent with the learning/teaching experience amongst PG and UG students.

K Powell suggested this may be an issue for academic forum to investigate and raise with the university.

4.12: School - Maths and Statistics

L Bergin advises that he had participated in several meetings concerning furniture for the new Maths building as well as meeting with new class reps to prepare for the new academic year.

In response to a question about gender neutral toilets in the temporary maths building L Bergin advised that he would raise this with Maths along with general concerns about lack of facilities overall.

[A Ibrahim: Circulate information on 2014 SRC divestment campaign to new council members](#)

5.13: School -Modern languages & Culture

Ellie Young is currently working on contacting students who completed work placements on during their study abroad year. Feeling is that students don't get much support as they may need before they depart for their placement.

5.14: School -Psychology

S Luan is looking for more feedback from students and hoping to organise mental health awareness conference within the school.

T Ramdani- In response to a question S Luan advised there doesn't appear to have been anything raised concerning Psychology School's approach to teaching about gender?

6: Gender and Sexual Orientation Remits

Update on this was given by Erin Ross, working with D Beck and T Ramdani on equality issues and diversity on campus regarding gender and sexuality equality. The University Committee that was organised for this issue has had a name change. Looking to change Dylan's Sexual Orientation Equality officer title to reflect this name change.

Formal move to do this would take place at the next council meeting.

7: rUK Tuition Fees

A letter from UofG Principal; Anton Muscatelli was circulated amongst attending council members. The letter from the Principal was in response to the open letter from the SRC regarding the fee rise for rUK students earlier in October 16. It has also been emailed to all members.

A Ibrahim outlined the current position; at the most recent UofG court meeting, a decision was made to raise fees for rUK students to £9250 per annum. This increase was made without prior consultation with the SRC. The SRC Executive drafted a response to Principal Muscatelli regarding this move and the Principal's reply to the SRC's joint letter has been circulated to council members at the start of the meeting.

K Powell- We are looking specifically for feedback from members regarding the letter, so the SRC can see what else students want and need the SRC to do for them.

Discussion followed: There were general concerns at the University's failure to consult with the SRC

future council meeting

A Ibrahim advised that he had even greater concerns regarding the possibility that students on a three-year degree may be charged for a 4th year. This is going to be a matter under discussion during the current academic year.

K Powell advised that a recent meeting with the Senior Vice-Principal, Neal Juster he cited the reputation of the University and continued higher education funding pressures as the drivers for the fee increase.

K Powell stated she believed it was very important that the SRC start to prepare for fighting the potential 25% fee increase that would result if the University began charging for the full four years instead of three.

J Richardson stated that the SRC should not simply focus on Glasgow but believed that it should attack the overall marketisation of higher education. Glasgow was not the only institution pushing fee rises.

ER: Draft motion to rename the position of Sexual Orientation Officer

L King sought clarification on the nature of discussions on around fees between the University and SRC and whether this potential increase had appeared in any of the University's financial forecasts.

K Powell advised that N Juster had been unsure as to the inclusion of the rise in budget forecasts. Apparently the Marketing, Recruitment and International Office were leading the discussions with the Principal. A paper would be produced which the SRC would have input to, as yet there was no timescale given for the production of this paper. There wasn't any indication given as to how these additional resources would be allocated

A Ibrahim stated that the SRC is in the process of organising a meeting with MaRIO as a priority to seek answers on what will happen with these funds and further background on the justification for these increases. He further stated he felt strongly that the SRC as an organisation needs a strong stance against any fee increases.

C Holdsworth asked about the appropriateness of an SRC motion along the lines of no cuts, no fees?

A Ibrahim- It is a possibility.

8: Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy Draft

Copy of draft papers was circulated to all council members prior to the meeting.

M Shah asked about the lecture recording policy's fit with the proposals in the paper come into this?

L McDougall stated that some academics continued to oppose the lecture recording policy citing potential intellectual property issues! Academic staff also have concerns about whether recording should be permitted in tutorials, seminars and lab work that needs negotiated. There has been good feedback from both students and staff on the online reading lists, however there is still lots of variations on how well it works depending on subject.

9: Communications Strategy Working Group

Presentation from J Vlcek

A short discussion followed. There was concerns about the lack of a stated remit as well as the structure of the committee. It was also raised that there may be a need to manage expectations given the split structure and separate student bodies active on campus that makes it difficult to communicate effectively with students. There was also concerns that the establishment of the committee would cut across SRC staff and existing projects.

Council noted that there were no objections to a communications strategy but the process of forming a strategy would need consideration.

10: AOCB

Council clothing

K Powell – Orders for council clothing now open, not compulsory to get a hoodie but all orders must be paid for in advance

11: Date of next meeting

6:30pm on the 17th November 2016. Venue to be confirmed