

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 10th DECEMBER 2020 AT 6 PM
ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: K Fish, S Kholeif, D Al-Obaidly, H McSwan, S Kirby, S Green, H Manson,
A Whelan, L O'Connor, H Baer

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay, G McGinn

1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

L Brady informed Council members that this meeting is being recorded for the purposes of minute-taking and that the recording will be destroyed after the minutes have been completed. He asked that no other Council member record the meeting.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

P Aasen noted a typo on p40 of the minutes. The mention of four students being stuck in China should read that 16 students are stuck in China.

L Brady said the information he provided on the notice period students are required to give the University before moving out of halls of residence was incorrect. This period is 4 weeks, rather than 1 week, as was previously stated.

Minutes of previous meeting approved with two corrections noted.

L Brady said the University Library have clarified that students can eat at their desks.

With regards to coronavirus testing on the Garscube campus, L Brady had asked L O'Connor and D Al-Obaidly to follow up on this, however, both have sent their apologies for this meeting. L Brady is aware that the

L Brady to
further

Medical School have been looking at providing testing for students who are on placement so will follow this matter up.

follow up here.

L Brady raised the matter of PGR vet students returning home for the holidays with the Deans of Graduate Studies. The Deans have now circulated a request to supervisors within the Graduate Schools and Research Institutes to show compassion in allowing their students to return home for the holidays.

L Brady spoke to R Campbell regarding the Unions being used as exam/study spaces. However, as there are a reduced number of students on campus at present, these spaces will not be utilised.

A McKenzie Smith said she will follow up on the opening capacity of the JMS Hub at her meeting with the Project Board tomorrow.

A McKenzie Smith to follow up.

With regards to welfare support for students in halls of residence, L Brady said the University will be reintroducing welfare checks for these students, particularly for those who are staying in halls over the holiday period. A McKenzie Smith and Ella McCabe have been involved in working groups regarding the provision of support for these students.

E McCabe is awaiting a response from David Anderson on the possibility of having mental health support/resources more clearly signposted on students' 'Services' section on their MyGlasgow pages.

G Kokkinidis said, with regards to students having issues accessing resources from China, that he is awaiting further information on this matter and will follow up on this.

G Kokkinidis to follow up.

G Kokkinidis said, with regards to guidance on word count policy for exams, there is no overall policy on this. The last time this matter was discussed it was said that the decision will lie with individual courses to decide what the appropriate word count for their exams will be.

3) Sustainability Forum – Liam Brady

The Sustainability Forum was held on 24/11/2020 to discuss the Green New Deal. The document was presented by SRC Environmental Officer A Perez Guardiola who also has ties with the Green New Deal coalition. L Brady found it interesting and insightful to hear the different perspectives offered on the document. SRC endorsement of the document was originally intended to be voted upon at this Council meeting, however, the document is currently being revised and will be voted upon at the meeting of Council in January or February 2021. L Brady shared a word document, begun by E Simmons, for Council members to put forward any suggested changes to the document. D Henderson's suggestions have been incorporated and L Brady encourages other members of Council to offer their own feedback in advance of the document being voted on. C Hashimoto-Cullen's comments have also been taken into account.

L Brady said the 'Accountability and Transparency' section of the document stimulated discussion and debate among forum attendees. He invited A Perez Guardiola and E Simmons to comment on any changes the GND coalition are planning on making/willing to make to the document.

A Perez Guardiola said the most substantial change that the GND Coalition is making to the document relates to including a specific section on social justice, as it was felt that the document in its current state does not place enough importance on this area. A Perez Guardiola said this change is being affected thanks to C Hashimoto-Cullen's input on the document.

A Perez Guardiola said the GND coalition is happy to reword the 'Accountability and Transparency' section in order to secure support for the document from the SRC.

E Simmons confirmed substantial changes are being made to this section of the document.

A Perez Guardiola said all sections of the document, except for the 'Building & Infrastructure' section which did not receive any requested changes, will have parts re-worded or further clarification provided. He

said that when the document is voted upon by the SRC Council he will provide the final version of the document as well as a summary of any changes that have been made.

L Brady said there was unanimous support for green roofs being factored into campus redevelopment plans. L Brady expressed thanks to the GND coalition for accommodating the suggested changes to the document by SRC Council members. L Brady asked Council members to provide any further feedback on the document before the holiday period, so that this will give enough time for any changes to be made before SRC endorsement of the document is voted on in the New Year.

D Henderson expressed thanks to the GND coalition for taking into account the feedback of SRC Council members and making adjustments based on it.

E Simmons thanked SRC Council members for their feedback and for their engagement with the GND.

4) Council Reports:

a) SRC President: Liam Brady

L Brady said this has been a challenging year and encouraged all Council members to take care of themselves and utilise the support services at the SRC/University if needed (such as CaPS and The Advice Centre).

L Brady said the SRC Spring election will take place in March 2021, with nominations opening mid-February. He encouraged any Council members considering running for a Sabbatical Officer position to dedicate some thought to this over the holiday period and to reach out to a current Sabbatical Officer for advice.

L Brady said since the previous Council meeting M Serneabat has resigned from her role as SRC Race Equality Officer. He said M Serneabat posted an open letter on Facebook but that it has been difficult to engage with her as she has also blocked the Sabbatical

Officers and the letter kept changing. L Brady said what was noted in M Serneabat's letter was her experience of being on the SRC Council and it is unfortunate that this was not an overly positive experience for her. L Brady noted for context that this information represents M Serneabat's view of events. L Brady said that M Serneabat noted that there was a complaint involved in this matter. L Brady said in his first Council report of 2020/21 he mentioned giving a Council member a formal warning with regards to this complaint. He said that this Council member was M Serneabat but that he would not be discussing the complaint in more detail, out of courtesy to the person that made the complaint. L Brady said that, while M Serneabat's account is one-sided, she does raise some points which have been useful for the SRC to consider and take on board. He said that he does not think it is fair to discuss the matter in more detail as M Serneabat is not present at this meeting and, as such, is unable to address the matter herself.

K Craig asked, with reference to University staff being asked to be sympathetic when assessing Good Cause claims, who will actually make these decisions and how can the SRC hold them accountable for these decisions.

L Brady said he believes decisions on Good Cause are made at a local level through a student's School and its exam board. He said Class Representatives should maintain a dialogue with School staff on these decisions to ensure that staff are being held accountable, and that SRC School Representatives and College Convenors are also able to represent students academically here. L Brady said G Kokkinidis will speak, during his own Council report, on the UofG Greens' call for the No Detriment Policy to be reinstated.

D Henderson said on the 8th and 9th of December the Scottish Government released their guidance for the return of students after the festive break. The guidance states that students who do not have critical teaching should return on a staggered basis between January 25th and February 8th. D Henderson asked if the SRC could lobby for the University to take action here in order to mitigate the

financial impact on students who are paying rent for halls of residence which they are being advised not to return to.

L Brady said the University is offering rent rebates to students in halls of residence from the period beginning 04/01/2021 until they choose to return to their accommodation. He said the University is trying to organise a booking system for students returning to halls, with the hope that this can tie in with students booking a Covid-19 test as well, as the University is keen for students to take a test before they return to halls. L Brady said that, while a rent rebate will be offered to students in halls, this is not generally being offered by the private sector PBSA providers. The SRC will, of course, lobby PBSAs to provide these rebates. L Brady noted that UofG has been quite cooperative on this subject, unlike Universities in other UK cities. He noted that a blanket approach from UK universities would have been more helpful to the effort to lobby PBSAs but that the SRC will strive for this, nonetheless.

D Henderson asked for clarity on whether the rebate will cover the entirety of the rent that a student would pay over the period they are not in halls.

L Brady said the rebate will cover from 04/01/2021 until a student decides to come back to halls.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said M Serneabat's letter was quite strongly worded and asked if the SRC were going to issue a response to it. She said that she is concerned that now there is no Race Equality Officer on Council and that this position will not be filled for several months. C Hashimoto-Cullen asked, on that point, what the SRC plan to do to ensure students are still represented in terms of race equality.

L Brady addressed C Hashimoto-Cullen's first question and said he has been considering a response, but this has been made difficult in consideration of the fact the letter is not actually addressed to the SRC. Furthermore, as M Serneabat has blocked the Sabbatical Officers they are no longer able to see the letter and, as previously

stated, the content of the letter kept changing so it was difficult to be clear on what the SRC was responding to. L Brady said there has also been thought that responding may not address the concerns raised properly or may escalate matters. He said that M Serneabat is welcome to contact the SRC directly in order to discuss the letter, however, he also acknowledges the importance of letting others know that the SRC is addressing the letter. In light of these considerations the SRC has not decided on what action to take, if any, in response to M Serneabat's letter and L Brady is open to considering the input of Council members regarding this. With regards to the position being vacant, L Brady said this is unfortunate. When a Council welfare position is vacated early, the duties of this position then fall to the VP who line-manages the position. L Brady said support with these duties from other members of Council would be welcome.

E Simmons said she has spoken to M Serneabat. She said that, while she herself did not add her name to the open letter due to her position on Council and having not received all the information on the matter, she believes that the situation raises very serious concerns. She said that, while the truth of the matter might be important, M Serneabat's experience must be the prime factor taken into account notwithstanding what actually happened.

E Simmons said she understands that a response from the SRC is complicated by the fact the letter was not sent directly to the SRC, however, M Serneabat has said she has not received a response accepting/confirming her resignation – something E Simmons believes is necessary. She added that this raises the problem of there not being any information in the SRC constitution regarding resignations and that she believes this information should be added.

E Simmons said, in light of some of the things M Serneabat mentioned in the letter, that the SRC could perhaps benefit from a revised Safer Spaces Policy, whereby if someone experiences something they can bring this concern to the SRC.

E Simmons said M Serneabat would be open to partaking in a conversation with the SRC if she was accompanied by others, as she currently feels like she has been quite attacked due to aggressive responses she has received after posting her letter on Facebook. E Simmons feels these responses do not foster a good environment for a person to bring an issue to the SRC.

E Simmons said that the issues that M Serneabat has raised are separate to the system of Safer Spaces and how concerns can be raised to the SRC, but E Simmons believes these are very serious issues.

L Brady said the replies on Facebook are difficult for the SRC to intervene on, considering, as far L Brady is aware, no current Council members have replied to the letter on Facebook. L Brady said he did not reply personally as he did not believe it was appropriate to do so.

E Simmons said she understands this but said the SRC has a duty of care to its members if they are facing this kind of aggression. She said this aggression is leading to M Serneabat not wishing to engage with anyone as she is scared to do so. E Simmons said the aggressive responses have fostered a situation where an open dialogue is not possible and the problems that are being faced cannot actually be discussed.

L Brady commented that he was sympathetic to some of E Simmons points. L Brady said that he met with M Serneabat several times while she was a Council member, as did E McCabe, and that he had set up a meeting with M Serneabat before she resigned to discuss matters, however M Serneabat cancelled this meeting. L Brady said he takes on board the issues M Serneabat has raised and recognises that this was her experience on Council, however, as the letter was posted to Facebook, L Brady believes it is fair that the SRC articulates its side of events.

L Brady said the acceptance of M Serneabat's resignation will be actioned. He said he was unsure on how to proceed here given that resignations are an infrequent occurrence.

L Brady agreed that, while not necessarily a constitutional matter, a process should be in place for dealing with resignations and that this is good feedback for the SRC to receive, should any resignations occur in the future.

L Brady asked E Simmons to expand on Safer Spaces Policies.

E Simmons said she believes Safer Spaces Policies were developed through activist groups, with workplaces and institutions now also adopting them. She said a Safer Spaces Policy allows a dialogue to be fostered between a person who wishes to raise an issue/complaint or feelings they may have regarding the machinations of a wider group they are involved in. She said it is a system which allows a person who has an experience/relationship with those they are working with which does not make them feel particularly safe or happy to bring this matter forward to be acknowledged and addressed. E Simmons said she would be happy to speak further on this and assist with the implementation of such a policy, stating that there are many policies in the place elsewhere currently which could be adapted for the SRC.

L Brady stated he believes the SRC are fortunate to have a structure in place where it has a President, three VPs, a Permanent Secretary and The Advice Centre. He said the SRC will take what E Simmons has said under consideration perhaps these services could be better signposted so students know where to raise any concerns they may have.

J Hegele said perhaps the SRC could release a statement providing assurance that there will not be a gap in care for students. She said she believes that this would be appreciated by any students who feel disenfranchised.

C Hashimoto-Cullen, H Pentleton and S Wilson agreed with this.

L Brady to
action.

S Malis said he believes a way to have an open discussion regarding points raised in the letter should be organised.

J Hegele said she agrees with S Malis and said it is troubling not knowing the full situation as it feels difficult to form a full opinion currently.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said one of the difficulties that someone might have when representing students who are not white lies in the fact that Scotland is a predominantly white country, with the University also having a predominantly white population. She said she understands not all representative roles are undertaken by white people and said this issue is not a problem L Brady has, but feels this can pose difficulties for students who want to relate issues of racism to a white person but are often deterred by the process of having to provide a very long introduction before they can explain how they are actually feeling.

E Simmons said addressing this difficulty could be written into a Safer Spaces policy.

S Malis said sometimes it can be difficult to bring up sensitive issues.

L Brady acknowledged the concern raised by C Hashimoto-Cullen. He said the fact that M Serneabat was a member of the Race Equality Group yet she still did not feel like she knew who to address her concerns to is revealing of the fact that this is an issue within the SRC which it needs to address, and one which it can take to the University as well to ensure students know who their points of contact within the University are.

E Simmons said a Safer Spaces policy would extend beyond procedural process and information on who students should contact if they had an issue and would outline how an issue would be addressed on an emotional level.

L Brady acknowledged that E Simmons raised a good point.

E McCabe acknowledged that J Hegele raised a good suggestion and that the SRC should perhaps release a statement assuring students that, while there is no longer a Race Equality Officer on Council, students who's needs are reflected through this position will not go un-represented until the next election as the email contact for this role will still be active and other duties will be assumed. She said, with regards to Council members calling for an open discussion on the matter, that this is difficult for the Sabbatical Officers to engage with as, while M Serneabat is no longer in her position and is free to post her views on Facebook, due to the fact the matter largely involves a complaint made by another person, the Sabbatical Officers are restricted in how much they can speak on the issue.

L Brady said that, out of respect to the person who raised the complaint, they cannot go into detail on the matter. He said the SRC is committed to equality and diversity and want to ensure that this is known so, based on Council members' suggestions, he feels that a statement reassuring students of this would be a good idea.

A Perez Guardiola said he has also spoken to M Serneabat and that she wished to stress that the letter is not just representative of her own views but those of a group of students who feel the same way and wish to have their concerns addressed. M Serneabat is concerned that the letter may be understood solely as her own views, rather than those of a group of students.

L Brady said when he read the letter initially, he understood it as coming from M Serneabat alone and that those who signed the letter did so in solidarity. As the letter has been updated a few times this perhaps added to the complexity of the matter.

E Simmons said the matter is complex as M Serneabat wished it to be understood that she was communicating her own views in the letter and not those of others, however certain parts of the letter *are* representative of the views of others and that some of the problems in the letter have been experienced by some but not others.

L Brady said an initial potential concern of his was that those who signed the letter would not necessarily be aware of what they had signed, as the letter had undergone revisions, but he believes that is why perhaps a conversation with M Serneabat would be useful. L Brady said if M Serneabat was amenable to having a conversation with him, accompanied by other people she feels safe to be around, he would be happy to have this conversation and said members of Council should feel free to relay this message to M Serneabat. L Brady said he recognises, however, that with the end of semester 1 approaching this may not be likely to happen soon.

b) VP Education: Grigoris Kokkinidis

Following on from the meeting on 17/11/2020 regarding the No Detriment Policy, G Kokkinidis received an email from the UofG Greens informing him that they have written a letter to the University asking for the NDP to be reinstated and asking for his support in this effort. Since then, G Kokkinidis and L Brady have met with Jill Morrison and Moira Fischbacher-Smith to discuss the letter and highlight that there is still some confusion over when the NDP started and when Good Cause began and vice versa. L Brady and G Kokkinidis asked if the University's position on Good Cause could be clearly communicated to students, particularly with regards to the expectations for required evidence to support claims relating to this exam diet. They also asked if the University's position on staff being asked to be sympathetic when dealing with Good Cause claims could be communicated to students. These communications were sent out today. Discussions are ongoing with UofG Greens to ensure that all parties understand each other's points of view and that the best system is in place to support students. With regards to these discussions, the SRC does not support having the NDP in place for this exam diet as this would mean that the NDP would cover the majority of senior honours students' honours work and, as such, could heavily impact the value of their degrees.

Following the virtual Class Representative Forum held on 25/11/2020, G Kokkinidis has sent a report to members of the LTC

committee and other University academic groups and this was received very well. G Kokkinidis will circulate the paper to Council members following this meeting. It was also highlighted that feedback and suggestions for change, particularly in regards to assessment and feedback and teaching practices, must be taken on board at a local, School level and that responsibility for this falls to the individual departments who should consult with students on implementing change based on feedback.

J Newton asked, with regards to students who are undertaking integrated masters degrees and for whom the NDP was applied to their 3rd year of study, is the baseline GPA for these students counted with 4th and 5th year of their study or just their 3rd year.

G Kokkinidis said he was unsure here and thinks that integrated masters degrees pose challenges for the application of the NDP.

L Brady said he believes there is a section in the NDP pertaining to integrated masters courses and that he will follow up to try and gain clarity on J Newton's query.

H Hourston said, in response to J Newton, that there is a page on the University website called 'Application of No Detriment Policy for awards being made in 2020-21 and subsequent sessions.' She said the use of the words 'and subsequent...' would indicate that it must apply to students who sat exams during the No Detriment period but who graduate after 2021.

M Clarke said she and others cannot understand why the NDP is no longer being implemented. She referenced an article published today by The Glasgow Guardian on the UofG Greens campaign to have the policy reinstated. M Clarke asked if it would be possible for the SRC to communicate to students why the NDP is not being reinstated, given that many students feel it is unfair that this is the case.

G Kokkinidis said he is unsure as to whether the reasoning had been communicated to students, despite raising this matter himself

L Brady to follow up here.

twice. He said he will follow up here to ensure that this information is properly considered and communicated to students as soon as possible.

L Brady said he believes communications relating to why NDP is not being reinstated and why Good Cause is a more effective system were released today by Jill Morrison.

D Henderson said an email had been sent out to students regarding Good Cause and how to use it, however, there was no information in this email describing why the NDP is no longer being applied.

G Kokkinidis said he will follow up on this matter.

D Henderson referenced the AFWG meeting G Kokkinidis attended on 04/12/2020 and the mention of the University looking into the use of remote proctoring for exams. He said he gathers that there is almost universal opposition from students and staff towards this but understands that some professional degrees may require remote proctoring. D Henderson asked if it would be possible, if the University chooses to create a policy on the use of remote proctoring, for the use of proctoring software to be limited to examinations for degrees which specifically require it for purposes of professional accreditation. D Henderson said the reason for asking this is to prevent Schools from utilising the software when it is not an essential requirement for degree accreditation.

G Kokkinidis said, to his knowledge, there is only one degree which requires the use of proctoring software and this course will use the software in the April/May exam diet. G Kokkinidis said he believes the University are undertaking a literature review on remote proctoring with the hope that this will establish that remote proctoring is not beneficial for assessment, and that these findings can be used to discourage both accrediting bodies from demanding its use and Schools from using it. G Kokkinidis is unaware of any discussions relating to the creation of a policy on remote proctoring but if such discussions do take place he will raise D Henderson's request.

G
Kokkinidis
to follow
up here.

L Brady said it was originally thought that staff were supportive of remote proctoring but from discussions at the AFWG, it would appear that they are not.

S Wilson asked if there has been any indication from the University as to whether they will allow Colleges and, in turn, Schools to negotiate their own exam timings and formats or these will be imposed upon Colleges/Schools. S Wilson said a lot of current discussion surrounds the NDP, but he believes that next year individual College/School-level exam arrangements will be a topic of debate.

G Kokkinidis said the current proposal for the next exam diet is that exams will be kept double-time for all Colleges and Schools. He raised this at a meeting he attended yesterday, asking when the discourse on arrangements for the next assessment diet will re-open. G Kokkinidis asked this question as it was highlighted in a number of meetings over recent weeks that students studying quantitative subjects do not benefit from double-time exams. G Kokkinidis also had a meeting with H Pentleton to discuss the repercussions of applying 100% extra time to all students. He is unsure as to when discussion on exam arrangements will open up again (i.e., whether this will happen next week or from January), but he is going to continue to advocate for reconsideration when this is needed. G Kokkinidis said feedback from students on the proposal for all exams to be made double-time suggests this is not as appropriate an arrangement as it could be for many disciplines. He said he hopes that the feedback he presents to the University during discussions on exam arrangements will effect positive changes to exam arrangements for the next academic year, if not the next exam diet. He said that he is aware the University is currently considering options for best practice for when the opportunity to return to pre-pandemic conditions arises and hopes that when this topic is brought up again in January, there will be discussion regarding the accessibility of exams.

T Kleczkowski said that in the School of Engineering a Good Cause claim is required for an assessment which is late by more than 5 days, while if a student requires an extension of up to 5 days, they can contact their lecturer for this and do not need to provide evidence to support their request. He said, however, that staff are insisting that students submit a Good Cause claim even if the extension they require is less than 5 days. He said this could potentially discourage students from asking for an extension, adding that it also raises the question of whether or not they would be required to submit evidence. T Kleczkowski asked if staff are permitted to insist that students submit a Good Cause claim for these purposes.

G Kokkinidis said, from his own experience as a student, the administration of good cause can vary between departments and he is unsure as to whether there is an overall policy which governs its use. As such, he will look into this matter further and will follow up with T Kleczkowski.

L Brady asked G Kokkinidis to include The Advice Centre on discussion regarding this.

D Henderson said in his subject students can request an extension for an assessment that is going to be submitted up to 5 days late, but that, if a special request is to be made regarding exams (which are currently operating on the 24-hour model) then a Good Cause claim is required. He suggested this could also be the case for the School of Engineering.

L Brady said as extensions are not available for exams, Good Cause would be more appropriate for exam-related requests.

L Schorrlepp said in the School of Psychology, the Good cause system is used for shorter extensions as well, but claims are not required in form of a proper Good Cause Claim. Submitting a claim in this way simply makes it easier for the School to process in regard to exam boards and other related administration.

T Kleczkowski said all the information, even that supplied by the School of Engineering says the same, however, staff still insist that students submit a Good Cause claim for essay extensions.

c) VP Student Activities: Amy McKenzie Smith

Planning for Refreshers' Week 2021 has almost been completed.

Despite initial concerns over student online engagement, the University's De-stress at a Distance campaign has been going well. The SRC's 'Virtual Paws for De-stress' event on 09/12/2020 was very well-received and featured 15 dogs, with over 35 students attending the event.

D Henderson referenced A McKenzie Smith and L Brady's meeting with the police regarding Murano Street Halls on 19/11/2020 and asked for clarity on the nature of the incidents, in terms of whether they were Covid restriction-related incidents or more serious incidents, and whether they involved students or non-students.

A McKenzie Smith said her and L Brady's presence at this meeting was in response to a police request for student representation on a new group formed by local police, in order for the group to check in with A McKenzie Smith and L Brady on their activities. The group said they had been dealing with serious issues such as students going onto the roof of their halls, throwing bottles at police vans and shouting at Security staff. A McKenzie said it was a very small number of students who were involved in these cases. She said there was also large number of taxis coming into Murano from other halls with such activity posing a Covid-19 risk. A McKenzie Smith said she and L Brady agreed with the police on their activity addressing these issues as they do not want students engaging in such behaviour.

d) VP Student Support: Ella McCabe

E McCabe said she has been attending meetings discussing the support that will be available for students over the holiday period. Topics being discussed have included what activities will be available for students over this period, as well as ensuring that University buddies will be active over this break. Additionally, the matter of what substantial support will be available to students over this time was raised, with the SRC being informed that CaPS will remain open in some capacity every day over the break. Other crucial student services will remain open; however, it has not yet been confirmed what services these will be. CaPS will also be making Facebook groups for those who are staying in Glasgow over this period and these will be run in conjunction with Accommodation Services, with the SRC being involved as co-hosts. Student ambassadors will be involved in these groups and will try and encourage students to meet up for activities such as socially distanced walks in order to combat students potentially feeling isolated. Any events will also be posted on the SRC's Native site. There will also be volunteering opportunities available through GU Volunteering if students wish to partake in these.

The De-stress Native events platform is now live. E McCabe emphasised that the weblink for this is different from the SRC's Glasgow Student Events site. She said that in a meeting with 1st Year coordinators, the Heads of Schools present were unaware of the SRC's Native sites but had received feedback from students who wished to know what events and wellbeing activity were going to be on offer. In order to address this gap of visibility, E McCabe encouraged Council members to utilise any channels of communication they have to publicise the link to the De-stress Native site on a more local level and to inform Class Representatives of its existence, so that students can be made aware of what wellbeing events are on offer over the next couple of weeks. E McCabe asked Council members to publicise Native more generally as it is proving a challenge for the SRC to spread awareness to students in terms of the events that are being put on the site.

E McCabe and B Hay met with Robert Partridge and Gary Stephens to discuss the implementation of harm reduction workshops at the

University. E McCabe said the SRC hopes to be able to offer these workshops and drug-testing kits to students. She said that the matter of drug education has proved contentious in the past, however, the conversation with R Partridge and G Stephen was very positive. With the University indicating that they would potentially fund these initiatives, the hope is that plans can move forward for these projects in the New Year.

B Camack suggested the link to the 'De-stress at a Distance' Native site be shared with clubs and societies, so that they can publicise it on their social media pages.

E McCabe said she will share the link for this and would encourage Council members to share it as widely as possible. She said that the main Native site will be important throughout the year, but that effort should be focused on publicising the De-stress site as the events on this will be happening soon.

J Hegele said it is perhaps beyond her remit, but she is very interested in equitable harm reduction. As such, she asked if she could look at the notes of E McCabe's harm reduction meeting as she believes it is very positive that the University are looking further into harm reduction.

E McCabe said she has some notes from the meeting but is happy to chat further with J Hegele regarding harm reduction. She said the SRC will be leading on the initiatives with the hope that funding can be secured from the University.

E McCabe
to share
relevant
links.

e) Physics & Astronomy School Rep: Holly Hourston

The Python Argument Clinic for Physics which provides help on coding is unfortunately not able to run this year due to funding issues. H Hourston is very keen to help provide support to students in this area as coding is not typically a skill that students who undertake Physics degrees have experience with. H Hourston said if any members of Council have buddying systems set up in their

Schools, can they please pass on information on how these operate, as she is looking to set something similar up for her School.

H Hourston said the Physics and Astronomy Societies have set up a study group over Zoom which 1st and 2nd year students can submit questions to via an anonymous padlet, with society members then answering these questions over Zoom. H Hourston encouraged members of Council to set up similar groups as she believes they are very beneficial to students.

In the National Student Survey, Physics is lacking in the categories of 'student voice', marking and assessment' and 'feedback.' H Hourston said in particular there was a question which asked if students felt as if their academic interests were being represented by their student bodies/student unions, with the majority of students answering that they did not feel this way. She said she believes only 30% agreed that their academic interests were represented by a student body and asked if this matter was something that would fall under the SRC's jurisdiction. H Hourston noted, however, that she was unsure what the SRC could do here, given that the education segment of the survey is already very busy. H Hourston said she would appreciate any feedback on this.

S Malis said a buddy system is also needed in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences.

L Brady said the question H Hourston referred to in the NSS changed a few years ago and that the current wording of the question often leads students to assume that it relates to whether they believe their academic interests are represented by their student union, rather than the SRC. As the GUU and the QMU are not representative bodies, students often answer this question indicating that they do not feel their academic interests are represented and this confusion leads to the SRC being painted in a negative light.

H Hourston said she and her class representatives feel that the question is very poorly worded.

L Brady agreed the question was not worded well. He said the SRC would not be able to change the wording of the question but said that, when the NSS is being carried out, academic representatives and council members who know final year students are encouraged to raise awareness among final year students that this question does refer to the SRC and all the work it does to represent students' academic interests, on top of its work in many other areas.

f) PG Arts Convenor: Kevin Leomo

K Leomo attended a PG SSLC meeting wherein it was discussed that the Graduate School Dean role in the College of Arts would be split in two, with one dean for PGR students and one for PGT students. K Leomo feels this is a positive decision as it will ensure that both cohorts will receive the attention, they require to suit their different needs.

Also, at the SLLC, the idea of giving print credits to all PGR students was discussed - an initiative that would cost the College around £12k. The idea, however, was decided against due to its potential environmental impact and the fact that print credits are not required while students are in lockdown.

K Leomo said some representatives present at the SSLC were confused as to the overall structure of representation. These representatives were aware of the College-level PG SSLC but said that their subjects did not have an SSLC meeting. K Leomo said feedback would suggest that the communications were most lacking at School-level, so the Graduate School are going to work on improving communications here.

Chris Pearce has been holding meetings with PhD students and early career researchers. K Leomo said these meetings have been a great opportunity for PhD students to interact directly with C Pearce, who is the VP of Research, and ask questions regarding UKRI funding and extensions, among other topics.

L Brady said it was interesting to hear that the Graduate School Dean role has been split in two to cover PGR and PGT students, as this mirrors what used to happen in the University before the roles were changed to be split into a Dean for PGT students and a Dean for Learning and Teaching.

g) PG Research Convenor: Catherine Reid

G Kokkinidis said he would like clarity on the structure of the short courses C Reid mentioned in her report as he is concerned about the potential financial impact a shift to a short course structure may have on students. He said he will follow up with C Reid on this.

K Leomo said he would like to ask if C Reid is on the GTA Working Group and whether an update on their work could be provided.

G Kokkinidis said he and C Reid both sit on the GTA working group and that he will circulate and update to all PG representatives on Council.

h) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Lindquist – n/a

i) UG MVLS Convenor: Lewis O'Connor – n/a

j) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jenny Newton – n/a

k) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Duncan Henderson

D Henderson said he wishes all members of Council a merry Christmas and happy New Year when it arrives.

l) Computing School Rep: Scott Wilson

S Wilson informed Council of an incident which happened yesterday and has carried on to today. A female student posted on the social media page 'Glasknow' regarding reporting that she felt uncomfortable because she felt builders at the Boyd Orr Building were staring at her. S Wilson said the post attracted a lot of responses which he felt were inappropriate. He said one response in particular acted to provide a defense against the student's claims, which led to a prolonged argument in which it became obvious that

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to follow
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women's opinions were being dismissed. S Wilson said unfortunately everyone that was arguing in this chat happened to be Computing Science students and that subsequently the argument spilled over into a CS course chat. At this point the matter gained further traction among students and allegations surfaced regarding this person in particular acting inappropriately towards women and making them feel uncomfortable, with his response in turn making women feel even more uncomfortable. S Wilson said this person had been removed, a response which he thought was encouraging as it showed a lack of tolerance. However, S Wilson is now receiving many questions in the chat about how to report behaviour that has been brought to light due to this – behaviour they would deem as general sexism or creepiness from men at the University. S Wilson said a lot of people were sharing stories regarding nothing being done after things had been reported, or worse, bad outcomes. S Wilson felt like this represented an outpouring of mood and opinion which had built up regarding this issue. S Wilson asked, in the immediate term, if he could be provided with any resources and/or points of contact for reassurance which he could provide to reassure those who have contacted him. S Wilson said he does not want women in this chat, and women in CS specifically, to feel uncomfortable at any point so would like to be able to offer reassurance that these kinds of responses and this kind of attitude being taken towards people reporting their experiences is not okay and that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated.

S Wilson also feels there should be some sort of response to content of this type appearing on anonymous pages. He said there was a follow-up post calling out this type of behaviour, with many responses to this post being disgusting in themselves. S Wilson asked any female members of Council who had read the post how they felt when they saw it, as it seems to him that Glasknow is increasingly being used as a means for reporting sexist/problematic behaviour, with this being somewhat drowned out by waves of men, in particular, leaping to the defense against such reports for ridiculous reasons. S Wilson believes this is setting a bad example, is concerned that it is stopping people from speaking out about these things and feels it is spreading bad examples in general.

S Wilson shared a quote from a woman in the chat which troubled him greatly. The quote read “And also there is not a single girl in our year of Computer Science who does not have an experience of being creeped out (by this particular person).” He opened the issues raised up to Council for questions.

L Brady thanked S Wilson for raising this matter and said that, in terms of what support is available to students, The Advice Centre is a first point of contact to direct students to. He said there is also the reporting tool which students can use to report an incident. With these services in mind, he encouraged S Wilson to pass on details of the support that is available to students.

S Wilson said he feels the issue at hand relates to issues of general sexism which students may feel are too minor to report but which do affect them, and that he is concerned about this. He said there were a lot of women in the chat he referenced who were leading messages and typing responses, only to then delete their messages. S Wilson feels there are a lot of people who are affected by this issue who lack the confidence to speak out or simply do not want to as they feel they will be met with a negative response due to attitudes in the current climate.

J Hegele said S Wilson is welcome to pass her contact details to the students he has referred to as she would be very keen to be able to speak personally to anyone who is comfortable to do so, regarding specific needs that they would like addressed in conversation.

J Hegele said that she can pen a statement if the SRC would like to respond addressing this matter.

C Hashimoto-Cullen and E Simmons said that J Hegele penning a statement would be a good course of action. M Clarke said this issue is of particular importance given the wider context of the Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

K Craig said she has seen some inappropriate posts from Glasknow and would be able to provide further comment.

J Hegele said as someone who is unfamiliar with Glasknow, she is shocked by the information S Wilson has relayed. She said that posting the University's reporting tool as an alternative, anonymous, comment-free zone to air grievances would be a positive step in addressing this issue.

L Brady agreed with J Hegele that the reporting tool would be an effective means of support for students and that this should be highlighted to students along with the support available from the SRC Advice Centre.

L Brady said if they see problematic behaviour on Glasknow, Council members could, if they feel comfortable, leave a comment regarding the support available from The Advice Centre as well as information on the reporting tool. He said that, as Glasknow is frequently checked by students, posting these resources in its comments may allow more people to see this information than if the SRC put out the same communications itself. L Brady added that he is aware that the comments section of Glasknow has been used for highlighting available support in the past.

L Campbell asked if J Hegele could expand on her suggestion that students be directed to the reporting tool as a means of support.

J Hegele thanked S Wilson for bringing this matter to the SRC Council, noting that she would not have been aware of this issue as she does not use Facebook extensively. She said a message could be communicated to students regarding the reporting tool which could, for example, posit the tool as an alternative to publicly posting something that might receive hateful comments in response and allow people to actively interact with it in negative ways, as S Wilson mentioned is happening currently. She said the reporting tool could be posited as a service which allows people a safe space to articulate what has happened to them or issues that they are facing, as well as something that could lead to recrimination if the person

feels that is necessary. As such, the reporting tool would allow students the opportunity not just to say something into a void of angry men but to voice it in a way that could, if they wish, have a sizable impact on a perpetrator. Essentially J Hegele proposes marketing the reporting tool as an alternative to an online Facebook group.

S Wilson said J Hegele made a very good point and thanked her for her input.

L Campbell thanked J Hegele for clarifying.

E Simmons said this raises the issue that someone feels they have to post something online in order to feel they would be heard. She said, however, that she believes J Hegele's suggestion would be a good course of action.

T Kleczkowski asked for clarity on the reporting tool.

J Hegele said the SRC links a reporting form for students to disclose instances of sexual violence and gender-based violence and that this can be found on the SRC's resource base. J Hegele provided a link to the resources on the SRC's website for dealing with sexual violence.

T Kleczkowski thanked J Hegele for clarifying.

E McCabe thanked J Hegele for providing this link.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked if the University's UG recruitment team have any positive discrimination measures in place, as the number of male students in subjects such as Mathematics and, in particular, Computing Science, are very dominant. She said it is quite sad for young female students to represent a tiny minority within a large number of male students. She said a possible solution to this issue would be to try and ensure that more female students are encouraged to take up these subjects. She said this would be helpful to the female students who are already studying the subject, as it

would be for any students who are not men making the kind of comments previously discussed.

L Brady said each institution has a Gender Action Plan which addresses these issues. He said this came in a few years ago so is unsure as to where it's activities lie currently but invited E McCabe and J Hegele to offer input here as these Council Members attend the Gender Equality Steering Group.

E McCabe said this issue was raised at the last meeting of the Gender Equality Steering Group, particularly in relation to STEM, with the plan being to include in the action plan for next year a targeted approach to recruiting women for these subjects and to promote such subjects as safe spaces for female students.

J Hegele said a concern of her's is that this effort is very staff-driven. She said this issue and the issue S Wilson raised needs to be addressed as this is clear evidence that not accounting for gender diversity in courses leads to toxic environments.

C Hashimoto-Cullen provided a link to the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science. She said the committee is created by the academic unions of each discipline and that she believes it may be a useful resource for addressing this issue.

J Hegele thanked C Hashimoto-Cullen for providing this resource.

S Wilson said the issue troubles him greatly. He said the hope would be that students would possess the self-awareness not to promote similar views to those expressed on anonymous social media pages in the midst of people who know them personally and who they have professional ties to, as well as on front of women in the chat group mentioned.

Z Alshaber suggested asking the group's admin to pause messages until the toxicity has been dealt with.

J Hegele said she recognises that the SRC's jurisdiction does not allow for the moderation of such chats, but she said it was very good that S Wilson brought this issue to Council.

E McCabe said it can often be difficult to be confrontational and that this is not always the most beneficial way of addressing a matter, however, she emphasised the importance of signposting the help and support available for students who find themselves affected by conversations which are not visible to the SRC.

L Brady directed S Wilson to The Advice Centre page of the SRC website and to the list of resources regarding support for gender-based violence. He said this would be a good link to share so that students are aware that these avenues of support are available.

S Wilson said he is happy to share this link but that he received many enquiries from people asking him what he can specifically do to address this matter, other than bringing it to Council for discussion. He said there was an apt comment in the chat surrounding this matter which read that the person involved's behaviour "was indicative of the problem of refusing to recognise serious issues with behaviour towards women in society by not letting discussion of it take place without (hordes of people jumping to a defensive position)." S Wilson said he wonders how much of this is related to a lack of responsibility on the part of Glasknow, as he presumes the admins of this page take discretionary decisions on its content. S Wilson said if someone is reporting something scandalous or important, he understands why Glasknow would post such things, but he feels it is irresponsible for Glasknow to not subsequently moderate the comments afterwards. He highlighted the dozens of angry comments from men saying the same thing, as well as, in particular, the comments of an older man who was trolling people on the page, with no action then being taken against this person. As such, S Wilson wonders to what extent this issue relates to the moderation of anonymous pages and whether this is something that could be dealt with.

L Brady said he is aware that Glasknow do moderate/are quite selective regarding the content they post but feels it is a significant error on their part that they do not seem to moderate the comment sections of posts. L Brady said he is unsure as to how to address the issue.

T Kleczkowski said it is always worth raising issues with the page's admin. He clarified that he was not defending the admins but posited that it can be difficult to keep up with comments as Facebook admins.

H Pentleton said it is sad that this is not the first instance of something like this happening in the Glasknow comments. She said the whole page is covered with misogynistic bile but deleting comments means no scandalous stories.

J Hegele said, as this information has just been presented to Council, it would be pertinent to evaluate all possible routes of action for moving forward and taking action on this. J Hegele said she believes this is a volatile position to be in considering examples in recent years of universities' private chats, closed Facebook groups or group chats being used by men who attend university or alumni organisations and who use vile, misogynistic language within these groups. J Hegele proposed the idea of the SRC taking a stance against Glasknow for this kind of behaviour, in consideration of the fact that such behaviour has been perpetrated for a very long time. She said if this information is just being brought to Council today then this kind of behaviour will only worsen unless someone takes vocal action against it. She said for her peace of mind, and that of many others who look to the SRC to stand up as representation for marginalised groups, it could be pertinent for the the SRC to make it known that it does not support Glasknow, as the behaviour is just evocative of a larger problem that is only growing on that interface.

L Brady said he believes J Hegele made a very good point. He said there may be a perception that the SRC does not wish to take Glasknow down or act in a way which would ruin enjoyment of the page and the positive content it can post. L Brady said, however,

that the reality is that a lot of the content they do allow is not positive and that even its positive content can quite quickly turn bitter in the comments section or turn derogatory against a person or group of people. L Brady said he would be happy to call Glasknow out with regards to these issues.

K Craig said there have been comments within 1st year group WhatsApp groups regarding Glasknow posts which have made students feel uncomfortable.

J Hegele said she would be happy to draft a statement, with guidance from the Sabbatical Officers, addressing this issue. She welcomed members of Council to assist her with this, should they wish to.

D Henderson said the 'Glashoe' page is also a problematic concept.

K Leomo said it does not seem particularly appropriate to have a Facebook page which posts anonymous comments.

S Wilson said he received numerous messages from people, men in particular, after he said he was going to bring this matter to Council, which asked him not to pursue the dismantling of the current infrastructure. He said these messages said they understood S Wilson was not specifically pursuing action be taken towards the main person involved in this matter, but instead pursuing this type of behaviour in general. That being said, however, these messages asked S Wilson not to pursue change to the architecture which, he feels, enabled this matter to occur in the first place. S Wilson said there has been evidence of misogynistic and problematic comments on Glasknow for years and, as such, he believes the page should be strongly urged to moderate their content. He said there are lots of people who are 'top fans' of the page who post and troll on the page, but that there also untold numbers of people, women in particular, who just follow the page and passively engage with it. As such, S Wilson expressed concern over the message this page broadcasts regarding what life at Glasgow University is like, as he feels this content could indicate that incidents of sexual harassment

appear to be common. He said he does not believe this is common but from what Glasknow post, and what they prioritise posting, there is a case that they are normalising this behaviour. S Wilson said the majority of people do not engage in such behaviour but the content of Glasknow gives the impression that this is a prevalent/acceptable attitude when it is not.

L Brady said he believes this is a very useful and insightful discussion. He appreciates this is not an easy conversation to have but said he believes Council members are all appreciative that this matter has been brought to their attention.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said, with regards to J Hegele's comments, that the complaints procedures of the SRC and the University could be marketed as alternatives to posting to Glasknow. She said she has seen a lot of posts on Glasknow regarding racial violence or from survivors of sexual assault pointing out people who have been violent towards them. C Hashimoto-Cullen said she assumes these matters were on Glasknow as people were unaware of where they actually should direct their complaints/negative experiences to. To exemplify this further she said that she, herself, would not know where to go to report something if she needed to. She said, with Glasknow, unfortunately the eventualities are that people who relate an awful experience perpetrated against them by someone else can either expect a nasty comment in reply, or their post will be ignored and forgotten about forever. As such, she said perhaps the SRC and University complaints procedures should be better publicised so that Glasknow does not take the place of something which actually allows for action.

L Brady thanked C Hashimoto-Cullen for her input.

Ella McCabe said in terms of smaller spaces like group chats, the unfortunate reality is that the SRC cannot monitor all of these. This is why wider work around raising awareness, furthering education on consent and gender-based violence and improving the Report and Support system are all things the SRC is currently working on.

J Hegele said the reporting tool is not well publicised at present but that this will be overhauled in semester 2. She suggested a campaign to promote its use.

A Venkatesan asked if it would be possible to make compulsory the Equality course on Moodle. She said it is possible this would not affect sizeable change, but it could be useful.

P Aasen agreed with M Clarke but said anonymity is not entirely avoidable on the internet.

E McCabe said she and J Hegele will be involved in the overhaul of the reporting tool.

m) Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Ananya Venkatesan

A Venkatesan said, with regards to community-building for all subjects within her School, there has now been a Microsoft Teams page set up for this. The page has not yet been rolled out to all students as decisions are still being made regarding the administration of the page. Class Representatives will give the opportunity to be page moderators in this regard. The Teams page will allow all subjects within the School to interact with each other and have more informal contact. This will be distinct from a Moodle page as no staff will be involved. As such, the Teams page will be akin to a common room for students which could prove useful for community-building purposes.

n) Engineering School Rep: Tomasz Kleczkowski

T Kleczkowski said students have not yet received clarity on arrangements for next semester and whether they will have compulsory labs. He said the matter is constantly under discussion at LTC meetings, however, no conclusions have been reached and no clarity has been offered.

Since the beginning of the current exam diet, T Kleczkowski has received messages from students and Class Representatives

complaining that the length of exams are too long. He said they have raised the matter with lecturers and the Head of Learning and Teaching but T Kleczkowski is unsure on how to tackle this issue.

G Kokkinidis addressed T Kleczkowski's second point and said a concern of his that was brought up in a meeting last week regarding exams was that the University's guidance on double-time exams would potentially be misunderstood by Schools who would potentially look to make their exams longer or more difficult because their students were being given more time to complete them. G Kokkinidis said it is disappointing to hear that this has happened but that is useful knowledge for him to have as he will highlight this issue to the University immediately. G Kokkinidis asked Council members from other Schools to let him know if they were experiencing similar issues in their Schools.

G Kokkinidis said, with regards to students receiving information on whether they need to be in Glasgow/on campus in semester 2 for practical labs, this information should have been circulated to students over a month ago. He does not understand why this information has not yet been conveyed to students, considering that the University told Schools to communicate this in late October/early November.

L Brady said he believes that the College of Science and Engineering are very keen and hopeful that people will be able to come back and be on campus in semester two for labs and other activities. He asked J Newton if she had heard any updates on this from Stephany Biello or at the College's LTC.

J Newton said she has not heard any further information on this matter.

G Kokkinidis said, while the CoSE were keen to have students back on campus for semester 2, they were nevertheless instructed weeks ago by the University to let students know if they are required to be on campus next semester or not. He said all students should have been notified in November if they are required to be on campus in

semester 2 so he does not understand why there are still Schools who have not yet informed their students regarding this matter.

L Brady said timetables have been finalised for a long period of time, so he also does not understand why students have not been informed of their semester 2 requirements.

T Kleczkowski said the issue within the School of Engineering, which has been raised at LTC meetings, is that students were initially told they must come back to campus but that staff have now realised this may not be necessary. He said the point of deliberation for staff is whether they tell students not to return to campus or try and find activities for returning students. T Kleczkowski raised this point at the LTC meeting on 25/11/2020 and staff were not able to provide clarity on the arrangements for next semester.

G Kokkinidis said he will email Stephany Biello for clarity on this point and will copy in T Kleczkowski and J Newton.

L Brady said he gathered that some members of Council had been told by their Schools that they are not required to return to campus in semester 2. He asked if these Council members would return to Glasgow regardless.

D Henderson said he would return to Glasgow.

L Brady said this was reassuring to hear and reflects the opinions of those in halls of residence that the SRC has spoken to.

L Brady said filming for the opening of the JMSLH would take place in January and Council members who will be back on campus at this time will be involved in this, as has been already been arranged.

o) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Sam Malis

S Malis said he was planning to contact his Class Representatives in the next few weeks to check in with them on how they are finding the current exam diet.

L Brady said that there is currently 50% off train ticket prices for students travelling between two stations in Scotland. He said the SRC have already released communications publicising this but wanted to mention this at Council in case any members were not aware.

p) Humanities School Rep: Lauren Campbell

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked if the Library Committee could re-organise space within the Library so that, in the event of another lockdown, students would not have as much difficulty accessing a place to study.

L Campbell said this matter was addressed by the Committee last week and that the Committee acknowledged the difficulty of re-organising space in the building with the levels above Level 4 being currently temporarily closed and access to books being restricted.

L Brady said the move to Level 4 and the removal of books have impacted on what space is available to students within the Library. He said that, going forward, the JMSLH should be able to provide space for students and help to take this pressure off the Library. He added that the Library are generally very receptive to the SRC's suggestions so he shall raise this matter with them.

D Henderson said there is also study space available in the Fraser Building.

q) Life Sciences School Rep: Smilla Huzell

S Huzell has been working with L O'Connor on improving College-wide and School-specific Moodle sites.

S Huzell hosted 3 open feedback sessions for her Class Representatives prior to the beginning of the exam diet, however, attendance, unfortunately, was poor. She said she plans to re-organise these sessions after the holidays.

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r) PG Social Sciences Convenor: Ketong Zhang

K Zhang said there has been disappointment from Chinese students regarding a chartered flight not being provided for them from China to Glasgow for the January term. He said the University used to promise this service to students beginning their studies in September and that, from the information the University was collecting, students were under the impression this would be provided for the January term, however, this is not the case. He suggested, to help avoid this issue in the future, the University improve their preparations before collecting information from students regarding travelling from China to Glasgow.

L Brady said he is not sure on why the flight was not provided but that the SRC will raise this issue with the University, with the hope that this is not an issue in the next academic year.

s) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Chloé Hashimoto Cullen

C Hashimoto-Cullen has been speaking with her LTC about complaints from students regarding exam lengths. She said students who normally receive double-time for their exams do not believe it is fair that they are not being given extra time for their exams now that all other students are receiving double-time. C Hashimoto-Cullen said she is going to continue her communications with the LTC on this issue and that a School-wide survey is going to be carried out by the School with the idea this will strengthen backing for not providing double-time to all students in next semester's exam diet. She added that unfortunately this issue will result in exams being considerably easier for most students and considerably harder for the small number of students who do actually require extra time.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said a lengthy, positive discussion on decolonising the curriculum took place at the Academic Forum on 03/12/2020. She said she has recently been reading a book entitled *Taking Up Space* which was written by two black women who went to Cambridge University. She highlighted the second chapter of the

L Brady to
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book, which deals with whiteness in academia, and the book in general, as very useful resources for moving forward on this issue.

G Kokkinidis thanked C Hashimoto-Cullen for highlighting *Taking Up Space* and that he intends to read it.

G Kokkinidis said that discussions with University regarding double-time for exams are ongoing. He said there has been some discussion on exam arrangements for next semester and that he has highlighted that students who normally receive double-time should receive additional time so as not to be unfairly disadvantaged.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said she understands that, given the number of students being assessed, it would be difficult to reassess all students on time. She added, however, that, as it only seems to be a few specific courses and Schools which require students to be reassessed, hopefully this will mean there is enough time for most students to be reassessed for exams.

G Kokkinidis said he believes the University's provision of double-time for all students is designed to create an accessible environment for students whose only requirement is a percentage of double-time; for example, those who require 25% of the extra time being given. He said that doing this will help to alleviate the burden placed on the Disability Service and will allow them the appropriate resources to assess students who have more complex assessment requirements.

- t) Medicine School Rep: Deemah Al-Obaidly – n/a
- u) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz – n/a
- v) Veterinary Medicine School Rep: Luke McBlain – n/a

- w) Charities, Clubs & Societies Officer: Becky Laird –

A McKenzie Smith said, on behalf of B Laird, that Glasgow University made just under £50k for Movember. She thanked everyone who participated in/donated to the campaign for their efforts in achieving this.

L Brady said this is a phenomenal amount considering last year's total was £21k, which itself was considerably more than the previous year's total. He said this achievement is a credit to the efforts of A McKenzie Smith, B Laird and RAG and thanked all those involved in the campaign and all those who donated.

x) Disability Equality Officer: Hailie Pentleton

The SRC celebrated International Day of Disabled Persons on 03/12/2020. H Pentleton said this was a positive occasion and encouraged Council members to have a look at the Language and Disability Guide she worked on which is now on the SRC website.

H Pentleton said she and E McCabe have been running Disabled Students Focus Groups all week, along with T McFerran. These have been going very well, with strong attendance and students providing the SRC with insights into what changes need to be made going forward.

E McCabe congratulated H Pentleton for her work on the Language and Disability Guide which she said is a great resource. E McCabe encouraged Council members to read it.

y) Environmental Officer: Alvaro Perez Guardiola

The Sustainability Working Group are happy with the Climate Assemblies going ahead, and funding has now been secured for these. This will allow the assemblies to be more inclusive as compensation will be provided to those who take part. The assemblies will take place across seven sessions in semester 2. Details on the sessions are still being finalised but A Perez Guardiola said the prospect of the assemblies is exciting.

z) Gender Equality Officer: Julia Hegele

J Hegele said, along with introducing her to the graphic designer behind Dundee's reporting system, SWAG have put her in contact

with the Muslim Women's Resource Centre who are going to partner with the SRC to offer an event during International Women's Week.

J Hegele said the Rosey Project website launch was an interesting project to be involved in. She said this will provide valuable insights with regards to the creation of a more user-friendly interface for the University's reporting tool.

A draft of events for IWW will be completed by January.

aa) International Students Officer: Patrick Aasen

E Simmons said she had not yet received her SRC Council jumper.

A McKenzie Smith said she would be in the McIntyre Building on a day next week and that any Council members who had not yet received their jumpers would be able to collect them then.

bb) Mental Health Equality Officer: Abigail Charlotte Whelan – n/a

cc) General Rep: Bailey Camack –

The Clubs and Societies student survey is now with A McKenzie Smith and the SRC Communications team. The plan is, once finalised, the survey will be sent out at the beginning of semester 2, coupled with information on student society training which J McKay has been working on.

E McCabe asked B Camack if he would be interested in running an origami class for the De-stress campaign.

B Camack said he would be happy to.

dd) General Rep: Mia Clarke

All of A McKenzie Smith's representatives met on 09/12/2020 to discuss intended plans for semester 2.

ee) General Rep: Jamie McKay

J McKay has prepared questions to be sent out to clubs and societies with regards to training sessions.

ff) First Year Rep: Kirsty Craig –

K Craig has met with P Aasen, A Perez Guardiola and A McKenzie Smith regarding a student acclimatisation event. The organisation of this event will begin later in December after the end of the exam diet.

K Craig met with Z Alshaber who is organising a Secret Santa for 1st year students. Z Alshaber has received a few sign-ups for this and is hoping to stage it after the end of the exam diet in December.

K Craig has been contacted by students living in Halls of Residence, particularly students in Cairncross House, who are experiencing issues with transparency regarding rules which are quite contradictory. K Craig passed these enquiries on to The Advice Centre and encouraged students to also contact Accommodation Services. She said one student in particular has a meeting scheduled with The Advice Centre. She said this student also received a reply from Accommodation Services with the person who replied acknowledging that their rules do not entirely make sense, that they do not think anyone expects students to stay wholly within their households and that this is unnecessary given the level of infection in September. K Craig said this reply only adds to the confusion for students who fear they could be evicted from their halls for behaviour such as intermingling within different assigned kitchen spaces. As such, she said students are experiencing a lot of concern and confusion regarding this matter.

E McCabe asked if the students in question were in touch with the Advice Centre.

K Craig said that the matter involves a whole floor of Cairncross House. She said the person with authority over this floor is being particularly difficult and, beyond that, the actual rules themselves are confusing students. As such, K Craig has referred these students to the Advice Centre, with whom they have a meeting set up. The matter has, however, been ongoing for a couple of weeks with no resolution thus far.

E McCabe said the SRC have been concerned about issues like this in halls of residence and suggested passing the email from Accommodation Services on to The Advice Centre as well.

gg) First Year Rep: Zainab Alshaber – n/a

5) AOCB

L Brady said Council Secret Santa has almost been finalised but if any Council members wish to participate, they can put their names forward tonight.

L Brady thanked all Council members for their efforts this year and wished them well for the holiday period.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked if there was a list of Council members' email addresses anywhere on the SRC website.

L Brady confirmed there is and explained how to navigate to this section.

A McKenzie Smith said she will get the email addresses for General Representatives updated as she is aware some are missing.

L Brady said any Council members who wish to have their picture appear next to their name on the SRC website can do so by emailing an image to the SRC Communications team.

E McCabe said SWAG are holding their virtual Fight for the Night march tonight and encouraged all Council members to participate in this by taking a picture of themselves holding a sign they would have taken to the march and tagging SWAG social media. She said it is important,

given the discussion on the whole culture of sexual harassment and violence, for all to be vocal and to advocate against this culture.

6) Date of Next Meeting – January 21st 2021