

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER THURSDAY AT 6 PM  
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING**

**Present:** As per sederunt

**Apologies:** V Ferry, F Gewirtz O'Reilly, S McLean, A Ibrahim, S Garkov, B Khan, J Hardy, M Abbas.

**Attending:** B Hay, G Connor, K Fraser

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**1. Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt**

**2. Minute of previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by council.

**3. Annual Accounts**

(Copy of accounts circulated to Council)

G Connor presented the the annual audited accounts up to June 2017 reporting that the accounts were found to be in a true and accurate reflection of GUSRC's finances for the year by the auditors Alexander Sloan.

C Holdsworth moved that the accounts be approved and this was seconded by J Horsman.

S Brown moved that Alexander Sloan remain GUSRC's accountant's and auditors for the next year, this was seconded by M Afahd Asif.

J McKeown moved that the Govan Law Centre remain GUSRC's appointed solicitors for the year, this was seconded by B Hall-Jones.

Council thus approved the continued appointment of both Alexander Sloan and Govan Law Centre.

**4. Senior Management Group - Open Letter Response**

(Copy of response circulated to Council)

K Powell updated council on the positive response received from the University's SMG and told Council members that by and large the response from the SMG could

be considered a success and represented several months of behind the scenes negotiations with the University. L McDougall and H Todd outlined the benefits according to each of their specific remits.

#### **4.1 CaPs & Peer Support**

L McDougall reported that the Counselling and Psychological Service was being allocated considerable extra resources. It was hoped that the Peer Support programme could be expanded and there would also be greater provision for offering Peer Support to those on PG courses across schools with specialised PG support.

With the additional funding this year, CaP's also intended to recruit more full time counsellors to further tackle waiting times. A full time member of staff has also been appointed to assess students when they are referred to the service.

#### **4.2 Teaching spaces**

H Todd reported that as a result of the SRC's efforts with the university, some local spaces will be surveyed to assess viability for conversion into teaching space. Both H Todd and K Powell would be attending an upcoming workshop that would consider how to address both short and long term pressures on space on campus.

There would be investment in further IT provision and Cloud storage. This would include software libraries that would offer programs remotely for specific degrees such as engineering or computing courses that require specialised software. There will also be further investment in recording facilities in lecture theatres.

The key priority of the SRC is ensure that the University provides study space as currently it was severely limited given the constraints on space worsened by recent over recruitment

E Napier asked if the £2 million quoted from the SMG response letter was investment in PGT space as it was concerning that there was a potential loss of space for UG students. H Todd responded that the SRC was pushing strongly for better space for UG, PGT and PGR but currently there is little desk provision for PGR to complete PHD work and as a result there had been a prioritisation of space provided to try and give PGR students space.

#### **4.3 Exam Timetable**

H Todd noted that the exam timetable was delivered on time but was aware of complaints regarding it and noted that given the pressures on space available on

campus and the number of courses that compiling the exam timetable was a complex task.

M Fahd Asif asked if there was the possibility that some exams could be sat in January given that there was increased pressure on students with large exam workloads due to the short timescale between the start of the semester. L McDougall responded that the exam timetable was previously moved from January to December to help improve student life/work balance and so students could enjoy time off rather than having to revise over Christmas and the New Year.

H Todd made clear that the policy of the University is that students can have no more than three exams over a two day period during the exam diet and this was to try and alleviate pressures on students.

X Weiss asked about Saturday exams and whether exams at the weekend was a recent development. K Powell answered that there had been Saturday exams in the past but this has been for very few subjects and was unsure if this was increased due to space constraints resulting from over recruitment. Council was asked if they had any details of Saturday exams to pass it on to the Executive so it could be investigated further.

## **5. Academic and Welfare Forum updates**

L McDougall informed council that Exam distress has been proceeding well and attendance at Distress events has been generally good and means the SRC can continue to build on growing awareness about events offered by the SRC.

Both Student Unions are working on a period poverty campaign and L McDougall was looking to support this initiative particularly as it appeared to be a growing problem.

## **6. Freshers Week 2017 Report**

P Kariappa had circulated the Freshers week report to all council members with a number of recommendations based on issues encountered this year as well as possible improvements.

- Meet & Greet Team – Main issue was communication and location which in some cases was poor
- Welcome Tent – Was felt by a number of council members to be unviable as it is dwarfed by other stalls.
- Accessibility – this was an issue with Estates making sure events were accessible, this included making sure that events could be accessed by those with mobility issues

- Wristbands - success, recommend use in successive years.
- Postgraduate Fortnight – Events attracted high turnout and there were a number more events than in previous year. There is a need for more Cross Campus events catering to PG and perhaps more events in October.
- Clubs and Socs templates – build on the use of templates to help advise clubs on the best use of space.

## **7. Chengdu visit**

The SRC delegation (H Todd, C Holdsworth and B Khan) visited Chengdu and met with class representatives on the UESTC campus and would make efforts to remain working with the reps active out on the campus in China. Council members were reminded that students at Chengdu and other overseas campus' are automatically members of GUSRC, and therefore GUSRC will support these students as far as possible.

Discussion followed on representation in Chengdu with concerns raised over welfare support, and the lack of representative structures. Though it was recognised that Universities in China operated in a different political climate

It was noted anecdotally by the SRC delegation that there seemed to have been some improvement regarding these matters since the last SRC visit in 2016.

## **8. Class Representative Mixer – 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov**

H Todd reported that the mixer event for class representatives was a success and there was a large turnout of reps and to build on this successful networking event there would be a followup Class Rep Conference in the New Year.

## **9. Council Reports**

(All received written reports circulated to Council)

### **9.1 SRC President: Kate Powell**

#### **9.1.1 Student Services Model**

Discussions with the trade unions on campus are underway and updates will come from this over time.

#### **9.1.2 Clerk of Senate Recruitment**

Nominations for the position of Clerk of Senate were now open. A job description

was approved at Senate on the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. This and details of those eligible for nomination would be circulated to Council members.

### **9.1.3 Garscube - Sports and Recreation**

Kate reported to council that the University is now in dispute with staff regarding the SRS restructure. No further details on plans as of yet, proposals should be announced to SRS staff this week.

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

### **9.2.1 #LECREC**

H Todd made Council aware that the SRC was progressing with development on a comprehensive lecture recording policy with LEADS (Learning Enhancement and Academic Development Service) in order to take a proposal to the University's Learning and Teaching Committee with an aim to try and get the policy approved by Council of Senate.

In addition, L McDougall also reported that the Student Parents Survey Working Group support the LEC Rec initiative and have recommended that there be an opt out policy to support lecture recording across classes on campus.

### **9.2.2 Careers Fair**

H Todd and P Kariappa were working with the Careers Service to arrange a fair catering for Social Sciences and Arts students as previous careers fairs have been dominated by science, finance and engineering.

### **9.2.3 Student Teaching Awards**

H Todd reminded Council of the continued need for promotion to help drive nominations and awareness of the STAs.

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

### **9.3.1 Gender Violence Strategy Group**

L McDougall reported that the GBV Strategy group was investigating how the university would deal with historic declarations of abuse on campus given recent events in the media.

### **9.3.2 Black History month**

L McDougall debriefed council on the success of the BHM meeting earlier in the year. It has been the first time the University has been involved in assisting to organise BHM events on campus and there were plans to build on this for future events. Planning would start earlier in the year and there would be a formalised working group that would work on organising and promoting BHM events on campus.

### **9.3.3 SRC trustees report**

S Brown asked if there was data on why disabled students on both SRC Council and class rep demographics were lower than the number of currently matriculated students who identify as disabled. L McDougall noted that there were a number of factors that may deter disabled students from taking on further responsibilities. E Docherty, Disability Equality officer also explained that it can be a struggle for students to cope with degree commitments alone as well as other extracurricular activities such as class rep but accessibility was key.

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

### **9.4.1 Santa Sacks Challenge**

The deadline has been extended until the 14th December to help drive up donations to the Challenge.

### **9.4.2 Volunteering, Clubs and Societies' Awards 2018**

Nominations for the awards would open on the 15<sup>th</sup> December. Council members were encouraged to help promote the awards as much as possible to ensure that there was awareness of the awards amongst clubs and societies active on campus.

### **9.4.3 Christmas Market**

The market would take place now on the 8<sup>th</sup> Dec in the GUU. Uptake on stalls had been strong.

### **9.4.4 Refreshers week**

A timetable is now coming together with events from all the student bodies about to be publicised. The week would take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January when students return after the winter break.

## **9.5 PG MVLS Convenor: Kirstin Leslie**

There seemed to be confusion for international students on who to approach if they encounter visa issues. In particular, PG students who may have more unique issues

due to the length and nature of their courses. B Hay advised that the International Student Support Office would be the best place for students experiencing issues with visas to be directed as the SRC Advice Centre was not licenced advise on immigration matters. Council members were advised not to offer any advice regarding visas but to direct any constituent enquiries to the international support team.

## **9.6 PG Science & Engineering Convenor: Chris Holdsworth**

### **9.6.1**

### **Over-recruitment**

C Holdsworth this year reported that both Computing Science and Maths and Stats have extensively overrecruited PGT students. CS alone has over 200 extra students and the additional numbers are causing strain in both schools. Computing Science has been given funding to cope with the additional pressure and C Holdsworth felt that the SRC should work to ensure that the College of Science and Engineering provides additional funds to Maths and Stats to enable them to manage the additional numbers.

### **9.6.2 Deposits for course placements (refer to 9.6.1)**

In reference to over recruitment it was noted that the university was investigating mechanisms that may help ensure that prospective students take up their places. This included a possible deposit system.

## **9.7 PG Social Sciences: Mhairi Harris**

### **9.7.1 Adam Smith Business School Project Development Board**

M Harris expressed her concern that the speed of the project was such that it made it difficult to scrutinise development and decisions made. Particularly as the vision presented by the board may not be the best option for students.

### **9.7.2 Library laptops**

M Harris updated Council that the Library was seeking to introduce a laptop rental scheme but noted that in the current proposal there was no provision for powerbanks or chargers for rent- the committee would investigate this further.

## **9.8 PG Research: Flynn Gewirtz O'Reilly – Written Report noted**

## **9.9 UG Social Sciences: Josh Horsman - written report noted**

## **9.10 Computing: Stephen Brown - written report noted**

### **9.11 Social and Political Science: Claire McCormack- written report noted**

C McCormack asked if there were issues regarding data protection and circulation of contact details of Class reps to encourage networking and sharing of ideas between reps. B Hay advised that the matter was currently being investigated as a review of data protection was underway at the University.

### **9.12 Humanities: Emma Hardy - written report noted**

E Hardy informed Council that the Hunterian Strategic Development board is keen to engage with council members to try and raise awareness of the museum and its projects. E Hardy would work to discuss possible way's forward with other students and council members before the upcoming meeting of the board.

### **9.13 Psychology: Xenia Stieger - written report noted**

X Stieger reported that there were concerns from students about workload when it comes to coursework and exams and had raised these with the School of Psychology. X Steiger stated that there is apparently a university policy that prevents them lowering coursework levels in correlation with exams. K Powell advised that this was not the case and there was no policy that restricts the weighting of coursework and exams unless the courses require accreditation.

### **9.14 Business: Riccardo Demurtas**

R Demurtas reported that the Business School had been considering establishing its own award scheme to reward excellent teaching however he had been liaising with the school to get them involved in circulating information regarding the STA's. Noted that it may be an advantage to try and get other schools involved in STA's directly for promotion.

### **9.15 Vet Med: Antonia Ioannou**

A Ioannou informed Council that she had received complaints from students affected by the price rise for car parking permits on the Garscube campus. There has been disinformation circulating on the Garscube campus that the SRC was responsible for the rises. K Powell explained that the rises in permit costs is part of an ongoing review of all parking permits across each campus which was headed up by Secretary of Court; David Duncan.

### **9.16 Age Equality: Elliot Napier - written report noted**

### **9.17 General Rep: David Guthrie - written report noted**



## **9.18 1st Year Rep: Patrick Aasen - written report noted**

## **10. AOCB**

### **10.1 Desk hogging**

S Kirby asked if there was a university policy on people sleeping in the library. K Powell responded that there was a policy to deter desk hogging but nothing specifically against students sleeping in study spaces.

### **10.2 Council reports**

Council members were reminded by L McDougall that they were expected to submit written reports regularly and if unable to attend provide their apologies promptly.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Next Full Council – 6pm, 18th January, Williams Room