

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.00 PM  
ZOOM

ACTION

Present : As per sederunt

Apologies : E Barre, E Lindquist, A Whelan, A Kainth, L Brady, H Krogsaeter, J Woodcock

Attending: P Swinton, G Connor, J Small

---

1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

As above.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minute of previous meeting approved with a correction noted regarding M Clarke's work on decolonising the curriculum. The minutes stated an action for M Clarke to write a report on this project, whereas M Clarke had intended, instead, to report back to Council at its next meeting on the project's progress. This has now been corrected in the previous meeting's minute.

An action point was also missed from the previous meeting, relating to T Anderson's request if Council minutes could have an accessibility option when posted on the SRC website. E Simmons will follow up with the SRC Communications team to explore options.

T Anderson is awaiting students contacting him with details of the accommodation issues they have been having with regards to expensive non-University accommodation. He will provide an update when he has received student feedback.

M Clarke said the University are discussing revised plans for semester 2 exam arrangements. M Clarke said she will advise the University, once plans are finalised, that this information must be communicated to students.

E Simmons to contact SRC Comms teams to explore potential accessibility options for Council minutes on SRC website.

T Anderson to provide student feedback on non-Uni

M Clarke said the University has informed her that communications regarding semester 1 exam arrangements have now been sent to students. The University apologised for the late communications and M Clarke communicated that the situation was unacceptable.

accommodation issues.

E McCabe reached out to Mhairi Taylor regarding effective LGBTQ+ representation in the Sexual Harassment Investigator Training and First Responder Training. She is awaiting a response here so this is to remain an action for the next Council meeting.

E McCabe to report back on talks with Mhairi Taylor re.

E Simmons spoke to the GUU regarding reports of overly forceful behaviour by its bouncers. She said the GUU took this information on board and stated that they would try to address the issue. E Simmons has not heard any further reports of this behaviour.

LGBTQ+ representation in training.

E Simmons spoke to Amy Copsey regarding training for LSAs and SRC Officers for dealing with spiking incidents. A Copsey is enthusiastic about this idea so the next steps will be to identify which organisation would provide such training. E Simmons said she will report on the progress of this matter at the next Council meeting and this should remain an action point.

E Simmons to report on progress of discussion re. LSA and SRC

In line with D Henderson's request, the Welcome Week Report has been included as an agenda point for discussion in this meeting.

Officers spike incident training.

With regards to Council members gathering feedback from students on Welcome Week, S Malis said he is still receiving feedback on this and that he will update Council in due course. This is to remain as an action point for the next Council meeting.

S Malis to update Council on student feedback

M Clarke confirmed that small study spaces remained open during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November.

from Welcome Week.

M Clarke said, with regards to the timeline of when information on unchanging GPA covid mitigation measures would be sent students, that the person in charge of these policies has recently been on leave, so communications on the matter have temporarily stalled. However, M Clarke and E McCabe have read proposals (awaiting sign-off) which suggest that covid mitigation measures will still be in place for students graduating this year. M Clarke will ask at the next Senate catch-up

M Clarke to ask at next Senate Catch-up how far along plans on GPA covid

meeting how far along plans are on this matter and when the sign-off can be completed.

mitigation measures are and sign-off.

M Clarke's raising of the issue at Project Aurora Study Space Group of Mature Students being disadvantaged by not being able to book post-5pm study spaces is to remain an action point for the next Council meeting. She said the matter was discussed at Academic Forum, adding that most of the post-5pm study spaces are controlled by Schools rather than Information Services.

M Clarke to raise issue of mature student access to post 5pm study spaces at Project Aurora Group.

S Malis contacted Karen Lee in Estates regarding whether clubs and societies were allowed to hold events before COP26 with more than 50 people attending. He was told this could be possible, but that societies would need to clearly specify their projected attendance numbers at the time of booking. S Malis said he has not received any information on whether such events were held before COP26, and if 50+ people events took place during COP26, so he will follow this up and report back to Council.

S Malis to update Council on whether +50 people events were held pre/during COP26.

H Baer asked if the Gilchrist PG Club would be restricted to PG students again, given that the café has become very busy with access not being restricted.

G Connor said an open-door policy was introduced last year due to the lack of footfall, however, the re-introduction of swipe-card entry could be discussed at an upcoming meeting with Gilchrist staff. If this was re-introduced then the staff could feedback after a month to report on how this affected their footfall.

SRC Staff to raise re-introduction of swipe-card entry for Gilchrist at upcoming meeting.

E McCabe referenced the reports of inaccuracy of the traffic light system in the JMS Building's indication of free study spaces. The SRC raised this with Information Services, who acknowledged there was a problem with the app. They have said the issue has now been fixed. E McCabe asked Council members if they have any feedback on the traffic light system.

K Craig said accuracy of the app may have improved, however, an issue persists whereby medical students are unable to access study space during normal working hours. She said there was a lack of study space for Medical and Nursing students on placements, and referenced the closure

of the Medical School Library at 6pm as having a detrimental impact on the availability of study space for students.

E McCabe encouraged Council members to report any instances of students experiencing a lack of study space, so that the SRC could take this forward.

M Clarke said L O'Connor is following up with Karen Lee, John Leach and Helen Lloyd regarding access to the Medical School Library and will approach M Clarke if he requires assistance.

E McCabe said a possible SRC campaign for greater access for students to Medical School Library could be discussed once the matter has progressed further.

E McCabe reiterated, with reference to the action point for Sabbatical Officers to raise inaccurate building capacity-tracker information on the UofG Life app, that, should students have continued issues, they should let the Sabbatical Officers know so these issues can be addressed.

E McCabe will raise the issue of incorrect information on UofG Life app regarding room bookings. Students are currently being given the option to book rooms past 5pm, but these rooms are actually locked at 5pm.

E Simmons said any student who has contacted Disability Services recently should expect to be contacted in approximately the next two weeks. Any student who contacted DS earlier in the term should have already been contacted. If a student contacted them earlier in the term and has not heard back, they should send a reminder to DS, or contact E Simmons and this will be prioritised. She added that staffing issues lead to longer waiting times for students to be contacted.

E Simmons said she believes that the conversation regarding improving the accuracy of lecture recording transcripts has come to an end due to the lack of money available for the labour needed to manually revise transcripts. She said she will ask again about this matter in the appropriate meeting.

K Craig referenced the mention in the previous meeting of student volunteers performing this work. She asked about the feasibility of this.

E McCabe to raise issue of incorrect info on UofG Life App showing rooms being available to book when they are not.

E Simmons said this suggestion was decided against on the grounds that it would be unfair for students to perform this work unpaid.

E McCabe asked E Simmons and H Pentleton to keep Council informed as to the progress of discussions on this matter.

S Jenell Green said she had spoken to the University staff member responsible for teaching within her discipline regarding the possibility that lecturers are no longer being required to make their lecture slides available 24hrs in advance as a provision for students with disabilities. She said she is waiting for action to be taken and, if such action is unsatisfactory, she will bring the matter to Council and provide M Clarke with the course code list.

S Malis said the issue of student scams, raised at the previous meeting of Council by P Su, was brought to the SRC Advice Centre. This conversation was then brought to the University Communications Team, who are planning on releasing communications to raise awareness amongst students about avoiding scams (with a focus on raising awareness among international students). The plan is for the SRC's and the University's messaging to merge and for communications to be released in English and Mandarin. The University Communications team also has a WeChat with lots of Chinese students in it, so this will be utilised to raise awareness on scams.

E Simmons and T Anderson discussed plans for Care Experienced Week. A post was released which gave information on what services the University has available for care experienced students. The post was also designed to raise awareness on the experiences of care experienced students.

### 3) Freshers' Report

No discussion.

### 4) Position on Strike Action

A consultation with Council members was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November on the SRC's position on proposed UCU strike action. A vote was taken and 79% of those present and voting felt the SRC should be in

E Simmons and H Pentleton to keep Council informed on progression of discussions on improving accuracy of lecture recording transcripts.

favour of, and support, the strike action, while 21% felt the SRC should not support UCU strike action. This vote took place with the caveat that, as the results from a consultation with UCU members had not been announced by the time the Council consultation took place, further discussion would take place at this Council meeting in case the UCU consultation results deviated from Council expectations. The vote was made on the understanding there would be 3-5 days of strike action before the festive break. This was confirmed as the plan of action by UCU. This matter is on the agenda of this Council meeting so that all members are made aware of the stance the SRC is planning to take on the action, as well as to make them aware that the UCU have announced that action short of a strike will take place for a 5 month period between December and May. The Sabbatical Officers reached out to the UCU today to ask what such action may entail. The UCU responded saying that plans have not been finalized on what this will mean, however, in broad terms it will involve University staff working to contract, not covering for absent colleagues and not undertaking voluntary work. The UCU will let the SRC know if a firmer stance will be taken on this. E McCabe opened the floor to comments on the planned action short of a strike.

T Meadows asked if it would be possible, within the SRC's statement on the matter, to communicate that it supports the strike action but does not encourage action short of a strike. She said this would be to limit the negative effects action short of a strike would have on marking and student support in the College of Arts.

K Craig said, from her understanding of the proposed action, action short of strike should not affect marking.

D Henderson said he does not expect a marking boycott but said that staff working to contract could potentially result in areas of work being indirectly negatively affected. He asked if, in the SRC's statement, staff could be asked to prioritise student work.

E McCabe said she felt action short of a strike should be considered as a separate point of discussion.

D Gabra said the functioning of the University relies on staff working more than their contracted hours. He said staff work more hours than required and this is not deemed to be in violation of their contracts. He

said that the unpaid labour of University staff should be addressed in the SRC's statement.

T Anderson said students at Murano Student Village have approached him with concerns about strike action. They feel they do not possess knowledge on the situation. He said students need to be informed of the decisions the SRC is taking and how such decisions will impact them.

E McCabe agreed and said that the SRC's statement will seek to inform students of what action is being taken, what impact this will have for them and when the action will take place.

I Gilbert said that the details of 'action short of a strike' should be clearly communicated to students so that they know what to expect with regards to disruption.

E McCabe referenced the point made by D Gabra and said that, if there is going to be notable disruption to students' learning and teaching, then this highlights the expectation that staff need to work beyond their contracts.

Council members expressed their agreement with the point raised by D Gabra.

E McCabe added that the statement will also express a hope that such action will not have a large, disruptive impact and that, if this happens, this is a reflection on the fact that staff are working over their contracted hours.

T Anderson said the staff members striking should be encouraged to have a dialogue with students on the issues underpinning the action. He asked if an open forum would be possible.

M Clarke said she had a discussion with Scott Hurrell today regarding this type of dialogue between students and staff. She noted that a primary issue with regards to the strikes is students not understanding the reasoning behind them. As such, M Clarke said she would like to see a dialogue opened here and that the SRC would look into this matter further.

M Clarke to follow up on discussions of holding an open forum for staff and students to

D Gabra said that, in the past, UCU have held teach-outs in QMU (with such activities not counting as breaking a strike), so this could be a possibility. He also suggested that the SRC advocate in its statement that students talk to lecturers on the picket line.

discuss the strikes.

E McCabe said the SRC will encourage students, in its statement, to engage with the issues underpinning the action being taken.

S Jenell Green said that the vote that took place at the recent consultation regarding strike action is potentially out of line with a point in the SRC's constitution prohibiting emergency motions from being discussed at emergency meetings of Council. She referenced the constitution as saying "no emergency motions may be discussed at an Emergency Meeting." S Jenell Green said the issue of strike action was discussed and voted upon at the meeting so she believes it to be out of order. She asked for clarity on whether the decision at the consultation was appropriate or not, given that she believes the vote taken to be out of line with the SRC's constitution. She clarified that her point is not in reference to the result of the vote itself.

E McCabe said she believes a discussion took place prior to the consultation to check that the consultation was constitutionally acceptable and met quorum. However, she said she was unfamiliar with the section of the constitution referenced by S Jenell Green so she would check with management to clarify the matter and get back to S Jenell Green.

E McCabe to check that if vote on strike action held at Council Consultation was constitutional.

S Jenell asked for an official ruling from the chair on the matter prior to the next Council meeting.

E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers would be back in touch with S Jenell Green on the matter.

M Clarke said there was a meeting between the Sabbatical Officers and the Permanent Secretary prior to the consultation, wherein M Clarke asked B Hay if it was legitimate to issue a statement based on the consultation and B Hay said it was. M Clarke said the SRC Executive would be happy to double-check the matter with the Permanent Secretary.

M Mojsiej said he recently read the SRC constitution and believes the consultation to have been an Extraordinary meeting, rather than an



Emergency one, and that in the constitution there is nothing prohibiting motions being voted on at an Extraordinary meeting.

E McCabe said she believes this may lie within the definition of an Emergency Meeting, and, as such, she is unsure about offering resolute clarity on the issue. She said she is not sure if there is differentiation within the constitution between 'extraordinary' and 'emergency' meetings, so the matter will need to be double-checked. E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers will obtain clarity on the matter as soon as possible and subsequently inform Council. She said the meeting was entered under the understanding that that it was constitutional and met quorum, so Council will proceed on that understanding, however, the Sabbatical Officers will look into the matter further.

After a short recess, this agenda item was returned to, with E McCabe stating that, in the absence of the Permanent Secretary and definitive clarity on the constitutionality of the decision taken at the emergency meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November, a vote would be taken at this Council meeting to affirm the SRC's position on the UCU strike. E McCabe said this was deemed necessary as, if the vote was unconstitutional, it would be a further seven days before another emergency meeting could be called to discuss the matter, delaying the SRC's statement. Noting the absence of parties who informed the previous discussion (UCU and the University), E McCabe invited the Sabbatical Officers to summarise this discussion and the stance taken, and said that present Council members would be given the opportunity to present opposing views if they wished.

M Clarke said Leeds University has suffered backlash for not supporting the strikes. She said close to 80% of those at the previous consultation supported the strike.

E Simmons said it was planned that the SRC would take an informative stance on the strikes and would seek to inform students as to why the strikes are taking place and why they are important. She said it would also be communicated that the SRC sympathises with the disruption to students which would be caused by the strike, but it also sympathises with the University staff affected and the difficult position they have been placed in. She said the SRC would use its position to hold the University accountable for putting staff in a position where they need to strike.

Sabbatical Officers to confirm whether meeting was Extraordinary or Emergency and check constitutionality of consultation/vote.

H Baer said many PGR students, such as herself, are GTAs too and have been affected by the issues at hand. She said there is considerable student interest in supporting the strikes.

K Craig said a significant amount of time had been dedicated to the discussion of strike action at the Council consultation. She asked if any Council members had any questions on the stance the SRC planned to take (i.e., supporting the UCU strike action).

S Jenell Green clarified that she had no issues with the decision that was agreed upon, but rather her issue was with the constitutionality of the vote itself, as she believed it to be out of order.

E McCabe said she would clarify with the Permanent Secretary whether the vote could be upheld, but stated that she felt it was important to consult Council as a whole, at this meeting, to see if any member wished to raise objections to the decision.

I Gilbert asked if the SRC are voting solely on whether to support strike action or action short of a strike as well.

E McCabe said it was the 3-day strike action in December that was discussed in the consultation on Monday. She said action short of a strike was discussed earlier in this meeting, wherein broad opinion suggested an approval of adding a caveat to the SRC statement on the strikes, which would clarify what action short of a strike means for students and the SRC's hope that disruption to students is kept to a minimum. It would be communicated that the SRC would monitor the situation and act accordingly if disruption was becoming too severe. E McCabe reiterated that the current main point of discussion, however, is the 3-day strike action.

T Anderson asked if the SRC, at the consultation, voted solely on whether to support the strike action, or if there were additional conditions attached to the vote.

E Simmons said it was agreed that the SRC would support the strikes but would communicate in its statement that the situation is not ideal, and it would hold the University accountable for putting staff in a difficult position.

T Anderson asked what would happen if the UCU increased the length of the strike action.

E Simmons said it was agreed at the consultation that, if further strike action was announced, the SRC would meet again and discuss its course of action.

I Gilbert asked if the SRC's statement had been written yet.

E Simmons said it was not yet written.

E McCabe asked if there were any further questions from Council members who were not present at the Council Consultation regarding the stance taken by the SRC. She said, if not, given that the meeting was an Extraordinary Meeting, rather than an Emergency Meeting, it seems the 7-day notice period (for letting Council members know about the consultation) is a point of contention here. E McCabe posited that, as the consultation was mentioned at the previous meeting of Council, this could potentially be seen as notice, and if so, the motion could be taken as upheld.

D Henderson said there perhaps could have been a longer notice period given before the EGM, however, he does not believe another formal vote on whether to support strike action was necessary, given that the matter was discussed at the previous Council meeting and those present at this Council meeting appear to be in broad support of the strike action, with no substantial objections raised. As such, he does not believe the SRC's position to be unconstitutional.

E McCabe expressed her agreement with D Henderson and said, considering the matter was discussed at the previous Council meeting, a subsequent consultation and this Council meeting, she would be inclined to take the motion to support strike action as passed, with the caveat that final confirmation on the constitutionality of this position would be obtained from the Permanent Secretary. E McCabe asked if there were any opposing points of view on this.

S Jenell Green asked for clarity that no decision (including in writing, drafting or providing information outside of the Council) will be made until such times as the Permanent Secretary has had the opportunity to weigh in on the issue and a definitive answer has been given. She said

that she disagreed with D Henderson but was willing to wait for constitutional clarity to be obtained on the issue.

M Clarke said the Permanent Secretary has already weighed in on the issue and deemed there to be no issue.

E McCabe said she conceded and that the Permanent Secretary had been made aware of the Council consultation on strike action and it was initially believed that the process of events was constitutional, however definitive clarity would be obtained from the Permanent Secretary on whether the correct protocol had been followed here.

S Jenell Green responded to M Clarke's point and said, while a discussion with the Permanent Secretary may have already taken place, when a point of order is brought before any Committee or Council, it is the responsibility of the Chair to give an informed and resolute decision, so that is what she is asking for. S Jenell Green said she is asking for the Permanent Secretary and the Chair to consult together, and then to provide that clarity.

E McCabe thanked S Jenell Green for raising this point and said she would check with B Hay before anything is published on the SRC's stance.

#### 5) Study Space Update

M Clarke raised the issue of a lack of electrical plugs in the JMS Building with Information Services. They said the building is at electrical capacity, so there are no provisions to install more plugs. The University will, however, be opening up the lecture theatres within the JMS Building, so students will have access to the plugs in these spaces. Information Services are also looking into putting out communications to raise awareness of the plugs available in the ceilings of the building.

The JMS Building will be swipe-card entry only during exams, so as to prioritise study space for UofG students. This will be in operation all-day and all-night.

There are plans for communications to be released which will address collusion. Senior Management are concerned about students potentially gathering in the JMS to sit exams together, so these Communications will inform students that such behaviour is prohibited.

E McCabe to consult with Permanent Secretary and provide clarity over whether correct constitutional protocol has been followed re. the consultation /vote.

I Gilbert asked if it would be possible for the room booking indicators in the JMS building to more clearly indicate if a room can be booked for study space or if the space is available to all students. He suggested a 'non-bookable but available' third indicator be implemented.

M Clarke said she would follow up on this matter with Information Services.

D Henderson asked if there are any plans for pop-up study spaces this year.

M Clarke said she will be attending a meeting to discuss pop-up study spaces next week.

#### 6) Inclusive Education Charter

M Clarke outlined that her goal for the year is to make education more inclusive. To this end, she said she wishes to take forward a suggestion from L O'Connor at the Academic Forum for an inclusive education charter to be drawn up, as this will help representatives campaign, as well as help others in the SRC. Ideas for the charter were discussed at Academic Forum and the idea proposal has been signed off on by the SRC Permanent Secretary, S Malis and E Simmons. She asked Council members what they would like to see in the charter, with the plan being M Clarke would write the charter up and present it for approval at the next Council meeting. M Clarke said the plan would be for the charter to be something the SRC could campaign on for years to come.

D Gabra suggested that access to housing as a barrier to education be included in the charter.

T Meadows asked for the application of a hybrid approach to resources to be included in the charter, involving the continued availability of physical texts in the Library.

S Malis asked what had already been highlighted for inclusion in the charter.

M Clarke said the charter could include anything which promotes inclusive education. This would include promoting the use of pronouns in Staff members' Zoom names (if staff are comfortable doing so),

M Clarke to follow up with Information Services on whether a third 'non-bookable but available' room indicator could be implemented in JMS.

M Clarke to share her notes on

decolonising the curriculum, making provisions for disabled students and further recognition and acknowledgement of student disability (i.e. stopping staff from asking students how they can prove they have had a flare-up of their illness). M Clarke likened the project to an equality and diversity charter and said she would share her notes on the project with Council when she returns from leave, with the possibility for Council members to contribute ideas. M Clarke would then write a paper and bring this to Council for consultation and ratification.

the  
Inclusive  
Education  
Charter  
with  
Council.

S Jenell-Green asked if there would be wider consultation on the charter, particularly among certain groups of students (such as LGBTQ+, mature and care leaver students).

M Clarke said she would be open to a wider consultation on the charter, however, she hopes that consulting Council would suffice. She also noted that she wishes to pass the charter by April, before Committees pause their activities, so the matter is time-sensitive.

S Jenell Green said perhaps an email from the Disability Service to the groups mentioned would suffice for a wider consultation, noting that this would allow for a more diverse and rounded view of student opinion to be canvassed, which the SRC could then campaign upon.

M Clarke said she would be open to holding one-on-one sessions with SRC Welfare representatives to discuss the charter and ensure nothing important was left out. She said the idea was currently in its preliminary stages and plans could be debated once it has been developed further and then subsequently brought to Council.

## 7) Student Enterprise

M Clarke said she wished to achieve a greater focus on education-based activities outside the classroom. She asked for SRC Council opinion on a potential roll-out of a student enterprise programme. The University have funding available to fund student enterprise and are keen for SRC input. M Clarke emphasised that such a programme would not be focused entirely on supporting traditional for-profit business models, but instead would look to support community-based work, with the potential to tie in activities with SRC Volunteering. She said any Council members with ideas on the project should contact her directly.

## 8) Council Meeting Format

E McCabe asked Council members for their opinions on the current format of Council meetings (exclusively online) and how they would feel about the possibility of hybrid meetings, wherein some Council members would meet physically and communicate with other members via a screen.

A discussion ensued wherein Council members expressed support for the introduction of hybrid meetings. The benefits to in-person communication, and the more open dialogue this fosters were seen as strengths of the format. Council members emphasised, however, the importance of allowing equal participation for all members present whether attending physically or virtually, and the key role that reliable technology would play in achieving this. Also mentioned was the importance of adhering to Covid restrictions.

E McCabe said plans for hybrid meetings would be dependent on the space available.

I Gilbert asked what would happen in an instance where technical difficulties prohibited the hybrid format from working.

E McCabe said equipment would be checked beforehand, however, if this happened, the advice would be for all Council members to carry a laptop or be near a computer, so that the meeting could be moved online.

S Malis noted that many Council members brought their own laptops to Council to take notes when in-person meetings took place, positing that this would help in the event of technical difficulties.

## 9) Council Reports

### a) SRC President: Ella McCabe

E McCabe, G Connor and B Hay attended the SRC's first Budget Planning Meeting with Robert Partridge. There are several stages to this process and Council will be kept up to date as to its progress.

A new Estates strategy is currently being written. This is expected to be finalised by January at the latest. Some of the key themes of the

strategy include connectivity and community, space, people, sustainability, custodianship, and a digital perspective. The strategy will be in place for the next five years and SRC involvement in its formulation is encouraged. E McCabe is happy to pass feedback from Council members on the project to Estates if they wish to contribute their thoughts.

K Craig suggested that the website work she undertook on sustainability last year could be incorporated into this project.

E McCabe said she and E Simmons could speak further with K Craig on this outwith Council to try and tie this work into the project.

The SRC is pleased to have launched its GBV Module. There have been some student queries regarding uncertainty over the language attached to the module, as, while it is intended to be compulsory, it is currently undergoing a 'soft launch' while the SRC waits for the University to name a contact who will be responsible for handling the data involved and passing the data to the postmasters so that cases of incompleteness can be followed up. As such, the compulsory nature of the training has not been emphasised and will not be until the University names this contact (the hope is that the University will do this before the festive period begins), after which point the module will be launched more widely by the University as a compulsory undertaking.

R Vare said she has spoken to clubs and societies who have said that the module has not been advertised heavily enough. She said clubs and societies are supportive of the module and would appreciate an email about the module at this point (while it is not yet compulsory) so that awareness and engagement can be raised.

S Malis agreed to follow up on sending a communication to clubs and societies regarding the GBV module.

D Henderson asked for an overview of the recommendations of the HSWG report.

E McCabe clarified that the recommendations of the HSWG which were brought to the Student Experience Committee were recommendations for an action list and that these recommendations had not yet been consolidated.

E McCabe and E Simmons to discuss with K Craig how to tie in her work on sustainability with new Estates strategy.

S Malis to arrange for clubs and societies to be emailed re. GBV module.



E Simmons said the recommendations included

- A gym membership for home students to encourage on-campus socialisation.
- Specific space/lockers for home students to store their belongings on campus.
- Temporary accommodation for home students for overnight stays.
- Increased mindfulness of home students during the timetabling process with regards to the difficulties imposed by some home students' commutes.
- A greater availability of information on home students within University systems, i.e. ensuring the University knows which students are home students and that they have a named contact. Currently, identifying home students is difficult, so the SRC would push for this to be addressed during enrolment, so that home students can be reached with targeted information and made aware of specific targeted events.

E Simmons said the report has now been submitted to the SEC and a new sub-group is being formed which aims to attract investment from staff within the University who are able to implement the desired changes for the benefit of home students.

E McCabe added that the University's promotional material would also be addressed, with a view to making it more inclusive, as current advertising strategies do not acknowledge the home student experience and may serve to make these students feel isolated. She said that the report would be circulated round Council, once finalised.

D Gabra asked if the SRC would have any oversight over the independent review of the University's sexual assault reporting processes being carried out by a lawyer appointed by the University. He expressed concern over the extent of how independent such a review could be, given that the lawyer has been hired by the University's management and administrative team.

E McCabe said the SRC were made aware that the review was taking place. She said that the lawyer who has been appointed led a similar review in Stirling University and its university and student unions were happy with the recommendations and output which came out of the

review. She added that the SRC will lead on consultations discussing the reporting process itself (both within Council and with the wider student populous) and that a portal has now been established, whereby students can submit anonymous feedback and relate their experiences. This will be open to graduates of the University as well. E McCabe believes there will be an open dialogue on the matter with any students who wish to engage with it.

b) VP Education: Mia Clarke

M Clarke encouraged Council members to submit STA nominations.

c) VP Student Activities: Sam Malis

S Malis met with the Hillhead Area Partnership on 05/11/2021. The walkaround of the Kelvin walkway has been scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November. This is to determine where earmarked funding for improvements in the area would be best directed, as such improvements could potentially benefit student safety. Another representative is encouraged to participate in this.

H Baer said there are quite a few floodlights off around the Vet institute and around other less accessible spaces on campus. She said this has happened before and asked if this can be addressed and the problem fixed.

S Malis was also contacted by a member of the above meeting to discuss possible improvements to women's safety, particularly around halls of residence such as Murano. S Malis has subsequently followed up on this subject with a few members of the HAP meeting, one of which will oversee the Road Improvement Scheme for next year. His aim, prior to the next meeting in January, is to follow up on this, as there is funding available for projects such as developing pavements and improving lighting. S Malis is keen to explore the potential of tying this into the work on GBV that the SRC has undertaken and seeing what interest there is from the local area in these projects.

23 events were held as part of the SRC's COP26 Fringe and these ran from the week prior to the conference until today. 4 events were held by S Malis, with 19 events held either by clubs and societies, or in collaboration with a third party. S Malis noticed greater levels of

S Malis to raise the matter of floodlights being around the Vet Institute with relevant stakeholders from Hillhead meeting and see if any further discussions stem from this by the next Council meeting.

engagement with off-campus events, in comparison with on-campus events, with the latter being less well-attended, perhaps due to students' learning being moved online and their being discouraged to go onto campus due to COP26-related disruption. S Malis did notice, however, that disruption seemed to subside after the first two days, so he will highlight this to the COP26 Working Group.

S Malis met with his representatives last week to discuss their activities over the last month.

T Anderson asked if a consultation could take place at Murano to discuss student safety concerns he is aware of.

S Malis said this could be looked into, and that information gleaned from such an event could inform the discussions taking place at the next HAP meeting. He said he would follow up with T Anderson regarding this.

d) VP Student Support: Eva Simmons

Successful Extended Welfare events were held. E Simmons said these events allowed positive interaction with students with protected characteristics/students from widening participation backgrounds.

Plans for certain student groups are going to be updated. E Simmons discussed this with T Anderson, with both representatives then speaking to Dan Keenan regarding the Corporate Parenting plan. There were also several reports in a student carers' meeting on how the care plans were not fulfilling their purpose. One issue here relates to the plans themselves and another relates to the different levels of adherence to the plans across different Schools. E Simmons said she may follow up with Council's academic representatives once discussions have progressed, with a view to ensuring Schools will abide by these plans.

D Henderson said, with regards to developments in the housing crisis, he has noticed more accommodation becoming available on property websites now that COP26 has finished. He said that it is too early to say whether the crisis has been solved but there are indications that the situation is improving.

S Malis to follow up with T Anderson on consultation at Murano re. student safety.

E McCabe said she and M Clarke have emphasised in University planning meetings that the housing crisis must be considered with regards to the University's planning and communications for semester 2. She believes a group comprising senior management staff has now been set up and this will look into putting a survey out to Schools in order to gather information on students' housing situations, with the plan being this information will inform semester 2 planning and identify where support is needed.

- e) PG Arts Convenor: Kevin Leomo
- f) PG Research Convenor: Hannah Baer
- g) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Lindquist
- h) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Jamie Mckay
- i) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Duncan Henderson
- j) Chemistry School Rep: Grace Cleasby
- k) Computing School Rep: Zoltan Kiss
- l) Critical Studies School Rep: Tiegan Meadows
- m) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Elizabeth Barre
- n) Law School Rep: Miko Mojsiej
- o) Life Sciences School Rep: Hanne Krogsaeter
- p) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Michalis Stavrou
- q) Medicine School Rep: Kirsty Craig
- r) Physics & Astronomy School Rep: Abigail Whelan
- s) Psychology School Rep: Paul Skinner
- t) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz
- u) Age Equality Officer: Ethan Wilson
- v) Environmental Officer: David Gabra
- w) Gender Equality Officer: Rinna Vare
- x) International Students Officer: Xinyu He
- y) LGBTQ+ Officer: Charlotte Jenell Green

S Jenell Green said she recently met with Jill Morrison at the Rural College Committee and she said the University would not have been able to support the students the way it has over the previous 18 months without the work of SRC, and in particular it's Sabbatical Officers and Council representatives.

E McCabe thanked S Jenell Green for relaying this to Council and said it was good that the SRC has received this positive feedback on its work.

- z) Mental Health Equality Officer: Tanya Agarwal

- aa) Race Equality Officer: Temisan Atsegoh
- bb) General Rep: Eleanor Wood
- cc) General Rep: Lewis Trundle
- dd) First Year Rep: Tony Anderson

T Anderson said he has a meeting scheduled with the Manager of Murano Student Residence to discuss the isolation experienced by students living in halls over the festive period and how these students can be supported during this period.

A bowling trip for care experienced and estranged students was organised and took place on 17/11/2021. T Anderson expressed his thanks to E Simmons for her work on supporting this student group and said the bowling trip was enjoyed by the students who attended.

E Simmons thanked T Anderson for his work on the event.

#### 10. AOCB

D Henderson asked if it would be possible to circulate the full list of Council meeting dates to Council members.

E McCabe said this would be arranged.

D Henderson addressed the regulations that were in place for the Autumn Elections, referencing specifically the prohibition on in-person campaigning. He noted the dip in voter turn-out for positions such as General Representative compared with previous years and expressed concern that online-only campaigning may serve to further entrench a student politics bubble, whereby election results become based on how many followers/friends candidates have on social media, rather than influenced by in-person campaigning. He asked if the reasoning behind the decision to prohibit in-person campaigning could be discussed, as well as the impact this had on voter turn-out. He said it was important that more students engage with the SRC and that he believes this process begins with having a presence during elections.

E McCabe asserted that there had been a 14% increase in voter turn-out for the Autumn Elections, compared with the Spring Elections (with the latter also being held online). She said, however, that the SRC would like to get back to in-person campaigning for future elections and that the decision to

E McCabe to arrange for email with Council meeting dates to be circulated.

prohibit in-person campaigning for the Autumn Elections was taken in the interests of fairness, considering that many students who may have considered running were affected by the housing crisis and, as such, were not able to campaign in-person in Glasgow, thus presenting an unfair advantage to those who would have been able to campaign in-person. E McCabe acknowledged the validity of D Henderson's point regarding the widening of engagement which comes from in-person campaigning and said his point regarding the effects on online-only campaigning on voter turn-out had been noted.

Z Kiss asked if there was a specific reason that Joint Honours students could only vote in one School for School Representative positions.

G Connor explained that each student is assigned a 'main School' even in instances where a student appears to be a Joint Honours student. She said this information is normally indicated on a student's matriculation card. G Connor added that she believes the voting system only allows for one vote per student, per position.

T Anderson asked if a shared inbox could be set up for General Representatives and First Year Representatives, noting that it is difficult to manage SRC-related correspondence when it is in an inbox with other correspondence

E McCabe said she would have concerns about the management of different remits if different representatives were sharing an inbox, and how this could lead to an accumulation of emails that were not all related to a particular representative's role. She said, however, that the matter could be discussed further outwith Council.

S Malis said there used to be an email address which could be used by General Representatives.

M Clarke said this is no longer in operation and that she agrees with the point raised by T Anderson. She suggested that further discussion on the matter could take place with General Representatives and current Council members who used to hold this position.

E McCabe reminded Council members that the Gilchrist has been booked for after the meeting and that Council members are invited to attend.

E McCabe and M Clarke to discuss prospect of shared inbox for Gen and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Reps.

S Malis encouraged Council members to engage with the Movember fundraising efforts being undertaken by RAG at the HIVE later this evening.

11. Date of next meeting – Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> December