

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 18th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 6 PM
ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: S Kholeif, K Leomo, L Schorrlepp

Attending: B Hay, G Connor, P Swinton

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- 1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt
 - 2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 3) Trustees Report – Gina Connor

G Connor presented the annual accounts for the year ended 30th June, 2020.

The overall income from ordinary activities increased by £36,721. The SRC further received £16,395 in grants from the Government Job Retention Scheme(furlough). Total increase in income for the period against the previous year was £53,116.

The University block grant remains the SRC's main source of income, making up 67% of its overall income during this period.

The SRC also received £100K from the University strike fund in this period to be allocated over 4 years, with this making up part of the designated funds.

Other sources of income for the period remained stable with the exception of Historical Tours, Second-Hand Bookshop and the Printing and Binding Service, with a drop of 28% against the previous period due

to the closure of these services in March. The job retention scheme grants allowed the SRC to keep its part-time student staff employed during the lockdown. The staff received 100% of their salaries with the SRC making up the additional 20% of the salary costs.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure for the period fell by 6% against the previous year. This was the result of the direct activity costs and equipment replacement not being incurred in the last quarter of the period due to the forced restrictions of Covid 19 , although there were some additional costs for the setting up of working from home.

Surplus

Although it appears this year the SRC has produced a sizeable surplus of £128,571 for the period. Much of this relates to designated funding committed over a four year period. In the main £79K is the result of the designated funds from the strike fund not used in the period and there was a general unrestricted surplus of £50K as a result of the noted savings in expenditure as explained earlier.

D Henderson asked why the accounts state they have been approved when Council has not yet had a chance to view them.

G Connor said the accounts were initially supposed to be considered by Council in January and that the section in question would be updated after Council had considered the accounts.

D Henderson asked why the salaries for 2 VPs in 2019/20 were higher than the salary for the other 2019/20 VPs.

G Connor explained that Sabbatical Officers are required to take their holidays before their term in office finishes. However, due to the Covid-19, it was agreed with the previous year's Sabbatical Officers that they would be paid for their holidays after their term in office ended, with the

exception of L Brady who was moving into a different Sabbatical role. This explains the difference between his salary and those of the other previous Sabbatical Officers.

D Henderson asked how much of the Fundraising Income mentioned on p62 under 'Other Trading Activities' is made up from advertising revenue.

G Connor said virtually all of this income (£60k) came from marketing.

Alexander Sloan Accountants and Statutory Auditors was approved as the SRC's auditors by D Henderson, seconded by P Aasen.

Govan Law Centre was approved as the SRC's solicitors by E Lindquist, seconded by K Craig.

The SRC's accounts for the year ended 30th June, 2020 were approved by E McCabe, seconded by H Pentleton.

L Brady thanked B Hay and G Connor for their efforts in writing the Trustees' Report.

B Hay said, with reference to the Statement of Activities in the report and the work undertaken last year, that he is aware of some negative and uninformed criticism directed towards the SRC and its Sabbatical Officers on social media and that he hopes this section outlays the great extent and range of work that the SRC and Sabbatical Officers undertake on behalf of the student population. He said he hopes this gives the critical parties in question pause for consideration.

4) Disability Focus Goup Report – Ella McCabe

E McCabe said the report would be going to the University's Disability Review Group next week. She said that the SRC would push for the report's findings to be included in the action list for the review, so that a strong student voice was included on this matter.

5) Refreshers' Report – Amy McKenzie Smith

Refreshers 2021 took place between the 11/01/2021 and 22/02/2021. A McKenzie Smith thanked all those who contributed to the planning and delivery of the event, including SRC staff, its Communications Team and Council members. She said she was pleased with what the SRC were able to achieve with this event.

L Brady thanked A McKenzie Smith for her work on Refreshers and E McCabe and H Pentleton for their work on the Disability review.

6) Council Reports:

a) SRC President: Liam Brady

L Brady said the University's rent rebate system was being implemented successfully. He said the original time period for rebates applied to students returning between 04/01/2021 and 15/02/2021, and that the dates of a second round of rebates would soon be announced, with this round likely to be available until the end of March. L Brady said the SRC would continue to remind students of the application process for rent rebates whilst these are being offered.

The University are looking into providing space in halls of residence for students travelling back to Scotland who are required to quarantine upon arrival. If this is not possible then the SRC will push for the University to financially support these students through this period.

L Brady referenced concern regarding the SRC's advertising of PBSAs. He said he understands this concern. The SRC has been advertising for PBSAs for a number of years, with the view that, as students still look to these providers for accommodation, a positive outcome can be drawn from making students aware of discounts via SRC advertising. L Brady said he is, however, happy to discuss the matter further.

D Henderson asked if there has been any progress on lobbying PBSAs or the Government for rent rebates for students who are unable to return to their accommodation.

L Brady said that he attends monthly meetings with PBSA managers to discuss the support available to students in these accommodations. He said that, while Unite Accommodation offered a 50% rent rebate to students, the issue of rent rebates with these providers in general is ongoing and may need to take place on a national scale, adding that these providers are currently saying that the government is not supporting them financially so students must look to the University for help with their accommodation expenses. L Brady said a report has recently been written on the work The Advice Centre is doing to assist students with accommodation issues and that this report can be brought to Council. He added that support from the Advice Centre is available to all students, as is University Financial Aid.

E Simmons asked if it would be possible for the University to store belongings for students who wish to end their accommodation contracts but are unable to as they have nowhere to temporarily store their belongings.

L Brady said he believes this is a good idea and said he would follow up with the University regarding it.

b) VP Education: Grigoris Kokkinidis

G Kokkinidis noted a typo on his report.

The STA nominations will close on 26/02/2021. G Kokkinidis asked Council members to encourage their fellow students to submit nominations.

Jill Morrison attended the Academic Forum last week to address students concerns regarding double-time for timed exams and to explain the University's position on this matter. G Kokkinidis said it is clear that there remain student concerns on this issue which have

L Brady to follow up with University regarding storage space for students.

not been addressed by the University's explanation of its position. G Kokkinidis opened this matter up to Council for further comment.

S Wilson said the University's pre-pandemic policy on how it determines disability affordance for assessment is different to the the policy it is implementing now, in that it has shifted from a position of granting extra time to only students who require it, to a position related to the assessment. S Wilson feels this change of position should be clearly explained to students – a view which Jill Morrison was in agreement with. He said that when this view has been expressed by students, the University has not made it clear that there has been a change of their position. S Wilson said the University, at the least, should issue an email to students, via the Disability Service, acknowledging that it has changed its position with regards to disability affordance for assessment, explaining the reasons why, and outlining how students can still receive the support they require.

G Kokkinidis said he believes S Wilson has made a good suggestion and that he will happily take this to the University, asking that a communication be released either via the Disability Service or in conjunction with them. He added that he is aware that the University are releasing a communication soon which addresses the issue of double-time for exams, but that this should not be confused with the communication which S Wilson has called for.

S Wilson said the questions regarding a change of position were put to the University in a Facebook Live event after the Academic Forum, however, these questions were either given boilerplate responses or no response. S Wilson said this is symptomatic of the University's lack of clear, consistent messaging.

C Reid said her background is in inclusive education and she has worked directly with young people who were looking for accommodations for their exams. She said extra time should not have been granted solely on the basis of a diagnosis. She said the University is now experiencing issues as a result of it often offering extra time in response to students seeking exam accommodations,

G Kokkinidis to follow up with University regarding an explanatory communication on changes to assessment policy.

regardless of whether this was suitable for a student or not. She said, although she fully supports the decision to give double-time to all students and feels it is inclusive to those suffering severe circumstances with no diagnoses or access to extra time normally, she believes the University have made a mistake in terms of not putting together a programme to allow people to express how they are feeling and support them in terms of this new way of working.

L Brady and G Kokkinidis thanked C Reid for her input on this issue.

G Kokkinidis said he agrees with C Reid that the University should have created a platform whereby students who have concerns, could raise these concerns, have them addressed and receive support accordingly. He and L Brady have been speaking with the University and trying to make them aware of how important it is to engage with disabled students . He said the University understands this needs to be donee but that discussions on how to best implement this are ongoing.

H Pentleton said that she was concerned by J Morrison's claim at the Academic Forum that disabled students had been consulted by the Disability Service, when she knows from communications with the Disabilty Service that a proper consultation with disabled students has not taken place (only ad hoc conversations).

H Pentleton asked if it would be possible to have a collective discussion outwith Council on this matter and arrive at a stance which the SRC can take on this policy.

L Brady said he would be happy to have a discussion on this matter but is unsure as to what effect, if any, this would have on the upcoming exam diet, however, he said the SRC could possibly build a strategy around this. He said such a discussion could include discourse on what other support may be made available in the future.

C Hashimoto-Cullen expressed thanks for the work that the SRC has undertaken to see what can be done for students who require appropriate measures for their exams.

C Hashimoto-Cullen said Mathematics and Statistics are struggling with the timetabling of some double-timed exams, due to issues with exam lengths. This is due to the fact that some exams within the School are 3 hours long and, with double-time, a six hour exam would be too long to timetable. She asked G Kokkinidis if he had heard anything further on this issue as it is of concern to her.

G Kokkinidis said this matter had been discussed. He said the University academic community is trying to discourage their departments from having 3hr exams, and instead to opt for 24hr, 2hr, or split timed exams (2hr + 1hr).

C Hashimoto-Cullen said splitting 3hr exams would result in her being required to sit 10 exams this year, which, though understandable, would be an undesirable outcome.

G Kokkinidis said he will raise this in future discussions regarding timetabling.

K Fish said the School of Chemistry did not penalise students for submitting work after a 3hr exam and instead received submissions up to an hour after the deadline. K Fish said the School said they were not required to penalise students for this and so she suggested that a conversation could take place at a School level regarding Schools adopting a more flexible approach to exam timings, and that such exam arrangements could then be communicated to Class Representatives.

G Kokkinidis said, while the University supports certain arrangements for exams, decisions regarding specific exam arrangements are taken at a School/department level.

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D Henderson referenced the C19 TPW meeting G Kokkinidis attended on 04/02/2021 and asked what timescale “No one anticipates a full return to campus...” refers to.

G Kokkinidis said the opinion the academic community has is based on current restrictions and the likelihood of these restrictions changing. He said, with the current restrictions, it is thought to be very unlikely that the University will be able to offer a different experience from last year, come September. He said planning is taking place with the same considerations as last year, so that the University does not promise something it cannot then deliver.

Discussions on this matter are ongoing, with the deadline that the University will release this information to students being their date of registration and enrolment in August. The SRC has stated that this should be the very latest time this information is communicated and that students should be made aware of arrangements as soon as possible. G Kokkinidis said the SRC have also reiterated to the University that they should seriously consider the financial and accommodation-related issues students will face if information on arrangements is not released early, and that they should consider what financial position they will be in to assist students who find themselves in predicaments. The timescale D Henderson mentioned has not been confirmed and no decisions have yet been made, only presumptions which take into account the current restrictions.

D Henderson said he understands that it is difficult to predict what will happen regarding the pandemic, however, he would caution the University against deciding too soon that on-campus teaching will not take place next year, as there is the possibility that meaningful, positive change to restrictions may have taken place by September.

c) VP Student Activities: Amy McKenzie Smith

RAG Week 2021 took place between 08/02/2021 and 12/02/2021. The week featured online events organised by A McKenzie Smith, B Laird and the RAG committee, and raised money for a number of charities. A McKenzie Smith expressed thanks to all those who

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attended the events. A report on the week will be written and circulated to Council.

VCS Award nominations close tomorrow. A McKenzie Smith encouraged Council members to submit nominations for the awards.

The first meeting of the Home Student Working Group which A McKenzie Smith set up with various members of staff from different departments took place on 01/02/2021. The meeting was very productive with each member contributing knowledge and ideas to the WG. The hope is to compile a list of recommendations for home students which can be submitted to the Student Experience Committee.

K Craig asked if A McKenzie could expand on the mention in her report of “trouble in halls.”

A McKenzie Smith said this referred to breaches of covid restrictions by students and that the police had been involved in some matters. She said there is concern amongst staff in halls of residence that one accident could have significant consequences.

L Brady said the SRC are involved in almost-daily conversations regarding student-related issues in halls of residence. L Brady encouraged K Craig, as a 1st Year representative, to direct any students experiencing issues in halls to the SRC, so that it can raise these issues with the University on their behalf.

A Perez Guardiola referenced A McKenzie Smith’s Client Group meeting on 10/02/2021 and asked if there were going to be catering dishwashing facilities available in the JMS building as he had been informed previously that there would not be and that everything would be done using single-use plastics, which would create significant waste.

E McCabe said there are mini-kitchen facilities on two floors of the JMS building with sinks.

A McKenzie Smith said Esther from the client group was confident that sustainability was a priority, reflected by the Vegware bins on each floor. She added that, in terms of the catering side itself, she can follow up for more information here at the next Client Group meeting.

d) VP Student Support: Ella McCabe

A consultation session with Mhairi Taylor will take place on 25/02/2021 regarding the next Public Sector Equality Duty cycle. M Taylor is looking to consult with Council members on setting the equality priorities for the next few years. The link for this meeting will be circulated tomorrow and E McCabe encouraged Council members to attend and contribute ideas.

E McCabe met with Jane Weir from Student Services regarding period products. The University have been working with Student Services to organise an online home delivery service for these products. Progress on this is moving along with the IT interface now complete and the hope to launch the service by the end of March. Products should still be available on all open areas of campus and E McCabe would ask that if Council members hear of any students who have not been able to locate them, to please direct the students to her. Sustainable products are available from the Welcome Point. On-campus products will still be available when the home delivery service launches.

E McCabe confirmed that the Rape Crisis drop-in centre on campus will be implemented in due course. Due to the current restrictions it cannot be implemented at present, however, it will be when restrictions allow.

The 'First Year Acclimatization to Uni Website' is now live and the URL for this is in K Craig's Council report. K Craig encouraged Council members to visit the site and pass it on to any 1st year students they know.

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L Brady commended K Craig's efforts with the website and recommended that Council members visit the site. He said discussions are taking place on integrating it into the main GUSRC website as a more permanent fixture.

e) PG Arts Convenor: Kevin Leomo – n/a

f) PG MVLS Convenor: Hannah Baer –

H Baer said it looks like there will be not be a significant amount of future funding from the UKRI MRC for extensions. Currently they are directing individual programmes to use the money they underspend to help fund extensions. H Baer said the University are going to take over funding for extensions for UKRI MRC funded students.

L Brady said he will raise this matter with Chris Pearce in an upcoming meeting with G Kokkinidis and C Reid. He added that he believes the University will be delivering another round of funded extensions soon.

H Baer said the extension application process can be somewhat distressing for students. Aside from this she feels the University's funding of extensions has been going well.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked if extension funding for PhD students has been discussed with other universities in Glasgow, as she is aware that there is concern among students at Strathclyde University over funded extensions. She suggested a mutualization of efforts on this issue so that individual institutions could spend less time addressing it individually.

L Brady said it had not but that he would raise the matter at the Glasgow Student Forum meeting next week.

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

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

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

L Brady to raise issue of UKRI MRC funding with C Pearce.

L Brady to raise funded extensions issue at Glasgow

j) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Duncan Henderson

At the meeting of the CoSS Learning and Teaching Committee on 28/01/2021 it was confirmed that this committee would be restructured. The committee has now been reduced in size on both staff and student sides. D Henderson, K Zhang and 1 School Representative will sit on the committee. The College is also establishing other committees on equality and COP26, with M Franz sitting on both committees.

Also at the above meeting, D Henderson's paper proposing to abolish paper assignment submissions in the CoSS was passed without objection. D Henderson is pleased with this outcome as this was a pledge in his manifesto.

L Brady congratulated D Henderson on achieving the abolition of paper assignment submissions in CoSS.

k) Chemistry School Rep: Katie Fish – n/a

l) Computing School Rep: Scott Wilson – n/a

m) Engineering School Rep: Tomasz Kleczkowski –

T Kleczkowski said he has received positive support from staff at his LTC meetings.

n) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Sam Malis – n/a

o) Humanities School Rep: Lauren Campbell –

The School of Humanities wish to be involved in the building of Class Representative communities within the School. L Campbell will provide more information on the progress of these activities in her next Council report.

p) Life Sciences School Rep: Smilla Huzell – n/a

q) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Chloé Hashimoto Cullen –

C Hashimoto-Cullen is concerned about students not receiving appropriate provisions for exams. She said the issue lies mainly with the University's senior management for agreeing to allow the current situation to happen.

r) Modern Languages and Culture School Rep: Helen Manson – n/a

s) Physics & Astronomy School Rep: Holly Hourston

A number of 3rd year students who completed a lab last semester have had points removed from their grade by the Lab Head. H Hourston invited J McKay to provide further insight here as he was one of the students affected.

J McKay explained that he and other students had received an email from the Lab Head stating that one of the markers for the lab had been too lenient and that each student's grade was being reduced by two marks for the experiment in question. J McKay does not believe this decision was fair, especially considering two fifths of the mark related to oral assessment which he believes cannot be re-evaluated.

D Henderson said this matter sounds akin to "unfair or defective procedure" which he said is grounds for complaint.

M Clarke said she was under the assumption that grades could only be changed after being reviewed by the board of examiners.

H Hourston said the assessment in question was not an exam but a piece of continuous course assessment. H Hourston said she is hoping to resolve the issue internally, however, the School staff have not responded to her request for a meeting. If the School issue no reply then H Hourston will approach the Dean of Learning and Teaching with regards to the issue. She said that this matter has undermined student trust in the assessment process. H Hourston asked if any Council members' Schools had undertaken recent activities to help their students feel supported.

L Brady thanked H Hourston for bringing this matter to Council. He said that he and G Kokkinidis brought this matter up at a meeting with Senate staff today. L Brady encouraged H Hourston to approach either the Dean of Learning and Teaching or The Advice Centre regarding this issue.

G Kokkinidis said, from the way the issue was described to them, this was a regular practice, however Senate staff criticised the lack of clear explanation to students and the timeliness of the information conveyed.

L Brady encouraged H Hourston to approach J Newton in regards to bringing this matter to the attention of the Dean of Learning and Teaching.

S Wilson said a similar situation happened in the School of Computing Science and that resolutions were reached by students approaching their Year Head individually with their own cases.

H Hourston said the Lab Head had provided an argument based on statistics for this decision, however, students have not been receptive to this reasoning as it is felt that basing this decision on statistics de-values their own individual work.

A discussion ensued regarding students' dismay at the perceived unsuitability of using statistics to determine assessment grades.

L Brady said the SRC would follow up on the issue of students being penalised for late work despite having extensions and reasoned that this may be an issue with MyCampus and the difficulty of recording an extension on this platform.

t) Psychology School Rep: Leonie Schorrlepp –

T Kleczkowski said he supports L Schorrlepp's idea to create an infographic for students explaining how to use the Good Cause

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system during the pandemic with a view to making it easier and less daunting for students to ask for extensions

u) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz –

M Franz now sits on the CoSS EDI Committee. She encouraged SRC Welfare Representatives to contact her with any ideas they would like carried forward, so as to ensure the student voice is heard on this committee. M Franz believes, as a white feminist and in the interests of equality and diversity, that her membership of this committee should be reviewed when the next Council is elected. She added that, in light of recent events, an early aim of the committee is to implement a policy whereby potential speakers are assessed by the College before they are invited to speak at University events. M Franz welcomes input from Council members on this activity with a view to devising a strategy on this that will not result in accusations of ‘cancel culture.’

v) Veterinary Medicine School Rep: Luke McBlain – n/a

w) Charities, Clubs & Societies Officer: Becky Laird – n/a

x) Disability Equality Officer: Hailie Pentleton –

H Pentleton has been in contact with The LUNA Project regarding potential collaborations. The LUNA Project are working on creating accessibility training for clubs and societies and H Pentleton is discussing this project with them, with a view to potentially offering this training to SRC-affiliated clubs and societies.

E McCabe thanked H Pentleton for her help in compiling the Disability Report.

y) Environmental Officer: Alvaro Perez Guardiola

Round 2 of the GUSAxSRC Sustainability Challenge has now started and will run until mid-May. A Perez Guardiola encouraged club and society involvement in the challenge.

A Perez Guardiola encouraged Council members with ideas for student engagement with COP26 to contact Jamie from the Centre for Sustainable Solutions.

A Perez Guardiola said there have been complaints regarding the SRC's advertising of Qatar Airways. He mentioned also that the SRC advertises for a number of private student accommodation providers. He asked if it was possible for a debate to be held on how the SRC decides on its advertising for external parties.

L Brady said advertising decisions are taken by the appropriate staff member and that this area is detached from the Sabbatical Officers, however, he acknowledges that such matters are of student concern. He said there has been concern regarding sexism within Qatar Airways, however, the SRC's research had shown that reparative work had been undertaken to address this issue.

A Perez Guardiola said, with regards to sustainability issues, it seems contradictory that the SRC would advertise for Qatar Airways, or any airline, after endorsing the Green New Deal. He added that Qatar Airways is 100% owned by the State of Qatar, which in itself is problematic as, among other human rights violations, Qatar imposes the death penalty for homosexuality. A Perez Guardiola said he feels Council should have some oversight over advertising decisions, given that he believes symbolic value is placed upon the advertising decisions the SRC makes.

L Brady said he fully accepted A Perez Guardiola's point regarding Qatar's treatment of LGBT persons. L Brady addressed A Perez Guardiola's point regarding the Green New Deal and said that students from the Middle East are still required to fly to Glasgow. As such, an argument could be made that the SRC is advocating for these students' best interests by securing them discounts for such travel.

E McCabe said she agreed with A Perez Guardiola and feels that there should be some oversight from the Sabbatical Officers on the

SRC's advertising decisions, or a procedure implemented to ensure that the SRC prioritises ethical endorsements, as she also finds the advertisement of Qatar Airways to be troubling.

D Henderson said he agreed with the points made by A Perez Guardiola and E McCabe. He said he understands the SRC relies on marketing income, however, he feels that the SRC's reputation among students may be damaged as a result of controversial advertisements.

P Aasen said he agreed with the points raised and asked if the SRC had a policy in place for advertising decisions.

L Brady said the SRC has an equality and diversity policy, however, it does not have a specific policy in place regarding its advertising.

B Hay advised that his role includes overall responsibility for operational matters, including matters such as this. There is a need to balance the financial and reputational interests of the charity. In this case it's about generating the revenue which allows the SRC to fulfil its charitable aims, as laid out in the constitution, by continuing to provide its services to its membership; e.g. supporting clubs and societies, running The Advice Centre, developing Volunteering Opportunities. He said revenue is required to bridge the gap between the block grant the SRC receives from the University and the actual amount it requires to continue operating its services. B Hay said, with regards to ethical advertising, that the SRC does decline advertising requests from businesses, including many alcohol companies. With regards to Qatar Airways, B Hay said there must be some kind of 'statute of limitations' against the wrongdoings of a company, given the historical nature of the problematic behaviour of the airline. However, he had failed to take account of the human rights record of Qatar, which is appalling, and the link between the Airline and the State. B Hay reiterated that, while it was his responsibility to make decisions in areas such as advertising, he would, of course, discuss potentially controversial customers with the President before the go ahead was given. With regard to advertising PBSA, this was considered at a previous

Council around three years ago and there was no will to stop it. One or two students had voiced concerns regarding PBSAs in the past, but this related to opposition to advertising PBSA's due to their expense – a reason he does not consider valid, as it should be about students making an informed choice as to what accommodation they use. B Hay said he understands there is concern over the SRC's public image but is not aware of any significant backlash from students and we need to be careful of knee-jerking response.

P Aasen said the concern expressed by students on social media over the advertising of Qatar Airways is shared by the Council members themselves. He said he understands that B Hay's role is to ensure the charity functions as it should, however, he feels that perhaps a policy should be put in place which sets limitations on who the SRC advertises for.

C Hashimoto-Cullen asked how much money the SRC is receiving from Qatar Airways.

B Hay said the SRC is receiving £-k for the campaign in question.

S Kirby said he acknowledged the validity of the concerns raised by Council members regarding the companies in question. He said that the income being discussed often directly benefits students and facilitates the operation of the organisation so perhaps a more balanced view on the issue could be adopted. He said that, in terms of the SRC's University block grant and the revenue it generates itself, especially over the previous couple of years, the SRC is significantly underfunded in terms of what it feels it should be given to operate its services. As such, S Kirby said such considerations should be taken into account when discussing advertising income. S Kirby added that he does not think the University should disavow air travel entirely as he feels this mode of transport will always be in use and that the University potentially offsetting air travel may provide a more sustainable solution which acknowledges the system within which students exist.

L Brady said he believes it is possible for the SRC to work with advertising partners who align with the organisation's values. He said that while some issues, such as Qatar's treatment of LGBT persons, provide a clear reason for not advertising, he believes that some issues surrounding companies of concern are more nuanced, such as objections to PBSAs. L Brady said objections to the advertising of PBSAs have been raised in previous years and that conversation has been fairly split between opinion that they should not be advertised and the opinion that advertising them allows students greater choice and the potential for saving money on their accommodation.

L Brady said that the SRC cares deeply about its reputation. He said that the organisation's primary goal is to represent students and for students to feel as if they and their values are being represented. He said however that this is a difficult task to achieve in a University with over 30,000 students.

S Wilson asked if there was a good deal of choice for what advertising partnerships the SRC could undertake this year.

B Hay said there was not. He said the SRC does not really have any choice over its advertising partners other than those it rules out for non-commercial reasons (such as alcohol promotions).

B Hay questioned why anger on this issue was being directed inwards to the SRC when an overarching issue was the lack of funding the SRC receives from the University – funding which, if increased, may reduce the SRC's reliance on advertising revenue.

D Henderson said he feels the SRC should approach the University for increased funding, given that the money it receives is lower than other SUs, noting however, that he is unsure as to how forthcoming funding from the University would be at present due to their own covid-affected financial situation. This being said, he also feels that this does not mitigate the concerns raised over the SRC's advertising choices and that students can hold these concerns whilst advocating for more University funding for the SRC.

B Hay said the potential limitation of advertising revenue could result in funding cuts to other areas of the SRC's activities, and that this would require difficult decisions to be made.

A Perez Guardiola asked if an ad hoc forum could be arranged to discuss this issue further.

L Brady said he, the Sabbatical Officers, B Hay and J Small would discuss the issue further. L Brady thanked A Perez Guardiola for bringing this matter to Council and acknowledged the concern shown by Council members on this matter. He also acknowledged that B Hay was responsible for keeping the SRC running and viable and suggested that some of the frustration experienced by Council members regarding this matter could be turned towards to the University, where lobbying could be done to address the underfunded position of the SRC.

z) Gender Equality Officer: Julia Hegele

J Hegele expressed thanks to all those who had offered feedback on the Report and Support tool. Sizeable progress has been made on the back end of the tool, with attention now being turned to the front end.

aa) International Students Officer: Patrick Aasen

The open letter P Aasen referenced at the previous meeting of Council calling for reform to international student fees has now been sent to the Russell Group. A response has been received and the ISOs involved in the campaign have been told that universities are already offering support, with ISOs being asked to contact their respective universities with regards to fees. P Aasen does not feel the matter has been adequately addressed by the RG so further meetings are planned where P Aasen will follow up.

P Aasen wished good luck to all students running in the SRC Spring Election.

L Brady said he believes a meeting has been set up between the Russell Group and the Russell Group Presidents. He said he will keep P Aasen informed as to the progress of this meeting.

bb) General Rep: Bailey Camack – n/a

cc) General Rep: Mia Clarke – n/a

dd) General Rep: Jamie McKay – n/a

ee) General Rep: Eva Simmons

E Simmons asked if there was any update regarding the event that was planned to be take place at the University yesterday.

L Brady said he believes the Head of the School involved has sent a holding email to students with further, more detailed communication to follow. He said he believes the event is going to be postponed with plans to stage it on a more open platform where debate is allowed on the topic.

E Simmons referenced the proposal by Gavin Williamson to strengthen free speech at universities. E Simmons said she feels the SRC and University should make an explicit stance against this dangerous and frightening proposal and asked for opinion from Council members on this, although it only applies to England.

E Simmons said she would like to see the SRC take a stand on this issue if the University don't. She said a lot of the student community do not feel the SRC address certain issues, and that this is an issue which it would be good for the SRC to take a direct stance on. She agreed to compile the information she has on this issue and share this with Council members to inform future discussion.

C Reid asked if it would be appropriate to express support for an English university who oppose the implementation of these measures.

L Brady to
follow up
with RG

L Brady said he would follow up regarding this with his fellow Russell Group presidents.

E Simmons has been made aware, that Scottish universities are not bound by an accommodation code of conduct in the way English universities are. She said the argument in Scotland is that such a code is not required as the HMO system is in place. However, E Simmons said she does not believe the HMO system adequately addresses the issues at hand and asked if the SRC could lobby the University to implement a code of conduct, or if it could write its own.

L Brady suggested that Council work with The Advice Centre on taking this matter forward, particularly given that TAC has recently provided a report regarding the work it has been undertaking to support students experiencing accommodation issues.

E McCabe asked E Simmons to clarify if the code of conduct she was referring to is distinct from the University's code of conduct.

E Simmons said the code of conduct she was referring to was distinct from the University's code of conduct and that Scottish universities do not comply with it.

L Brady asked E Simmons to confirm if the code was something that would be nationally implemented, rather than solely apply to the University.

E Simmons confirmed the accommodation code of conduct would be governance applied on a national scale.

D Henderson said he was shocked to learn that the accommodation code of conduct E Simmons referred to was not complied with in Scotland as it is in England and Wales. D Henderson said his understanding is that the code is a statutory obligation placed on university accommodation providers which providers would sign and uphold. He said the code is implemented by the UK Government and that the Scottish Government would be responsible for implementing

presidents
on
support
for an
English
university
opposing
proposed
UK Govt
measures
on free
speech.

such a code in Scotland. D Henderson said he feels that the SRC and other SUs should campaign next year after the May Election for an accommodation code of conduct to be implemented in Scotland, noting what he feels are imperfections in HMO laws and their suitability for student accommodation.

L Brady asked E Simmons to provide any further information she could on the issue then he would follow up with TAC.

E Simmons said the Glasgow University Arms Divestment Coalition approached the University's Equality and Diversity Unit to ask for their support in lobbying for University arms divestment. She said the EDU have not engaged with the GUADC on the issue. As such, E Simmons asked if the SRC could support the GUADC's campaign for arms divestment, adding that her personal view is that the University should not be investing in arms.

L Brady said unfortunately efforts by other student bodies on this issue have not seen significant results and that success has amounted to arguably tokenistic gestures by the University, such as writing to the government to discuss influence at a government level. He said he does not feel the campaign for arms divestment will see success unless the matter is discussed at a senior University committee, noting that he feels current work by the GUADC regarding the NSS requires similar high-level discussion and that current efforts may ultimately disadvantage students by de-valuing their degrees through the lowering of the University's rankings. L Brady said University arms divestment is due to be discussed at a meeting of the University Court and that he feels that the greatest chance for success with the campaign is for a collective effort to be pursued. L Brady noted that the SRC has been vocal regarding this issue in the past, particularly through the work of S Kirby and Teresa Banos last year at meetings of the University Court, and that he feels the approach he proposed for addressing the issue could be effective.

ff) First Year Rep: Kirsty Craig

Sabbatical Officers to follow up with TAC on implementation of an accommodation code of conduct.

K Craig met with L O'Connor to discuss support for student parents who had received inappropriate treatment from staff. Another meeting is scheduled for next week where K Craig, L O'Connor and E McCabe will hear the accounts of the students affected, with a plan then being made for taking the matter forward.

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

7) AOCB

S Janell Green said difficult personal circumstances mean she has not been working on Council matters. S Janell Green apologised for not submitting Council reports during this time and that she would be picking up her activities going forward. She thanked Council members for their patience.

L Brady emphasised that S Janell Green's apology is not necessary. He and other members of Council expressed their support for S Janell Green during this time and L Brady said she should approach any member of Council if she needed anything. L Brady expressed his hope that S Janell Green was coping okay with the situation.

L O'Connor said he had been assured by staff at an LTC meeting that grades this year have not been affected by online learning/assessment. He said certain grade averages are actually higher than in previous years.

Also at the LTC meeting a lengthy discussion took place regarding disability and exam timings. L O'Connor said the arrangements with regards to exam timings represent equality but not equity for students. However, the College confirmed that there is no data to suggest that there is any deficit between disabled and non-disabled student with regards to exams and, as such, they are not concerned that students are being impeded with regards to extra exam time. L O'Connor said he found this reassuring as the potential for students being disadvantaged by extra exam time arrangements was a concern of his. He said he is unsure as to whether this is the case across different Colleges in the University.

L O'Connor referenced the matter of student parents being inappropriately treated in the College of MVLS which K Craig raised earlier in the meeting. He asked for clarity on what provisions are available to student parents at the University.

L Brady said the University nursery has remained open throughout covid restrictions to offer childcare for nearby student parents. He said he believes there may be financial support available as well but would advise that L O'Connor confirms this with The Advice Centre or Financial Aid before he informs students of this. He added that there is also the SRC's Student Parents Network which, while not chiefly a means of support, provides a platform for student parents to interact with other student parents.

E McCabe said the University has a Student Parents Policy in place which is intended to direct University staff on how to support student parents.

L Brady said the issues that student parents have experienced within the College of MVLS were concerning and that he would suggest students who have had a negative experience with a certain member of staff could consider approaching a different member of staff, or raising the matter with staff at a higher level.

L O'Connor said he is frustrated by the College of MVLS's lack of willingness to address this issue. He said the matter will be taken forward after a meeting takes place with the students affected next week.

E McCabe said the Student Parent Policy does outline that reasonable adjustments should be offered to accommodate students where possible. As such, on an individual basis, E McCabe advised L O'Connor to signpost student parents whom staff have refused to help to The Advice Centre for support.

D Henderson suggested that the issue of a lack of support for student parents should be looked at across the University, as he is aware from a survey he carried out within the CoSS that student parents have felt they have not been supported or respected by the University during the period of the pandemic. He reasoned that, as such issues exist in MVLS

and CoSS, they may exist in other Colleges and, as such, these issues should be addressed on a cross-University basis.

L Brady said he has been made aware, from a meeting this week with the sparqs University Advisory Group that this is a sectorwide issue. He added that he believes there will be a push from external bodies such as sparqs to ask universities to provide more support to student parents and that he and E McCabe would include information on the support available for student parents in the next SRC communication.

L O'Connor said a society he set up (Healthcare Students Against Racism) received an email a number of months ago from a student in the School of Medicine complaining of blatantly sexist and racist remarks from a member of staff. He said, when the matter was reported, the student's account was not believed by the University. L O'Connor said the student was told by the University that the problem within medicine does not concern doctors from Scotland, but rather international students who work in Scotland then leave the country. L O'Connor said this was blatant racism shown towards the student in question, whom he believes is an international student, that there were no repercussions for staff here and that, as a result, the student was terrified to pursue the matter any further due to feeling so unsupported. L O'Connor said his society had directed the student to The Advice Centre but asked what the SRC could do to support the student if this matter was to be re-reported. He asked if the SRC was able to offer legal support to this student.

L Brady said he believed the best course of action the student could take would be to approach The Advice Centre for representation in taking a complaint forward. He added that, with the recent publication of the Understanding Racism report, it would be good for L O'Connor and E McCabe, who both sit on the Race Equality Committee, to follow up on this matter together.

J Hegele said that there are now measures in place within the University's Report and Support tool, whereby there is greater accountability.

L Brady asked if he was correct in saying the issue was reported within the School of Medicine.

L O'Connor said he was unsure but that the School of Medicine often ignores University policy in favour of dealing with matters in their own way. L O'Connor said he is unsure if the student raised the matter through the Raising Concerns Policy or if they sent an email to staff but he said even if the student cannot re-report their initial complaint of racism and sexism, they could surely report the blatant racism and bias that was protecting the member of staff. L O'Connor said he will let the student know that there is a system in place for dealing with complaints. He added that Healthcare Students Against Racism has offered the student emotional support throughout the matter. L O'Connor said that it is necessary to look at who is in charge of each School and to determine where submitted reports go.

Council members highlighted that ongoing work was being done to raise awareness of the Report and Support tool amongst students and staff, but that more work to publicise the tool and the recent improvements to it is necessary.

L Brady said that Jill Morrisson had asked SRC Representatives at the Library Committee about ways of communicating with students. He said that the SRC will be moving to sending out fortnightly emails soon to students. He said also that, whilst email is effective as they go out to all students, it can be difficult to ascertain engagement of students with the SRC's social media.

J McKay asked if the SRC was going to respond to the statement issued by GULGBTQ+.

L Brady said the way this matter was left was that the society are welcome to contact the SRC about concerns they may have. He said that part of the statement has been resolved as it concerned GULGBTQ+'s own constitution. L Brady said he is willing to have a conversation with the society.

J McKay said he feels the SRC should respond as the statement was publicly addressed towards the organisation, and that not responding may cause resentment from students towards the SRC.

L Brady said he understood J McKay's concern over the public perception of the SRC in this matter and that he would take this on board. He said he personally feels that exchanges of public statements can stall resolutions which can be reached through conversation.

E McCabe said there is a lack of awareness among advisory and teaching staff of the support available for students (in terms of services such as The Advice Centre and the Report and Support tool) to deal with issues such as racism and sexism – a lack of awareness E McCabe described as heavily frustrating. E McCabe has referenced the support available in several committees, however, she believes continued work is necessary to raise awareness of the support available for students among staff in learning and teaching. She said the SRC will continue its work in raising this awareness.

J Hegele said it is important that staff members communicate with, and train, their own staff and not assume students know where to go to receive support.

L Brady said, with regards to the lack of awareness among advisory staff, that he, A McKenzie Smith and E McCabe delivered a presentation to 1st Year coordinators outlining the support available for students. He emphasised the need for staff to be aware of the student support available.

L Brady said the nomination period for the SRC Spring Election closes tomorrow at 12pm, with a 4pm deadline for sponsors to confirm candidacy. L Brady encouraged Council members to re-run in the elections and to encourage other students to run for positions. He wished all candidates good luck.

8) Date of Next Meeting – March 18th March 2021