

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 28th OCTOBER 2021 AT 6PM
ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: Amandeep Kainth, Susanna Zarli, Jessica Woodcock

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay, J Small

1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

E McCabe thanked those who attended the Council training at the weekend and told anyone with queries to get in touch. Training slides will be sent out in due course.

E McCabe reminded Council members to only use their SRC email addresses for SRC business.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

3) Housing Issues

E McCabe gave an update on what work the SRC has been doing with regards to accommodation issues currently facing students. It has:

- Informed the University of the issues facing students in regards to shortages in accommodation, and made sure these issues are factored into plans for learning and teaching, and support provisions.
- Presented on issues such as rent increases and exploitative landlords at University Court, so that the University can raise these issues with Glasgow City Council. The SRC has also asked for an audience with

GCC to discuss housing issues. Any input from Council members on issues to be raised at this meeting is welcome.

- Ensured that the University has provided emergency accommodation to students who have travelled to Glasgow (against University advice) and found themselves without accommodation. There are hopes that the University will reserve rooms next semester for such instances.
- Successfully lobbied the University to consider high-rent accommodation and commuting expenses as valid reasons for applying to the Hardship Fund.
- Emphasised to the University that the current housing issues do not just affect 1st year students.
- Supported students through The Advice Centre. TAC has lots of information and guidance available for students looking for accommodation and has received a record number of enquiries dealing with these matters. The SRC also ran mixers for students to find flatmates.
- Liaised with Residential Services to ask that, if they become aware of vacancies in private accommodation, they pass these details on to TAC.

E McCabe said the University is hoping that more accommodation spaces will become available after November-start students finish their courses and leave Glasgow, as well as after COP26 finishes. The SRC has made the University aware that housing issues may persist for a time to come.

D Henderson asked what consideration has been given in the Good Cause process for students with exams who are experiencing housing issues.

E Simmons said she has been in dialogue with the University regarding this with a view to ensuring that these students' Good Cause claims are treated sympathetically. She also said space within the University for sitting assessments has been reserved for students who are 'sofa-surfing.' Any students who require this should contact TAC.

E Simmons said if any Council members hear of lecturers being unsympathetic to students experiencing housing issues, please raise this so that the SRC can take these matters forward.

E McCabe said the SRC has also raised the issue of unsustainable growth with the University.

T Anderson said he was aware of students who had initially been offered University accommodation, only to then have this offer rescinded and be placed in more expensive private accommodation. He asked if Hardship Fund applications in relation to the housing crisis would be fast-tracked as these can often take up to 4 weeks to process.

E McCabe asked if T Anderson could provide further details on the more expensive accommodation he referenced, so that the SRC can follow up on this.

E Simmons said she would follow up with T Anderson on the prospect of Hardship Fund applications being fast-tracked when they meet soon.

4) Semester 2 Teaching and Assessment Format

The SRC Executive Officers have communicated to the University that, if they would like to have face-to-face teaching in semester 2, they need to open the University up to accommodate this. This has been met with resistance from the University, with varying reasons provided (such as timetabling issues and staff/student resistance). As such, semester 2 teaching looks to continue in the same vein as it has done in semester 1. M Clarke added that there looks to be a re-configuring of exam formats in semester 2, although this does not signify that in-person exams will return. One of the main reasons given for this is that there are too many students on campus, with not enough space to accommodate in-person exams.

H Pentleton asked if the University has indicated when they will release communications regarding exam formats in semester 2.

T Anderson to provide further details on expensive student accommodation so Sabbatical Officers can follow up.

M Clarke said they have not, but she will follow up on this. She said she anticipates a backlash from students if there are no changes to exam formats in semester 2.

L Brady suggested that the University may be violating the consumer rights of students if it does not change its model for teaching in semester 2, given that the University advertised its courses around this eventuality. He said TAC could possibly look into this further.

M Clarke said the Sabbatical Team have discussed this. She said she anticipates that more students will ask for a refund from the University for their costs if teaching plans do not change.

E McCabe said the SRC has communicated to the Principal its opposition to the continuing lack of face-to-face teaching in Semester 2, and the likelihood that students will request rent rebates if this does not change.

I Gilbert asked if the SRC has taken a position on the continuation of open-book exams.

M Clarke said she has not specifically discussed open-book exams with the University but that she is keen for the University to move away from traditional exam formats. She said she supports the continuation of open-book exams.

K Craig asked for information on the University's plans regarding hybrid learning moving forward.

M Clarke said, from discussions with the University, hybrid learning looks to be something that will be a feature of higher education moving forward. M Clarke noted the challenges of representing students on this topic, given the varying number of student perspectives on hybrid learning.

Z Kiss said that current plans in the School of Computing Science are for exams to take place online, but in University labs under supervised conditions.

M Clarke to follow up on comms for semester 2 exam formats.

M Clarke said the University are looking into a project to roll out this type of assessment and that she would be involved in discussions if this project goes ahead.

E McCabe said she sat on an Inclusive Online Assessment Working Group in the previous academic year which discussed exam arrangements for the coming year. While the SRC supported 24hr and double-time exams as it felt these formats were most inclusive, Many academic staff did not support these formats due to concerns with academic integrity. Ultimately, the concerns and recommendations of academic staff prevailed and the large number of Senate student conduct cases in relation to the previous exam diet have served to support their concerns. As such, 24hr and double-time exams will not feature in forthcoming exam diets, with a few exceptions.

M Clarke said that the discussions of the Working Group mentioned mainly applied to quantitative subjects and that the Colleges of Arts and Social Sciences would continue to have 24hr exams.

M Stavrou said students studying Mathematics are experiencing difficulties due to the fact that they have 10 tutorials, with 6 of these online and 4 on campus. He said the mixed nature of the sessions made things difficult for students. He added that, with some students not being in Glasgow due to not being able to find accommodation, students were missing out on the on-campus tutorials.

M Clarke said the SRC are aware of these issues and that unfortunately the issues are University-wide.

E McCabe said the SRC has been given assurances that effective accommodations would be made for students unable to travel to campus to learn, and that, if Council members were aware of this not happening, they should raise this at Council so it can be taken forward.

M Stavrou asked for information on the length of exams as he had heard that normal exam lengths would be returning this year. He

expressed concern that the increased difficulty of last year's open-book exams could pose challenges for students if they had less time to complete more difficult exam papers.

E Simmons said the SRC would not let a policy on this pass through Senate unless students had been properly consulted and made aware of these proposed changes.

E McCabe said, in light of student complaints on exam difficulty and lack of working time during the last exam diet, the SRC has clearly communicated to the University that, if exam lengths are to be reduced, Schools must take proper consideration of this when writing the papers.

M Stavrou said students in his School have asked for clarity on when their exam arrangements will be announced, given that the format of their exam informs the type of study they must undertake.

M Clarke clarified that all exams in semester 1 would take place online. With regards to semester 2, exam arrangements have not yet been confirmed.

M Stavrou said the issues he raised mainly pertained to 3rd and 4th year students.

E McCabe said there are deviations from the standard hybrid teaching model on a local level, where some students' studies are mostly on campus and others' in other subjects are mostly online. She understands student frustration with this. The University has asked for details on subjects which have limited face-to-face teaching, so if Council members are aware of Schools/subjects where this is the case, they should report this to SRC Council so the Sabbatical Officers can follow up on this with the University.

Council members relayed their experiences of not receiving any on-campus teaching and E McCabe encouraged them to submit further details to M Clarke so she could follow this up.

T Anderson asked when arrangements for semester 1 exams would be communicated to students.

T Anderson asked why students in some classes have only now been informed, this week, that their teaching for the next two weeks would take place online due to COP26.

M Clarke said, with regards to teaching being online during COP26, she had previously communicated to the University that this information should be relayed to students timeously, however it was not. M Clarke believes the University need to provide more timely communications going forward.

E McCabe said the SRC raised, at the SEC, the failings of the University's Communications team in regards to communicating important information to students in a timely matter.

M Stavrou said University communications sometimes do not include School-specific information.

E McCabe said any School-specific information should be communicated in a follow-up communication. If Council members have noticed this not happening they should contact their Convenor or M Clarke.

5) Spiking Reports/GBV Update

E Simmons gave an update on the work she has being doing to address GBV and, in particular, the recent spiking reports.

- There has been cross-campus collaboration to address the reports of spiking, with the SRC communicating with the Unions to address this issue. A joint statement was released on 20/10/2021 addressing the issue of student safety in the wake of the spiking reports.
- The Unions have agreed to increase their security and surveillance. This may possibly include increased searches, although E Simmons

M Clarke to follow up with University on comms for semester 1 exam arrangements.

has communicated that searches are not always safe or appropriate for students.

- Information on what to do in an emergency has been communicated to students, and they have been informed that there are trained board members in the Unions. E Simmons recognises, however, that solely telling students to look after themselves does not address the wider issue of GBV in society and on campus, and that these issues need to be addressed.
- There will a campaign launched to tackle GBV in due course.

E McCabe said the SRC will soon be rolling out its GBV module and it has the University's support to make completion of the course compulsory. All students with a course code will be automatically enrolled on the course.

K Craig asked if the University has looked into providing kits in the Unions which students could use to test their drinks for spiking drugs.

E McCabe said the unions are looking at providing caps which people can use to cover their drinks. She suggested K Craig contact the Unions if she has any further ideas for safety measures.

K Craig noted that the recent spiking reports were spikings by injection. She asked if the University could provide support for victims of this.

E McCabe said interviews have just been completed for a GBV Counsellor who will work out of CaPS and, hopefully, provide drop-in sessions via The Advice Centre in due course. She said ideas for more immediate support would be welcome.

K Craig mentioned that increased signposting to resources for victims of GBV could be undertaken.

E McCabe encouraged K Craig to look at the resources currently available and feedback on anything she feels is lacking. E McCabe would then take this forward via the appropriate channels.

K Leomo asked, following the release of a recent episode of Al Jazeera's podcast series *Degrees of Abuse*, which focused on the alleged sexual harassment of students by a lecturer at the University of Glasgow, if the SRC planned to make a statement in support of the victims, or lobby the University to address the issue.

E Simmons said, if members of Council wished for the SRC to release a statement, then the Executive Officers could discuss this.

D Henderson asked if there had been any reports of spiking by injection in Glasgow University's Unions.

E McCabe said she is not aware of any incidences of this taking place in the Unions. She said she expects Security would notify them if this happened.

M Clarke said she is aware of numerous rumours of spikings at the University but the University have not confirmed any reports.

M Mojsiej said, regarding increased security, there is a large shortage of security and the Unions cannot fill their necessary staff levels. He asked, in consideration of this, what other actions were planned to tackle spiking.

E McCabe said the Unions are independent bodies but she believes they have been in contact with the University's Security team regarding this issue. She believes the Unions are looking to urgently recruit more security staff and that, in the meantime, some of the University's Security guards and first responders have been helping to increase the security presence at the unions. E McCabe said anyone attending the unions in the next few weeks who has concerns should let the Sabbatical Officers know.

S Jenell Green she has not seen anything in any communications from the University or other bodies addressing the cross-sectionality with GBV and LGBTQ+ identifying individuals. She said she feels it is important that this community is addressed in communications on GBV.

S Jenell Green asked what information there is in the SRC's GBV module which addresses the cross-sectionality between GBV and LGBTQ+ identifying individuals.

S Jenell Green asked if there has been any suggested modifications to the current training that academic (and other) staff receive with regards to addressing GBV.

E McCabe said it was noted that there was a lack of information for transgender persons in the GBV module so LGBTQ+ specific information has been added to it now. The module is also being assessed for any gaps in information in this regard. The SRC have also been in communication with Rape Crisis and they are happy for the module to be continually developed to reflect any feedback received.

E McCabe said some University staff have undertaken Sexual Harassment Investigator training, however, the SRC may need to reach out to Mhairi Taylor for more information on this training and whether there is effective representation for LGBTQ+ identifying individuals within it. Similarly, Security staff receive First Responder training which includes dealing with situations involving GBV, however, more information on this would be needed in order to discern if there is effective representation within it. E McCabe said the Sabattical Officers could reach out for this information.

C Thornton said there have been issues with GUU security staff being forceful about students leaving the Union. She suggested the implementation of a safe waiting space for students which they could access at the end of the night.

E Simmons said she would follow up on this matter with the GUU as this is unacceptable.

G Beasley asked if the University could put out communications on what students should immediately do if they have been spiked by injection.

E McCabe and Sabbatical Officers to follow up on LGBTQ+ representation in Sexual Harassment Investigator training and First Responder training.
E Simmons to follow up with GUU on forceful

E Simmons said she is aware of the misinformation surrounding advice on what to do if this happens. Security have been in touch with Police Scotland and the NHS have also been involved in discussions, however, as the situation is so new, there is a lack of clarity on advice for how to immediately deal with a spiking by injection. She said she will continue to follow up on this with the University with a view to securing factual information on how to deal with such a situation.

T Anderson suggested that the Unions hold women-identifying only club nights once a week. He acknowledged, however, that some people may attend such an event disingenously claiming to identify as a woman.

T Anderson asked if Living Support Assistants and SRC Officers could possibly receive training on what to do in the event of a spiking.

E Simmons said she would follow up with Amy Copsy on whether this would be possible.

E McCabe said she believes the GUU is planning to hold a women-identifying only night at their Union. She suggested that T Anderson contact them to raise the idea of regular club nights.

S Jenell Green expressed concern regarding the planned women-only club night as she said this excludes non-binary individuals and reinforces the binary that exists on campus. She added that there would be a danger of persons attending such a night who may purport to identify as a woman but are actually there disingenously.

T Anderson apologised to S Jenell Green and said he meant to state that non-binary individuals would be welcome at the event he was proposing. He added that, while there would be a risk of men attending such an event disingenously, the reduced number of men would allow for incidences of GBV to be noticed more quickly.

M Mojsiej said such an event may contravene the Equality Act 2010.

E McCabe elaborated on what would and would not be allowed for an event with regards to the Equality Act 2010.

behaviour
of
bouncers.

E
Simmons
to follow
up with
Amy
Copsy on
possibility
of training
for LSAs
and SRC
Officers on
dealing
with
spikings.

6) De-colonising the Curriculum

M Clarke and the Sabbatical Officers attended the LTC virtual away day, where M Clarke delivered a presentation on de-colonising the curriculum from a student perspective. This was very well-received by staff in attendance and Maureen Bain (Dean of LTC MVLS) plans to start a working group to address the de-colonisation of the curriculum, upon which M Clarke will also sit. Members of staff have also contacted M Clarke asking how they can de-colonise their subject area. As such, there is positive momentum behind this project and M Clarke will discuss, at the Academic Forum, the best way to move forward here.

C Thornton offered several ideas on how this project could be developed and it was agreed that she and M Clarke would continue this conversation in a separate meeting.

S Jenell Green asked if it would be possible for non-academic Council Officers to receive the feedback M Clarke described, so that they could take the project forward in their own areas.

M Clarke said she would send this information round Council and that it could possibly be brought up at the SEC.

E McCabe said if M Clarke puts together a report on this then it can be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting so that all Council members have a chance to read it.

7) UCU Strike Action

E McCabe sought the opinion of Council members on whether or not the SRC should support possible strike action by the UCU. She provided Council with a recent statement from the UCL on proposed strike action.

A discussion ensued wherein Council members offered a variety of opinions and perspectives on possible UCU strike action. Many Council members related their own personal experiences of the disruption to

C
Thornton
and M
Clarke to
discuss
Decolonis
ation
project.

M Clarke
to put
together
report on
feedback
on
Decolonis
ation of
curriculum
project
and
circulate
to Council.

their learning and teaching caused by previous strike action. While some Council members supported the strike action and believed the short-term disruption to students would be worth the possible long-term benefits to staff, there was broad agreement that, while Council members support the right of University staff to strike for reasons related to pay, pensions and working conditions, the disruption that such strike action would cause to student's learning and teaching would be too great, particularly in consideration of the disruption already caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. E McCabe suggested that further discussion on this subject take place at a extraordinary general meeting following the closure of the ballot on strike action.

8) Freshers' Week/Welcome – Sam Malis

D Henderson declared a potential interest as a member of a GUU standing committee. He congratulated S Malis and those involved in the organisation and delivery of Welcome Week on a successful event. D Henderson noted that the report on Welcome Week was sent out shortly before this Council meeting and expressed concern that this would not give members adequate time to digest the report. He requested the report be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting so that any further questions could be raised then.

S Malis apologised for the lateness of the report's delivery.

E McCabe said questions on the report would be taken at this Council meeting but that any further questions/comments would also be taken at the next Council meeting.

D Henderson noted some confusion during the week arising from the SRC and GUSA's branding of the event as 'Welcome Week' and the Unions' branding of 'Freshers' Week.' He said, as a result of the conflicting branding, tensions arose between the student bodies during the week. He asked to what extent the other student bodies were consulted prior to the SRC's rebranding of 'Freshers's Week' to 'Welcome Week.'

E McCabe
to call
Council
EGM
following
closure of
ballot on
UCU strike
action.

Welcome
Week
Report to
be added
to agenda
for next
Council
meeting.

S Malis said a proposal was submitted to the other student bodies explaining the reasoning behind the re-brand – namely that ‘Welcome Week’ was a more inclusive banner for all students beginning studies at the University and that similar re-branding had already been rolled out by other universities across the country. The proposal also outlined how the branding would work between the four student bodies and how student events could be promoted from a centralised online location (Native). S Malis said that the other student bodies preferred the legacy branding of ‘Freshers Week’ and wished to market their events this way to specifically target Freshers.

E McCabe said it became clear that there were conflicting agendas between the student bodies involved, with regards to the marketing of the event. The SRC ultimately chose event branding which best represented the interests of inclusivity and engagement across demographics, while the opportunity to join with this was presented to the Unions, they ultimately marketed their events in their own chosen way, as was their right. She noted that successful engagement with events ran by all student bodies was seen across the week.

B Hay said the Unions and GUSA presented the SRC with a proposal which they had drafted up without the involvement of the SRC. He said that this was what created the “tensions” mentioned by D Henderson in the first instance.

D Henderson asked if there was any specific reasoning behind intentionally releasing the Welcome Week schedules on the Thursday directly before the Friday when Welcome Week activities began, given that schedules in previous years have traditionally been released on the Monday of pre-week.

S Malis said there was no specific rationale behind this decision, however, the days leading up to the intended timetable release were very busy with finalising event plans. He said he was not aware that the Monday of pre-week was traditionally the day that schedules were released. S Malis apologised for the schedules being released later than intended.

L Brady asked what events were planned for first semester to tie in with the UofGWelcome branding as he said this was not apparent from the report.

S Malis said UofGWelcome events for semester 1 are currently in planning stages, with the plan being for 2 events per week (1 welfare event and 1 social event) until exam time. He added that there would also be events in semester 2 as part of a re-branded Re-Freshers event. He acknowledged that there were not many events held in the last few weeks and said this time had been spent looking at how students have been engaging with clubs and societies.

L Brady noted that the exam diet would be beginning in a month's time and said that welcome events should ideally have been happening earlier in the semester.

S Malis acknowledged L Brady made a valid point and said he would look at the engagement from clubs and societies with regards to holding welcome events and try to organise events for the remainder of the semester.

T Anderson noted that he was concerned for students' safety during Welcome Week as a result of GUU Freshers' helpers getting drunk and fighting.

T Anderson noted that S Malis's report said Freshers' helpers would receive training on checking tickets, however, no tickets were checked by helpers at any of the events he attended.

T Anderson asked if 1st year students could be prioritised in terms of allocated tickets at next year's Welcome Week, as he had received student feedback that 1st year students were not attending events as attendees at the events were largely non-1st year students. T Anderson said that the lack of Fresher's helpers this year could be due to Welcome Week being more open to non-1st Year students, suggesting that students were choosing to attend events rather than sign up as helpers.

S Malis said he understands that some 1st year students perhaps felt that they were not meeting as many other 1st year students at events as they wanted, however, he said that prioritising a certain year group of students would be difficult as this would hamper the general inclusivity of Welcome Week for all students.

E McCabe said Freshers-only socials could be considered for next year's programme of events.

S Malis explained that numerous factors led to a shortage in Freshers' Helpers this year, including a reduced number of applicants in comparison to previous years, accommodation issues, travel restrictions and self-isolation due to Covid-19. He said this was the case across all of the student bodies, and commended the SRC Freshers' helpers who did volunteer for their hard work.

E Barre said the re-branding to Welcome Week was beneficial for students in other year groups, as it offered them a chance to become involved in the events of the week. She added that Geography Society received good engagement during the week with lots of students signing up. E Barre asked if the SRC would like Council members to collect feedback from students who attended Welcome Week.

E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers would discuss the gathering of feedback from students and follow up with Council members on this.

M Mojsiej said he worked in the one of the Unions during Welcome Week and that there was staff concern at the disorderly behaviour of certain Freshers' helpers. He asked what steps are being taken to ensure Freshers' helpers are not just getting drunk and potentially scaring new students with their behaviour.

E McCabe said she was aware of a post on Glasknow regarding the behaviour of some SRC Freshers helpers. In terms of action taken, all SRC helpers were addressed. No individual helpers were identified, however, if that had been the case then the SRC would have immediately taken appropriate action against the identified individual(s). She added that lots of the SRC Freshers helpers undertook

Sabbatical Officers to discuss gathering of feedback from students on Welcome Week and follow up with Council.

great work during the week and that she felt it unfair that all SRC helpers be branded as having not behaved correctly due to an anonymous and unsubstantiated post on Glasknow. E McCabe noted that she saw disorderly behaviour from some of the Union Freshers' helpers during the week which outweighed the behaviour of SRC helpers. She said that it is the responsibility of the Unions to deal with such behaviour from its helpers. E McCabe said the SRC clearly communicates to its helpers at the beginning of Welcome Week the behaviour that it expects from those helping and that if something is reported it will be dealt with effectively. E McCabe said that if anyone has anything specific to report then she would encourage them to come forward. She said it is worth emphasising to the Unions for next year that helpers should behave appropriately at all times and be reminded that they are there to welcome new students.

P Su said at one of the Meet & Greet events, there were 50 sign-ups online, however, only 2 students attended. He asked if there was anything that could be done to avoid these situations in the future.

E McCabe acknowledged this was an issue during the week but unfortunately there was little that could be done other than giving students the option to cancel their ticket so it could be re-released. She said hopefully the restrictions regarding capacities will ease next year and that this will help resolve this issue. She said the point P Su raised could be added the report for next year.

Z Kiss asked for information on how many non-traditional Freshers attended the week's events.

J Small said this data was not gathered, however, it could be for subsequent years.

Z Kiss asked if 'Quiet Hour' events were part of the event programme this year.

E Simmons confirmed that there were, however, they could have perhaps been advertised more prominently.

Z Kiss suggested expanding these events in future.

H Krogsaeter asked if there could be a reporting tool implemented to report instances of inappropriate behaviour by Freshers Helpers.

E McCabe said a reporting tool would not be entirely appropriate to deal with instances of inappropriate behaviour by Freshers helpers as the SRC does not have the capacity to deal with complaints of serious wrongdoing. She suggested, however, that the SRC could make itself more visible to students as an organisation which students can approach with any issues they have and this could be communicated to students prior to Freshers Week, along with details regarding the Unions and who to approach there to report issues regarding Freshers Helpers.

H Krogsaeter said students may not be aware of the different student bodies and how separated they are. She suggested a member of each student body come together to form a reporting system which could take complaints regarding the behaviour of its Freshers helpers.

E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers would take this suggestion forward.

9) Elections to University Committee Positions – Ella McCabe

Court – SRC Court Assessor

D Henderson delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected SRC Court Assessor.

T Anderson delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected SRC Court Assessor.

Duncan Henderson was elected SRC Court Assessor.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee – 1 x rep

T Atsegh delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee. Running unopposed, T Atsegh was elected to sit on the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

Learning & Teaching Committee – 4 x academic reps (1 from each college)

College of Arts Representative –

S Jenell Green delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

E Lindquist delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

E Lindquist was elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

College of Social Sciences –

D Henderson delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee. Running unopposed, D Henderson was elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

College of Science and Engineering –

Z Kiss delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee. Running unopposed, Z Kiss was elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

College of MVLS –

P Su delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

L O'Connor delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

L O'Connor was elected to sit on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

LEADS Strategic Advisory Board – 2 x reps (1xUG + 1xPG)

This board no longer exists.

Student Experience Committee - 2 x reps (1xUG + 1xPG)

Undergraduate

Ellie Wood delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to sit on the Student Experience Committee. Running unopposed, E Wood was elected to sit on the Student Experience Committee as an undergraduate representative.

Postgraduate

Running unopposed, Vivian Zang was elected to sit on the Student Experience Committee as a postgraduate representative.

Military Education Committee – 1 x rep

T Atsegoh delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to the Military Education Committee. Running unopposed, T Atsegoh was elected to sit on the Military Education Committee.

Academic Dress Committee – 1 x rep

E Lindquist put herself forward for this position and was elected unopposed to sit on the Academic Dress Committee.

Hunterian Strategic Development Board - 1 x rep

M Franz delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to sit on the Hunterian Strategic Development Board

T Anderson delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected to sit on the Hunterian Strategic Development Board.

T Anderson was elected to sit on the Hunterian Strategic Development Board.

Library Committee - 2 x reps

T Meadows delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to sit on the Library Committee.

S Jenell Green delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to sit on the Library Committee.

Both representatives were elected to sit on the Library Committee.

Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee - 1 x rep

S Jenell Green delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee. Running unopposed, S Jenell Green was elected to sit on Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee.

CIVIS - 3 x reps

S Jenell Green delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to CIVIS.

H Krogsaeter delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to CIVIS.

R Vare delivered a speech explaining why she should be elected to CIVIS.

T Anderson delivered a speech explaining why he should be elected to CIVIS.

H Krogsaeter, R Vare and T Anderson were elected to CIVIS.

10) Council Reports

a) SRC President: Ella McCabe

A new Digital Experience Leadership Board has been formed. This will have oversight over all the digital projects taking place across the University, including the University website and app. Any Council members with feedback on digital projects were encouraged to let E McCabe know and she can pass this on to the group.

The SRC has appealed to the University for funding to hire another Advice & Policy Training Officer for TAC, due to the service experiencing an exceptionally heavy workload. The SRC recently began the recruitment process for a full time Advice Worker with a temporary contract to June 2022, however, unfortunately no candidates were considered suitable for interview. As such, the SRC will use the upcoming funding cycle to ask for additional funding for a full-time Advice Worker with a permanent contract.

E McCabe said the process for the University's funding process is undergoing change system whereby student bodies submit funding bids based on a 5 year rolling cycle.

Winter graduations will be taking place for students who have recently graduated. The SRC made sure that communications to students regarding this matter should not be sent without mention of catch-up graduations. As such, the SRC has been informed that catch-up graduations will take place next summer (July/August).

Interviews have now taken place for a new GBV Counsellor role, with more information on this to follow. The SRC is also currently in the process of interviewing for a new Head of Advice, Policy and Training for TAC.

D Henderson asked, with reference to E McCabe's meeting with David Duncan on 15/07/2021, if the University is taking action to address the failings in its complaint process, as identified in the BBC Disclosure documentary *Am I Safe on Campus?*

E Simmons said she is going to work on addressing the issues D Henderson referred to. She referred to the Reporting Tool, which can no longer be called the 'Report and Support' Tool and said the SRC will work to amend this tool to have a 'support-first' messaging, with support being immediately offered to those reporting matters, in an effort to make this a more trusting channel for students who may want to use it.

E McCabe said one of the cases mentioned in the documentary was dealt with through the HR process, instead of through the Student Conduct process, as the person involved was a staff member. The SRC has raised questions on what the University are doing on the HR side to improve the process of handling complaints. The Code of Conduct has also been re-written and now features updated definitions of non-academic misconduct. There has also been a few runs of putting staff members (especially those who are going to be dealing with conduct cases) through sexual harassment investigator training, in order to increase awareness and understanding on how to deal with such issues. E McCabe said, however, that she does not believe that enough measures have been taken to fix these processes and that she and E Simmons will be working to address the issues throughout the year. She acknowledged the challenges of fixing the processes overall and said that difficulties often present themselves through the individuals involved. She said if anyone has any thoughts or particular concerns about the University's complaints processes they are welcome to let the Sabattical Officers know so that these can be taken forward with the University.

D Henderson asked if this year's Council would be consulted on the process of devising the SRC's next strategic plan.

B Hay said there would be an opportunity for this Council to have some input on the strategic plan, however, it was likely to be a limited input, based on a draft document.

b) VP Education: Mia Clarke

M Clarke said, with regards to increased study spaces, she has had meetings on this but there is work that can be done here and she welcomed input from Council members.

Decolonising the curriculum will be M Clarke's main project for the academic year. She welcomed input from Council members on the project.

T Anderson said there is student concern over a message sent out on the UofG Life app which said small study spaces may be closed during the first week of November.

M Clarke communicated to the University that, if it does choose to close the Main Building on the 1st and 2nd November, then study spaces must remain open. She was told that the study spaces in the Library and JMS Building would remain open but small study spaces were not mentioned. She will raise this with the University.

D Henderson asked if the mitigation measures for Covid which were implemented to GPA thresholds for degree classifications last year (namely that the GPA needed to attain each degree classification was lowered by 0.5) would continue into this academic year.

M Clarke said the policy would remain unchanged for this year. She added, however, that if a student received Covid mitigation measures halfway through their degree - using the example of part-time masters students who enrolled in the previous academic session but would be graduating this year and who are in the discretionary zone— then it remains to be confirmed what assessment measures will be used to calculate their degree classification. M Clarke is working with E McCabe and the Senate Office to ascertain the guidance on this for students.

D Henderson asked when students would be informed that the mitigation measures from last year would remain unchanged.

M Clarke said she would follow this up and ask that this information is communicated at a College and School level.

M Clarke to follow up with University on whether small study spaces will close during 1st week in Nov.

M Clarke to ascertain when information on

S Jenell Green said a large number of mature students either work or have families and are being disadvantaged by not being able to book study spaces after 5pm. She asked if the hours which study spaces are bookable could be extended.

M Clarke said she raised this matter before at the Project Aurora Study Space Group and was told that there is not enough service staff to keep the small study space rooms open after 5pm. M Clarke said she can raise the matter again and communicate the need for this, given that exams are approaching.

L O'Connor described the frustrations arising from study spaces not being open past 5pm and the Wolfson Medical School Library not being opened for 24hr access, noting as well as the difficulty of finding available spaces in buildings such as the JMS. He said that the lack of space to study has a severe impact on students when it comes to sitting their exams. L O'Connor added that lots of students are not currently in suitable accommodation and that coming onto University campus provides a good place to de-stress and study in a conducive environment. He said if the University plan to tackle the housing crisis then it should keep buildings open longer for students.

L O'Connor asked for confirmation on whether the University plans to hold events for over 50 persons for COP26, stating that, if this is true, it would be unfair on students as they are not allowing these capacities for tutorials.

M Clarke said the Sabbatical Officers were not aware of increased capacities for COP26 events. E Simmons and S Malis agreed to follow up with the University on whether this was being planned. S Malis said he had been in touch with Estates to ask whether rooms were being allocated for events with over 50 people.

M Clarke said she was informed that the opening hours of the Wolfson Medical Library is a School issue and that the SRC cannot influence its opening hours.

unchanging GPA covid mitigation measures will be sent out to students.

M Clarke to raise issue at Project Aurora Study Space Group of Mature Students being disadvantaged by not being able to book post-5pm study spaces.

E Simmons and S Malis to ascertain whether rooms were being

E Simmons said data that the Medical School received on the number of students using the JMS for studying may not be accurate (due to students not being required to scan in) and may have indicated to staff in the School that they do not need to keep their library open as there is space in the JMS for studying, when there actually is not. E Simmons said the Sabbatical Officers could follow this matter up.

M Clarke said she would follow the matter of 24hr access to the Medical Library for medical students up and copy L O'Connor into any communications.

L O'Connor said he spoke to Karen Lee last year and she managed to secure the required access to the Medical Library as the School had stated that it needed the University's permission to open the space. He said that this situation poses challenges for this year as there has been a breakdown in communications between the SRC and the School of Medicine.

E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers would follow up with L O'Connor on this matter.

T Anderson said the building capacity-checker in the UofG life app is not accurate.

M Clarke said this data is captured by the Reach Out team and that she has flagged concerns with its accuracy before. She said she suggested to the University that swipe-card entry be implemented in the JMS but this idea was not taken up. M Clarke will raise the inaccuracy of the data with the University.

E McCabe said this would be raised in the SRC's next meeting with Information Services.

X He said she wishes to help students with mental health issues in cases where these issues may affect their academic performance. She asked if SRC representatives can access students' academic performance

allocated for events with over 50 people for COP26.

Sabbatical Officers to follow up on incorrect JMS data being forwarded to Medical School to inform Medical Library access.

M Clarke to contact Medical School re. Medical Library access and copy L O'Connor into comms.

Sabbatical Officers to follow up with L O'Connor

records or if advisers could let representatives know when some students may require help.

E Simmons said SRC representatives do not have access to students' academic performance records and advisers could not share these details with the SRC due to data protection. She said X He could advertise the details of support available to students and allow them to approach her.

c) VP Student Activities: Sam Malis

The Hillhead Area Partnership has funding available to 'widen and enhance' parts of Kelvin Walkway. S Malis said a walkthrough of the area has been recommended to determine where this funding would be best directed. The next meeting with the HAP is on 02/11/2021 and S Malis will follow up on this matter then.

S Malis has met with societies who have raised concerns over access to rooms and the difficulties this poses for holding society activities. Conversations to resolve these issues are ongoing with the University and involve finding alternative spaces on campus for societies.

The SRC's COP26 events are being finalised, as are its extended Welcome Week events. Details will be released on social media/Native in due course.

C Thornton said that lots of performance-based societies have had issues with booking rooms and that alternative non-University venues are no longer accommodating societies as they did in the past, due to Covid-19. She asked that the SRC push for the University to make more spaces available for societies, such as the gym in the St Andrew's Building.

S Malis said the SRC has been pushing for more space for societies to utilise on campus for their activities, however this has proven difficult. The University have cited a lack of service staff as a reason that more spaces cannot be opened. Discussions are ongoing and S Malis plans to gather feedback from clubs and societies on the difficulties they are

on possible SRC campaign for Medical Library access.

SRC to raise incorrect UofG Life app data with Info Services.

experiencing so that this can be taken forward to justify the request for more society space on campus.

E McCabe said she believes that the QMU's recent decision to start charging for use of their spaces will soon be reversed. This will allow more free space for societies. The SRC also raised the need for more society space at a meeting of the University Court. She said the reasons provided for the reduced space on offer were that larger spaces, if not already being used for study space, would have restricted capacities, as well as a lack of facility staff available to manage the spaces. She said the SRC are communicating to the University that they are obligated to provide adequate space for club and society use.

C Thornton said the SRC should be a loud voice in the campaign for adequate space for clubs and society use and emphasise to the University that, if they plan to recruit more students, they have a duty to provide space which can be utilised by societies.

E McCabe said the matter as been raised at Court and the SMG and the SRC have been vocal about how the University's new buildings should incorporate space for clubs and societies. She added that the SRC have communicated to the University that it should not engage in practices which lead to unsustainable growth.

L O'Connor said, while some rooms could not be booked from 5pm, the UofG Life app shows that rooms are bookable after 5pm. He asked if the University could be notified of this and clarification could be provided so that students would not be misled.

E McCabe said this would be passed back to the University.

d) VP Student Support: Eva Simmons

E Simmons said if Council members are aware of any students who have not had their Good Cause claim accepted or have not received necessary learning adjustments, they should let her know so she can follow up on their behalf.

E McCabe
to raise
issue of
incorrect
info on
UofG Life
app re.

T Anderson described the frustrations felt by students who have not yet been contacted by the Disability Service when they should have been by this point.

E Simmons acknowledged these frustrations and said that the department are significantly short-staffed at present. She said she will follow up with the department to ask if students could be sent their initial emails or be given an approximate time when they can expect their email.

E McCabe said students should be encouraged to contact TAC if they have not been contacted by The Disability Service.

D Henderson asked if there would be any work undertaken to improve the accuracy of transcripts from lecture recordings.

E Simmons said she was aware of the accuracy issues with lecture transcripts and that this stems from the limited capabilities of automatic transcription. She said that, for 100% accuracy, lectures would need to be transcribed by a person, but that available resources make this difficult. She said she will follow up on the matter with the University but that a solution to the issue is unlikely at present.

S Jenell Green said she had heard from within her department that, due to Covid and the availability of library resources, lecturers were no longer being required to make their lecture slides available 24hrs in advance as a provision for students with disabilities. She asked for confirmation on whether this policy had changed.

M Clarke said, as far as she was aware, this policy remains unchanged. She asked S Jenell Green to provide a course code for the course in question so she can look into this further.

- e) PG Arts Convenor: Kevin Leomo
- f) PG Social Sciences Convenor: Catriona Thornton
- g) PG Research Convenor: Hannah Baer
- h) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Lindquist
- i) UG MVLS Convenor: Lewis O'Connor

room bookings.

E Simmons to contact Disability Services about when students can expect to be contacted.

E Simmons to follow up with University on improving accuracy of lecture transcripts

S Jenell Green to provide course code for course where lecture slides are being published

- j) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jamie Mckay
- k) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Duncan Henderson
- l) Chemistry School Rep: Grace Cleasby
- m) Computing School Rep: Zoltan Kiss
- n) Critical Studies School Rep: Tiegan Meadows
- o) Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Chloe Waterhouse
- p) Engineering School Rep: Amandeep Kainth
- q) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Elizabeth Barre
- r) Humanities School Rep: Reece Paul
- s) Law School Rep: Miko Mojsiej
- t) Life Sciences School Rep: Hanne Krogsaeter
- u) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Michalis Stavrou
- v) Medicine School Rep: Kirsty Craig
- w) Psychology School Rep: Paul Skinner
- x) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz

The School of Social and Political Sciences is going to implement a Peer Assisted Learning Scheme. M Franz said any input from Council members with experience of such schemes is welcome.

- y) Charities Officer: Becky Laird
- z) Disability Equality Officer: Hailie Pentleton
- aa) Gender Equality Officer: Rinna Vare
- bb) International Students Officer: Xinyu He

D Henderson asked what training the volunteers X He referred to in her report would receive with regards to providing emergency psychological support to students.

X He said plans on training for volunteers were still being finalised.

E McCabe said Mind Your Mate sessions could be helpful here and that X He should contact E Simmons if she wanted to explore this idea further.

- cc) Mental Health Equality Officer: Tanya Agarwal
- dd) General Rep: Lewis Trundle
- ee) General Rep: Pak Su

post-lecture, so M Clarke can follow up.

P Su has received several reports of students being defrauded. This has happened on quite a large scale and has particularly affected international students. The matter has been reported to the Police but there is not much that can be done to get students' money back due to jurisdiction issues between the banks in international students' home countries and the UK. P Su asked if awareness on these scams could be raised amongst students.

J Small said communications with guidance from TAC would shortly be going out to students regarding this issue.

E McCabe asked P Su to contact E Simmons and The Advice Centre to discuss other ways of raising awareness amongst students on these scams.

ff) General Rep: Qijia (Vivian) Zang

gg) First Year Rep: Isaac Gilbert

hh) First Year Rep: Tony Anderson

T Anderson asked if minutes of Council meetings could have an accessibility option when posted on the SRC website.

E McCabe said this could be looked into further and encouraged T Anderson to follow up on this matter with the Sabbatical Officers.

T Anderson said he planned to explore options for the Glasgow Guardian to be produced in other ways for greater accessibility and noted the lack of accessibility options for University lecture slides.

T Anderson has a meeting arranged with I Gilbert to discuss activities for the academic year.

T Anderson has a meeting arranged with the LSA Deputy Manager to discuss how his work on SRC Council can possibly be of benefit to the work undertaken by LSAs.

P Su to
contact
The
Advice
Centre to
discuss
raising
awareness
on scams.

E McCabe said there may be areas where SRC input would be beneficial to T Anderson’s LSA work, however, she reminded Council members who have multiple Office-Bearing roles to keep their SRC work separate and distinct from their other roles.

AOCB

S Jenell Green met with the SRC Age Equality Officer and the Vice President of the GULGBTQ+ society to discuss future event plans. She encouraged Council members to attend any organised events.

T Anderson received an email from Dan Keenan wherein he asked T Anderson to remind Council that this week is Care-Experienced week. D Keenan asked T Anderson if the SRC were planning to release any communications to students regarding this.

E Simmons asked T Anderson to follow up with her about this outside of Council so that they could discuss how the SRC could recognise the week.

11) Date of Next Meeting – 18th November 2021

T
Anderson
to follow
up with E
Simmons
re. plans
for
recognisin
g Care-
Experienc
ed week.

