

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 6:30 PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING**

**Present:** As per sederunt

**Apologies:** Claire McCormack, Matej Ballaty, Xavier Weiss, Rafa Abushaala, Kyle Brownson, Josh Horsman, Aleema Sardar, Jennifer McKeown

**Attending:** K Fraser, B Hay, C Bingham

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**1: Minute of previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by council.

**2: Academic Forum**

There was nothing further to add to the report circulated to council.

**3: International Week Debrief**

H Al Jouz gave council an overview of events that were organised during the recent International Week.

Attendance was an issue with variance across events- for example the Bollywood night had no attendees while the Middle East Buffet and Tea Tasting had strong attendance. Timing of the week could be a possible barrier to maximum attendance due to the proximity to the start of term and Refreshers Week as well as social media priorities with competing activities. Overall the week was a success but there is room for improvement in advertising events to students.

B Hay noted that events with poor attendance may simply be unattractive to the target student groups that perhaps it would be useful to research why some events worked and some didn't before organizing another international week.

**4: Refreshers Week Debrief**

P Kariappa introduced her report detailing recommendations for building on the successes and addressing the challenges presented by the 2018 Refreshers Week. In particular the report focused on the need for more effectively coordinated communication between the student bodies and the relevant University departments. The potential for earlier communication to incoming students about

Refreshers' week (prior to the winter break) was mentioned as having real potential benefit.

A discussion then followed around the future of Refreshers week given the lukewarm response from students to this year's student bodies' offering. It was noted that poor attendance at events organized by all the student bodies experienced poor turnout.

L McDougall observed that circulation space was key to events as Meet the SRC had good attendance but there was a lack of space to let people circulate/chat and network.

## **5: Council Reports**

### **5.1 SRC President: Kate Powell**

#### **5.1.1 Extending the working day**

A meeting had taken place on the possibility of extending the working day at the university. It will take time to consider the potential benefits and pitfalls.

#### **5.1.2 Graduate Teaching Assistants**

There had been a review set up to explore the recruitment of and engagement with GTAs due to the complaints from GTA's regarding their employment conditions. K Powell requested that those PG reps who wanted to be more involved in discussions should let her know.

#### **5.1.3 Industrial Action**

A meeting had taken place with Craig Daly of UCU and the SRC President regarding the upcoming strike action. A position statement has been prepared and published by the the SRC Executive. This will be updated as the situation evolves.

P Aasen noted that there was an anecdotal support for the strike action from his peer group in his classes but was concerned that there was a lack of information from the university regarding how the strike action will affect teaching time and course work submission.

M Harris advised that there was a lack of clarity from the University regarding the status of submission of coursework during strike action and concerns about crossing picket lines to submit work.

K Powell emphasised that the SRC wants the best outcome for staff and values the university's academic community. As student representatives however they had an obligation to seek to ensure disruption to students' assessment is kept to a minimum.

#### **5.1.4 EU Students fees**

K Powell informed council that the Scottish Government has confirmed that it will extend the funding of EU students up to 2019-20 . Both the SRC and the University have welcomed this news.

#### **5.1.5 Guardian**

C Holdsworth asked about the meeting K Powell had with Guardian recently. K Powell clarified that the meeting covered general issues, as well expectations and responsibilities on both Guardian and the SRC.

### **5.2 VP Education: Hannah May Todd**

#### **5.2.1 Learning and Teaching Hub Workstream**

H Todd reported to council that consultation would be ongoing throughout the development of the Learning and Teaching Hub. It was likely that a workshop would be held over the coming weeks to get feedback on furniture and this would be an open meeting for Council members to give their feedback to.

#### **5.2.2 College of Arts Project Development Board**

H Todd updated council with the developments of the new Arts building. The board was currently canvassing for suggestions for artists involvement in the development of the campus development. Potential additions to the new development could include sculptures, creative writing and other media. Suggestions were particularly welcome from the student body and council were encouraged to forward examples for the board to consider as part of a Public Art Strategy.

#### **5.2.3 Library 24/7 Access**

There would be another collaborative pilot between the SRC and the Library for the 24/7 library opening during the Spring exam period. This would be longer than the previous pilot and H Todd informed council members that the two pilots would be evaluated and recommendations would be forward to the SMG for their consideration.

#### **5.2.4 Advisor of Students Survey**

There had been a range of anecdotal feedback to the SRC concerning the Advisory system in recent years during which period there had also been localised changes in how the system operated. The new survey would seek to identify the successes of the different models and students' overall views of the assistance they received.

#### **5.2.5 #LECREC**

H Todd informed council that progress on the #LECREC campaign was still ongoing and the lecture recording policy was due to be considered at the University's upcoming Learning and Teaching Committee. H Todd would report back to council on the status of this after the committee.

#### **5.2.6 Student Teaching Awards**

As it was the last council meeting before the STAs nominations closed all council members were urged to submit nominations, help with PR stalls and help increase awareness of the awards which would be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Kelvin Gallery.

### **5.3 VP Student Support: Lauren McDougall**

#### **5.3.1 Mental Health Group**

The first meeting of the Mental Health Group took place. As part of the University's Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, L McDougall advised that the University Secretary had committed to ensuring the sustainability of the Mind Your Mate programme.

#### **5.3.2 Transitions Working Group**

L McDougall informed Council that the TWG will be focusing on student inductions as there was large variance between schools on what is included in induction sessions when students start their studies. There are no current university guidelines on the nature, format and quality of information that should be provided to incoming students as part of the induction process. Feedback from Council members on their own induction experiences was welcomed.

#### **5.3.3 Mind Your Mate**

There had been good turnout from students at the latest open MYM sessions and all sessions have sold out, Feedback has been very positive.

#### **5.3.4 Retention Working Group**

The RWG is currently looking at data to see why student groups may not be progressing and withdraw from their studies. There were concerns expressed by multiple council members about subjects where hundreds of students are recruited in first year, yet do not progress into honours due to high grade thresholds. Psychology was noted as being a particular focus and the group will look at whether requirements and added pressure has an outcome on their progress.

#### **5.4 VP Student Activities: Pritasha Kariappa**

##### **5.4.1 Hospitality App**

Work is ongoing on a Food2Go app which the university is preparing to test. The app would allow users to order food and drink to collect from anywhere on campus.

##### **5.4.2 Hunterian Museum**

P Kariappa and E Hardy had met with the Student Engagement Officer at the Museum to discuss how to improve engagement with students, particularly student parents and their children as well as other non-traditional student groups. Suggestions included new events or more events that had been successful such as the recent 'Night at the Museum'.

##### **5.4.3 Cross Campus Committee**

The pricing of Freshers Bands would be reviewed by the Cross Campus Committee and P Kariappa would report the committee's findings to council at a later date.

##### **5.4.4 VCS week/VCS awards**

The VCS Awards and its accompanying week would take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February. The week would reach a conclusion with the VCS Awards on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

##### **5.4.5 RAG Week**

RAG week would take place from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March and there would be a charity auction to raise funds for RAG. This would most likely be held in the GUU.

Details would be circulated to council members and the student community nearer the date.

**5.5 PG Convenor MVLS: Kirstin Leslie** - written report noted

**5.6 PG Science & Engineering: Chris Holdsworth** - written report noted

**5.7 PG Social Sciences: Mhairi Harris**

**5.7.1 Economic and Social Sciences Council funding**

This financial resource could potentially be lost over the next year and this would have serious ramifications for the College if it came to pass. M Harris reported that the SRC would need to keep an eye on the situation as it could have a detrimental impact on some students, who may be affected by the loss of funding.

**5.7.2 Thesis Pending**

There was agreement that there was a lack of clarity from the College of Social Sciences of what is included in the University's Thesis Pending Policy. M Harris noted that the School of Education have introduced progress targets for students so they are able to complete their PhD in the allocated time.

**5.8 UG Social Sciences: Josh Horsman** - written report noted

**5.9 Age Equality: Elliot Napier**

E Napier asked council members to forward suggestions for activities for child friendly things spaces on campus to try and create a one stop shop for information for student parents.

**5.10 International: Hussain El Ajouz** - written report noted

**5.11 Disability Equality: Emma Docherty**

**5.12 Veterinary Medicine: Antonia Ioannou**

A Ioannou informed council that the Peer Support programme at the Vet School has requested someone from CaPs to try and work with the school to see if it was possible to arrange for closer ties as the Vet school has one of the highest referrals to the service. L McDougall advised she would look into this further.

### **5.13 Humanities: Emma Hardy**

E Hardy raised that at a recent Learning and Teaching meeting within the school concerns were expressed about hate speech being spread via the anonymous messaging system EvaSys and in course evaluations. The matter was being referred to the senate and policy within the school would be examined to clarify what was acceptable in course feedback.

**5.14 Physics & Astronomy: Bethan Hall Jones** - written report noted

**5.15 1st Year: Patrick Aasen** - written report noted

**5.16 1st Year: Matej Ballaty** - written report noted

**5.17 Modern Languages & Cultures: Ellie Young** - written report noted

**5.18 Psychology: Xenia Stieger** - written report noted

**5.19 Mental Health Equality: Fatemeh Nokhbatolfoghahai** - written report noted

**5.20 Charities, Clubs and Societies: - Struan McLean** written report noted

### **7: AOCB**

S Mclean reminded council that the month long Give Blood campaign is now underway and encouraged council members to participate in the blood drive.

### **8: Date of next meeting**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 6pm, Williams Room.