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MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 9th OF DECEMBER 2021 AT 6.00 PM
ZOOM

ACTION

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: L Trundle, I Gilbert, H Baer, P Skinner, R Paul, Q (Vivian) Zhang, G Cleasby, M Mojsiej, J Woodcock, K Craig, T Atsegoh, T Agarwal, M Stavrou

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay, J Small

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

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

With regards to possible accessibility options for the Council meeting minutes for the SRC website, E Simmons said accessibility options can be explored.

T Anderson said he has tried to contact the students who were having issues in non-University accommodation; however he has received no reply. He said if there are updates, he will update Council.

E McCabe said, with regards to the Sexual Harassment Investigator Training, Mhairi Taylor advised that there is no specific discussion of LGBTQ persons in the training as it takes a broad, trauma-informed approach to investigating practices. She noted, however, that the training is led by Rape Crisis who have an inclusive policy. M Taylor said if students would like to raise any issues with the training they should do so.

With regards to the First Responder training, Clare Craig confirmed that the training sessions were inclusive and included descriptions of GBV as consequence of the oppression of women and the LGBT community. The training materials included references to homophobic and transphobic language with regards to the discussion of rape culture. Inclusive case studies were also used for discussion.

E Simmons said, with regards to an update on the progress of spiking incident training for LSA and SRC Officers, that the SRC have recently worked with the Harm Reduction Society who delivered a workshop last week. They said this went well and that they would be happy to roll this out at halls of residence for students and LSAs to attend. The hope is that specific training for dealing with incidents after they have happened can be rolled out in the new year. E Simmons said this could be included again as an action point in advance of the next meeting of Council.

E Simmons to provide update on specific training for LSA and SRC Officers for dealing with spiking incidents after they have happened.

S Malis said the feedback from students on UofG Welcome was largely positive. There were positive reactions to the in-person events and those who could not attend were able to access the online content. S Malis said there is excitement among students who have recently moved to Glasgow for the Welcome Events in January. S Malis said 1st Year-specific events would be considered for next year's Welcome.

S Malis to take necessary action for 1st-Year specific events to be taken forward for next year's welcome.

M Clarke said she is going to follow up on GPA covid mitigation measures with the Senate Office.

M Clarke raised the issue of mature students not being able to access study spaces after 5pm at the Project Aurora group. She was informed that this was not an issue related to Estates. She said she would be happy to follow this matter up.

M Clarke to follow up on GPA covid mitigation measures with the Senate Office.

S Malis said he has not received any email correspondence confirming whether 50+ people events were held before/during COP26, however, from the photos and videos released of COP26 events, it looked to S Malis like events did not exceed 50 people attending, with some events taking place in a hybrid format. He said he would be happy to follow up on this matter again if any Council member had continuing concerns.

SRC staff met with Gilchrist staff regarding a return to swipe card access for the Gilchrist PG Club. This looks to be possible. E McCabe asked if any PG students on Council had found the space to be busy recently.

K Leomo said the space has become busier and it would be beneficial for PG students if swipe-access was implemented during busier times (November/December).

M Clarke to follow up on issue of mature students not being able to

B Hay said he agreed that there should be set times for PG students to utilise the space as the space was originally built as a space for these students.

E McCabe raised, with the University's Timetabling department, the issue of spaces showing as being open on the UofG Life app when they are not actually open. Timetabling then raised the matter with Facilities staff and there was some confusion around where this was happening. Facilities staff are happy to address this issue as a matter of concern but require further details on what rooms/buildings are being affected. Any Council members who wish to provide details should do so and the Sabbatical Officers will pass the information on to Timetabling and Facilities staff for actioning.

E Simmons said there was no update to provide on the progression of discussions on improving the accuracy of lecture recording transcripts. She said she would approach Drew McConnell to discuss the matter.

M Clarke spoke to Scott Hurrell on the picket line during the recent UCU strike action, regarding holding an open forum for staff and students to discuss the strikes. UCU are happy for this to take place. M Clarke said this could be organised once more details of possible future strike action have emerged and would involve a meeting of the SRC and UCU which would seek to explain the reasoning behind the strikes to students. She said this would take place in the new year and that she is happy to take the lead on organising this.

E McCabe said students were encouraged, in the SRC's statement on the strike action, to engage with the debate. She said the SRC would monitor developments on the situation and that she would be happy to discuss holding a consultation on these issues next semester if desired.

E Simmons said if students wish to support staff on strike, they can email their lecturers to express their support and understanding of the reasoning behind the strikes and express solidarity with them. Staff members have said that they appreciate this support.

B Hay said he has written a commentary on the issue raised at the previous Council meeting regarding the constitutionality of the vote taken at a consultation held to discuss the SRC's support of UCU strike action. To summarise –

access study spaces after 5pm.

S Malis to provide any update on whether pre/during COP26 events exceeded 50 people, if Council members have continuing concerns.

Original issue on spaces showing as open raised by L O'Connor. If still a concern, L O'Connor welcome to provide info on affected spaces.

E Simmons to speak with Drew McConnell regarding improving accuracy of lecture

- The consultation was not an emergency meeting - it was a consultative meeting convened by the SRC Executive to continue discussion on supporting UCU strike action.
- B Hay was consulted by the SRC Executive, and he advised that the process of decision-making was constitutional. The constitutionality can be deemed as such by considering either of the following reasons:
 1. Most straightforwardly: the consultative meeting had been agreed at the previous Council meeting thereby giving notice and consenting to it occurring. The discussion that took place was an extension of the initial discussion at the previous Council Meeting. The Executive followed good practise requirements and brought in speakers from each side so that Council could make an informed decision. Those that attended participated in a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion covering all the relevant issues. Following discussion, 80% of those attending voted in favour of the strike, as an extension of the previous meeting this could arguably stand on its own, though homologation by the next meeting might be advisable if time permits.
 2. The consultative meeting was well attended and would have been quorate were it a formal meeting. Of those attending, 80% voted to support the strike. The resultant vote informed the Executive's decision to reach a decision to support the strike. The Executive are entitled to do this by virtue of the Constitution – Clause 8.2: “The Executive committee shall be accountable to Council but shall have the capacity to agree short term policy and campaigning initiatives where required.”

The Executive chose to support the strike, which they have the power to do, after an extensive consultative meeting with Council (which they were not required to hold). The process of reaching the decision was considerably more democratic and inclusive than constitutionally required and Council members should be commended for participating in the decision-making process so fully.

recording transcripts.

M Clarke to take lead on organising UCU open forum.

B Hay said even if there had been minor procedural glitches there was no jeopardy. All Council members had a chance to participate in a discussion and vote. All was above board and there was nothing hidden. What really matters is that the process was reasonable and fair.

B Hay said he was happy to circulate the above commentary in written form or answer any questions on the matter from Council members.

The commentary has been included in these minutes as an appendix.

E McCabe said she hopes B Hay's commentary clarifies this matter. She added that, regarding the responses to strike action from student unions across the UK, many positions on the action were formed solely by executive boards. She thanked Council members on their engagement with the discussion and for providing valuable input.

M Clarke will follow up with Information Services on whether it is possible for a third 'non-bookable but available' room indicator to be implemented in the JMS building. She said she believes this issue relates to lecture theatre space for students and plans to gather anecdotal evidence from students and Information Services after the exam period regarding how busy these spaces were and whether a 'non-bookable but available' room indicator needs to be implemented for the summer exam diet. She said she will also follow up for this information in January.

E McCabe will follow up with K Craig regarding how her sustainability-based work from last year can be implemented into the new Estates Strategy.

E McCabe suggested that, due to the late stage of the year, information on the GBV module be communicated to clubs and societies in January, or when the next communication on the module is sent out.

S Malis said the Hillhead Community Council is meeting today and this meeting clashes timewise with this Council meeting. As such, he said the issue H Baer raised regarding floodlights being out around the Vet Institute could be carried forward as an action point for January's Council meeting, by which time S Malis will have discussed the issue with the relevant stakeholders at the Hillhead Community Council.

M Clarke to follow up with IS on 'non bookable but available' room indicator and gather anecdotal evidence from students and IS on use of JMS spaces and whether this third option is necessary.

E McCabe to follow up with K Craig regarding how her

S Malis discussed, with T Anderson, the possibility of holding a consultation at Murano Student Village regarding student safety. They are hoping to hold a session for this before the end of semester 1 then another session in January. Dates are to be confirmed.

E McCabe arranged for Council members to receive a list of 2021/22 Council meeting dates.

E McCabe discussed the prospect of a shared inbox for General Representatives and First Year Representatives with G Connor. This may be possible and will be taken forward in January. E McCabe asked the relevant reps to get in touch with her about this in the New Year.

3) COP26 Event Report

Several SRC events were held during, and around, COP26 by clubs and societies. There was a mix of in-person and online events. Online engagement was more positive than expected. On-campus engagement was reduced due to students' classes being moved online during the conference. S Malis said, due to the standalone nature of the event, it is difficult to gather feedback for future event planning, however, he said, overall, there was a satisfactory level of engagement with the events staged.

E McCabe apologised for the lateness of this report and said that reports will be sent out in a timely manner going forward. She added that, if any Council members felt that there were matters on the agenda for this meeting that they had not been given enough time to consider, then they would be welcome to bring any questions on agenda items from this meeting to the January Council meeting.

4) Inclusive Education Charter

M Clarke asked if Council members could provide any examples for how the curriculum could be changed to be made more inclusive. She said that she appreciated that Council members did not have long to consider the draft document as it was sent to Council today, and that she would be happy for it to be added as an agenda item for discussion at the next Council meeting.

sustainability-based work from last year can be implemented into the new Estates Strategy.

S Malis to organise info for clubs re. GBV module in Jan or when next comms on it go out.

S Malis to update on floodlights being out around Vet institute.

Relevant reps (T Anderson) to contact E McCabe to take forward shared inbox for 1st Year/Gen reps in New Year.

E McCabe said, as the draft document was considered at the Academic Forum, then there may be scope for discussion of it at this Council meeting. She said that she will add a note to the agenda for the next meeting saying that Council members are welcome to offer comments/ask questions on any of the agenda items from this meeting.

T Meadows said content warnings were raised at a recent School of Critical Studies Learning & Teaching meeting, as was the prospect of whether there was enthusiasm for these as possibly forming part of a more inclusive education. She said that this issue may pertain to the College of Arts more so than other Colleges and that students in the College have given feedback that they are not receiving appropriate content warnings. She asked if M Clarke would be open to including this as an item for discussion at the next Academic Forum meeting and said she is going to be undertaking work on this issue with her faculty and that any Council members who wish to speak with her on it should contact her.

M Clarke said she believes that there used to be a Content Warning Working Group at the University which was set up by a former VPSS. She said the matter could possibly be campaigned on again.

T Meadows said that the SRC should decide whether content warnings are to be part of the Inclusive Education Charter on which it will campaign, or if they are to be discussed separately as their own distinct academic matter.

M Clarke said she feels like they should be treated as a separate issue, given that a working group has previously been established to discuss them.

E Simmons said T Meadows could contact her if she wanted to discuss content warnings further, with a view to seeing what the SRC could do on the issue. She said, once plans had been put in place, the SRC could then approach academic staff to discuss the matter.

E McCabe said the papers of the previously established working group could be examined then the matter could be taken from there.

E Wilson said he is involved with the Medics LGBT+ Society and has been doing work on campaigning for a more inclusive medical curriculum. The

E McCabe to add note to agenda for Jan meeting saying Council members are welcome to offer comments/ask questions on any of the agenda items from the December meeting.

society have made a lecture on gender, sex and sexuality basics which has been delivered to most year groups. He said he would be happy to speak with M Clarke on this, in relation to plans for the Inclusive Education Charter.

E McCabe said the Inclusive Education Charter merits further consultation from Council members and that M Clarke will take it forward as an item of discussion at the Welfare Forum.

M Clarke to take forward Inclusive Education charter at Welfare Forum.

5) Rep Socials

The subject of Class Representative socials was raised at a meeting of the Academic Forum and was agreed as an agenda item for discussion at this meeting of Council.

L O'Connor said social activities should be explored as a means of increasing Class Rep engagement with the activities of the SRC, positing that social activities serve a valuable purpose in building enthusiastic, engaged teams. He said the College of MVLS are looking at organising Class Rep socials in semester 2 as a means of achieving this. Additionally, they are working on holding more SRC activities within the College's Schools to reach students and build a community (especially within the School of Life Sciences) which is aware of the SRC as its representational body. L O'Connor added that another idea they are working on is a potential Class Rep Ball and that such an event would be an effective way of incentivising Class Representative work, building a sense of community and introducing Class Representatives to the members of Council. He said that every other student body has a ball. He added that there should be perks to undertaking a role, such as that of a Class Rep, and that having time to relax and have fun is an important part of any role. L O'Connor said he and the Academic Officers recognise that incentivisation is necessary to encourage better work from Class Reps and to make them feel like they are part of the SRC. As such, he believes that organising a ball, as well as smaller activities on a School and College level, would be beneficial for this.

A discussion ensued wherein Council members expressed broad support for a Class Representative ball. The reasons for this included thought that that such an event would

- help to engage Class Representatives with the work of the SRC.

- help to build a sense of community and teamwork between class representatives and the SRC.
- incentivise students to take on the role of Class Representative.
- act as a celebration and thank you for the work undertaken by all representatives.

It was noted, however, that such an event could potentially run the risk of attracting Class Rep sign-ups from students who would only be signing up for this social aspect, rather than to undertake the role's work. E McCabe said she would be happy for the ball to be discussed as an agenda point at January's Council meeting if L O'Connor was able to put together a proposed budget for the event and provide an idea of who would be involved in a sub-committee for the ball's organisation. She said, if going ahead, the ball would require a pilot event first, rather than being put in Council handovers as a rolling event year on year. She also asked L O'Connor to approach S Malis with regards to the possibility of his involvement in the planning process for such an event. L O'Connor agreed to provide this information.

Within the discussion, several Council members referenced a perceived significant lack of engagement between Class Representatives and the SRC. It was posited by several Council members that, from speaking with Class Representatives, and from their own experiences, there exists a disconnect between the two, where Class Representatives experience a lack of knowledge on the activities of the SRC. In countering the preceding anecdotal information contrary evidence from the Class Rep survey was provided which indicated a strong level of satisfaction amongst Class Reps with regards to their roles. It was further noted that the SRC already run events designed to boost Class Rep engagement (Class Rep Mixer and Class Rep Conference). M Clarke noted that she feels that Class reps may feel alienated by what she described as the somewhat insular nature of the SRC, where members of Council have already-established relationships via their work as Freshers Helpers. She said she would like to work to address this issue while she is in her position. E McCabe suggested that the issue raised by M Clarke, as well as the matters raised regarding class reps, be discussed properly at the next Academic Forum meeting in January to discuss local and maybe broader solutions.

Class Rep ball to be added to agenda for discussion at Jan Council Meeting, provided L O'Connor supplies budget and organisational sub-committee proposal.

L O'Connor to speak with S Malis regarding his input for Class Rep ball.

M Clarke to take issues raised regarding Class Reps forward for discussion at January Academic Forum. Local/broa

There was also broad agreement that local social activities on a School and College level would be an effective means of increasing engagement between the SRC and Class Representatives.

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solutions to
be
discussed.

E McCabe said the SRC has discussed more heavily utilising the space it has within the JMS Building to advertise its activities. She added that, due to last year's learning and teaching being online, work must be done to introduce new students to the activities of the SRC.

6) UCU Update

E McCabe said the different recommendations in the SRC's statement on UCU strike action were raised at Court. These have also been discussed with the Principal. While responses have reflected that a lot of discussion is taking place on the national negotiating field, the SRC has made it clear that it wants to address the issue of casualisation of work contracts. The Principal has, in turn, said he would be happy to facilitate this conversation. Discussions are ongoing.

M Clarke said she believes it is positive that the SRC are fostering a good working relationship with the UCU.

E McCabe encouraged Council members to update the Sabbatical Officers on any disruption to learning or delays in feedback while staff are working to contract over the next few months.

7) Space on Campus

E Simmons said there are issues regarding a lack of space on campus for student groups,. She said, while there are long-term measures in place to address this problem (the construction of new buildings), the University cannot keep growing when the lack of space is an issue being currently experienced by students.

E McCabe said the SRC will continue to have oversight of the University Strategy. The space within, and size of, the University, as well as University growth exercises over the next few years, are to be a focus of this strategy according to discussions at Senate. The SRC will remain close to these conversations and ensure that issues such as the housing crisis are being considered, particularly given that housing issues have

persisted after COP26. It will encourage the sustainable growth of the University.

E Simmons said she agrees with Council members who feel different student groups are entitled to their own spaces (for example, mature students and home students). She said there was a proposition in the Sustainability Working Group by GUEST to have an eco/sustainability hub – something which is already a feature of other universities and which E Simmons believes is a good idea. She said this may be brought to Council in future as something which it could possibly campaign for.

D Henderson said he agreed with the points raised. He said he would love to see as many people get the opportunity to study at Glasgow as possible, however, considering the University's significant growth figures over the last 2-5 years, he feels continued growth of this kind is unsustainable as it puts stress on social/study spaces. He added that, with this situation, the new buildings planned as part of the University's campus redevelopment could be seen as reactive measures to existing growth problems, rather than as sustainable long-term solutions. D Henderson feels there should be stronger consideration of this within the University strategy as well as on a civic government level, referencing the ongoing housing crisis being a result of the latter's lack of planning for continued growth of the student population.

E McCabe said David Duncan is currently trying to facilitate a conversation with Glasgow City Council to discuss these issues. This conversation is still in the planning stages. She added that there needs to be consideration of the intersectionality of the University's strategies in the sense that the University's residential strategy and international strategy, for example, cannot be grown if there is not space for students on campus. E McCabe also added that not all students have returned to campus and that the SRC is trying to make the University aware of this. She believes that discussion regarding these issues will take place in January after more students have returned to campus and further clarity on the on-campus space open to students is available.

T Anderson suggested an audit of the accommodation available at the University should be done to determine how many available spaces there are within the University accommodations. He said a room within his own accommodation has been vacant since September and that he would like

to know how many rooms are currently vacant in University accommodation.

E McCabe said she believes a re-evaluation has taken place in order to inform plans for semester two. She suggested that the room in T Anderson's accommodation may have remained vacant due to a student being allocated this room but then being unable to travel to occupy it. She said that if the vacancies have been set to be available from January then it is unlikely that students will be able to move in before then, however, she said she could encourage Accommodation Services to have more communication with tenants or conduct more thorough checks on whether students are going to return to their accommodation, so that vacancies can be made available to other students. She said a potential issue, however, of moving students in for short-term stays could be that they do not have other accommodation secured for when they are required to give up their room for another student who has been given a guarantee of accommodation. She said the SRC could discuss these issues with the head of Accommodation Services.

T Anderson said he believes there has been no communication with the students who are slotted to take up rooms at Murano in the near future. He said if it was known when students were scheduled to arrive, then short-term lets between now and their move-in date could be made available to students while they make more long-term arrangements.

M Clarke said there are currently 12 standard rooms available and 3 ensuite rooms available in the University's accommodations and 12 available rooms in Unite student accommodation. She said the reason why this number is so low is due to the fact that tenants will likely still be paying for rooms they have vacated.

T Anderson said, while this figure may not sound substantial, it is enough to merit the action proposed.

E McCabe said the idea of letting out rooms on a short-term basis before students arrive was suggested to AS by the SRC at the beginning of the housing crisis, however, she is unsure if this was taken forward. She said the SRC can follow up with AS to see what plans are in place for next semester and raise the idea of short-term lets while rooms that students are holding are vacant.

E McCabe to discuss following issues with head of Accommodation Services - encourage AS to have more communication with tenants/conduct more thorough checks on whether students are going to return to their accommodation, so that vacancies can be made available to other students. Consideration, also, of issue of short-let students not having other accommodation lined up.

8) Council Feedback on the Digital Experience (including the UofG Life app)

E McCabe asked Council members if they had any feedback to offer on aspects of the University digital experience, such as use of Moodle or use of University apps like the UofG Life app. She said the Sabbatical Officers sit on the Digital Experience Board and have been asked to provide feedback. This can also be provided by Council members on a rolling basis.

P Su asked if the process could be made easier for ascertaining which rooms are available to book in which buildings. He described the current process for this as somewhat convoluted. He suggested that all the rooms available during a specific time period could be shown and then a room could be booked from those showing as available.

E McCabe said she will raise this at one of the next meetings.

9) Semester 2 Teaching Planning

M Clarke has been trying to gain information from the University with regards to a contingency plan for semester 2 teaching. She said the University has indicated that changes to guidelines could result in all teaching being moved back online, with the exception of essential skills. M Clarke said she believes that the University do not think this is likely to happen. M Clarke said she was assured by the University that staff would be able to implement the change if needed. With regards to changes in teaching in January, the only changes will take place within the College of Arts, where this College has re-written its programs to have its lectures and seminars more embedded within each other. There will be more in-person lectures in the College, however, these will take place with smaller groups. M Clarke does not believe any other College or subject is going to be affected. She said she has asked for more face-to-face teaching and has experienced success in gaining this in some individual cases. M Clarke said if Council members know of any courses with less than 50 people that they believe should be held in person but are currently being held online, they are welcome to approach her and she will see if it is possible to have them moved to in-person.

E McCabe said the University has reassured the SRC that face-to-face teaching provisions will be prioritised for those who have received the least in-person teaching during semester 1. She added that the University

SRC to follow up with AS to see what plans are in place for next semester and raise the idea of short-term lets while rooms that students are holding are vacant.

E McCabe to raise P Su's room booking suggestion at one of the next meetings of the Digital Experience board.

has said it will support students who are unable to return to campus with completing their degree online but noted the limitations of this in terms of practical-based subjects.

E McCabe opened the floor to comments and questions.

T Anderson asked if the University are prepared to provide the necessary mental health provisions to students in the event of a shift back to online teaching.

M Clarke said she was told provisions would be put in place. She said, if online teaching was returned to in semester 2, she would consider campaigning for a return of the No Detriment Policy/policies which were formerly in place as a means of providing support to students.

D Henderson said he feels students would be severely dismayed with a return to online teaching and believes, if such a scenario was to take place, that there would be calls for the return of the No Detriment Policy, as well as the reinstatement of other mitigation policies. D Henderson added that there would be non-academic issues to consider as well with such a shift and asked the Sabbatical Officers to ask the University to offer rent rebates to students who did not plan to return to their University accommodation. In the event of the return of online teaching he said he would like the SRC to take a robust line on what it would do to support students, and that such efforts should be publicised early, so as to be proactive rather than reactive.

M Clarke said she agreed with the points raised by D Henderson. She said, while the situation is hypothetical, it would be worth noting that SRC staff are on leave for the festive period until January 10th and that the announcements last year regarding online teaching were made between Christmas and New Year. M Clarke added that if there was to be a change, it would simply be that all teaching would be moved online, with this due to the fact the University is already operating at the highest level of teaching restrictions. She said that all teaching staff are in regular communication with the Scottish Government. M Clarke added that she feels the SRC Executive have acted in proactive manner this year when dealing with situations which have arisen.

E McCabe acknowledged D Henderson's point about acting in a proactive manner. She said that last year it was more difficult to act quickly as the

announcement on the changing of teaching plans was made just as SRC staff returned to work. She said the SRC will endeavour to respond to any announcements regarding teaching as quickly as possible and that it has made it abundantly clear to the University that, if teaching is to be moved online for semester 2, they should not advise all students to return to Glasgow for their studies, as they did last year.

H Krogsaeter expressed a concern regarding semester 2 exam arrangements. She said she recently met with the School of Life Sciences LTC and the Assessment and Feedback Committee and exam arrangements were discussed. She said she was informed that staff were not allowed to set double time online exams – the only options would be to set 24hr exams or online exams which would last the same duration as they would if they were in-person. She said this is problematic as she knows that staff are looking to move away from 24hr open-book exams due to the large number of plagiarism cases which have resulted from this format. H Krogsaeter said if the only other alternative is standard-timed exams then this could be a problem in semester 2.

M Clarke said senior management have started a sponsored project called the Exam Governance Sustainability Group to deal with the issue referred to by H Krogsaeter. She said that the question of exam arrangements involves multiple stakeholders and is a significant undertaking in terms of planning and work. M Clarke and E McCabe are involved in the group and will raise, with Council, any important issues that arise within the group. M Clarke assured Council that herself and E McCabe are highly involved in discussion regarding this issue and that the SRC's voice is taken seriously. She said the University are aware of the issue raised by H Krogsaeter and that by late Jan/early Feb, there will be updates from the group.

E McCabe said double-time exams have been removed from the winter exam diet, with the options for exam formats being either 24hrs or fixed time with 30 minutes for uploading/downloading documents. The SRC pushed against this when the recommendations were being made on this front. She said that the SRC have communicated to the University that this should not be seen as an indication of what future exam arrangements should look like, adding that double time exams were removed for several reasons, including the rise in misconduct cases they were believed to have given way to. The SRC has said to the University to go ahead with the planned arrangements for the winter exam diet but to

monitor the number of misconduct cases, as this could indicate that issues with misconduct do not arise from double time exams. The SRC has also communicated that, with regards to support reasons and the fact exams are taking place in non-invigilated spaces, double time exams would likely be the preferable format if exams were to stay online. E McCabe said hopefully discussions on this will reopen after feedback has been gathered on the current exam diet. The SRC has not been told that the decision on semester 2 exam arrangements has been finalised yet and the hope is that it will have a chance to contribute to discussions regarding arrangements.

T Anderson said he has been approached by 1st year students who have experienced problems with uploading their exam papers due to the allotted time given for this in their exams. He said he believes that all other Russell Group universities are remaining with the 24hr open-book exam format and that he is aware of a petition asking the University to return to this format rather than use the 2hr exam format with 30 minutes for upload, as the latter does not provide enough time for uploading (especially when students are required to answer multiple questions).

E McCabe said concerns were raised when this format was initially discussed regarding it not offering adequate time for students to upload their documents. The Senate Office implemented a cap on the number of documents which were to be uploaded during the half-hour period (E McCabe believes this was 5). The perceived lack of time for uploading has formed the bulk of the feedback that the Senate Office has received regarding these exam arrangements and they were sent a joint complaint/letter voicing concerns on the lack of time for uploading. The Senate Office have insisted that 30 minutes is adequate time for uploading documents and have said they will publish a video outlining the correct procedure. E McCabe said if students are having issues with the process, they should contact their lecturers or contact herself or M Clarke for support. She said she does not believe there will be any changes made to plans for the winter exam diet but it is important to think about semester 2 plans.

M Clarke said the majority of Russell Group universities are not implementing 24hr open-book exams for science subjects. She said this exam format was replaced partly due to concerns over collusion and

partly because of the Institutes of Physics and Chemistry writing recommendations stating that they do not agree with open-book exams.

M Clarke said, with regards to the 30-minute allotted time for exam document upload/download, she would ask the University to change this policy if it transpired that it did not work during the winter exam diet. She noted, however, that the policy was passed by Senate and that she is unsure how willing the University, and its academic staff, would be to change it. She said if Council members have concerns or comments on the policy, they should let her know.

J McKay said he raised student concerns over the 30-minute upload time within his college, however, staff stubbornly insisted that this amount of time was adequate.

E McCabe asked M Clarke to discuss this matter with J McKay and ensure that students within his college were not being asked to upload more documents within the 30-minute period than the maximum dictated by the Senate Office.

M Clarke agreed and said when the recommendation initially passed through IOAWG, it only related to 5 documents of small file sizes. M Clarke said she does not believe this is happening.

X He (Nora) asked, with regards to learning and teaching, if offline teaching will definitely go ahead or if there is still the possibility of changes to plans.

M Clarke said this is dependent on each School and is a difficult issue. She said the SRC has been pushing for this for a long time, particularly due to students' CAS requirements and restrictions on entering the UK. M Clarke said discussions are ongoing and advised waiting for further information, suggesting that the situation may possibly be taken out of the University's hands due to the current public health situation.

X He (Nora) asked if international students who are unable to enter the UK on time can have the University's assistance to extend their CAS.

E McCabe said International Student Support would be able to advise on this and encouraged any students with these queries to contact ISS

M Clarke to discuss exam upload time with J McKay and ensure students within his college are not being required to upload more documents within 30 mins than the max amount.

immediately. She said she believes ISS released guidance recently on international students returning in semester 2.

E Barre said she recently raised the subject of changes to online exams at her LTC meeting and a staff member brought up the difficulty level of the online exams. She said, in her own experience, that she found last year's online exams to be more difficult, even as open-book exams, than the exam past papers she sat. She said a lecturer mentioned re-assessing the difficulty level of the exams, but with the exams remaining timed. E Barre expressed her disagreement with this suggestion, positing that it is not suitable for exams to be made more difficult because of their open-book element if no extra time is to then be given to students to allow them to navigate the increased difficulty level. She said students do not actually have time to consult their notes and books when sitting an exam under timed conditions. She said the difficulty level of exams should be a consideration when exam arrangements are being planned.

E McCabe said the SRC are aware of this issue and that it stems from some staff not revising the content of their exams for an online format. She said staff cannot expect students to sit more difficult exams online in the same time that they would be given in an exam hall. She added that the open-book element for timed exams does not provide the same advantage that it does for 24hr exams. E McCabe said the SRC has raised this issue before but if Council members believe it is an issue that needs to be addressed for the winter exam diet, they should contact herself or M Clarke. She said this issue would be kept in mind during discussions regarding the future of online exams.

Z Kiss asked, if face-to-face teaching is increased, can the SRC ensure that there are provisions for students who cannot attend face-to-face classes due to shielding or travel restrictions related to the new Covid variant.

E McCabe stated she had been advised that adequate support and online provisions would be in place for students who need them and that the University has reassured the SRC this would be the case. She said that Z Kiss should let the Sabbatical Officers know if he identifies any gaps in support.

T Anderson asked if the Scottish Government's recent guidance for staff to work from home until around January would have any effect on the amount of face-to-face teaching that students would receive.

M Clarke said teaching and work are seen as two separate activities and that there is currently no change to the teaching guidance. She said it is up to the Scottish Government whether this situation changes and that if there is to be an update on this it will likely come between Christmas and New Year. M Clarke recently spoke to the University's Communications team who said that the Government are aware of the SRC's timelines, so she hopes that they keep these in mind.

E McCabe said she has heard mention of a work-from-home order being increased for staff, however this has not been confirmed. Conversely, the SRC has received assurance that the University has been in regular correspondence with the Scottish Government regarding planned provisions for face-to-face teaching, and that they seem broadly happy with plans.

10) Council Reports

a) SRC President: Ella McCabe

The Home Student Working Group report was submitted to the Student Experience Committee. It was finalised with a list of recommendations, rather than a formal action list, as it was recognised that potential action-owners within the SEC who would take things forward in the future would need to be an integral part of shaping the action list in order to ensure actions would be realistic and achievable. The SRC has asked SEC members to be involved in discussions for developing the recommendation list into an action list. After discussions have taken place the action list will be submitted again to the SEC where it will hopefully be added as an appendix, similar to other action plans. E McCabe will provide an update on the progress of this in due course.

E McCabe attended the Finding Committee whose remit is to appoint a new Clerk of Senate to replace Jill Morrison when she leaves this role next year.

SRC staff met with staff from Commercial Services to discuss the Gilchrist's reduced opening times. The SRC does not wish for the opening times of the PG space to be reduced and it would like for it to remain open so it can support club/society activity in the evenings. A possible re-brand has been discussed to improve the atmosphere in the space in the evenings and create more of a social hub. Pilot evening

sessions have also been discussed for this purpose. These will likely take place next semester. E McCabe encouraged PG Council members to offer input on what they would like to see implemented in the space. She said a conversation on this could take place with Council at a later date and if PG representatives were happy to be part of this conversation, the Sabbatical Officers could meet with them separately.

The SRC has been made aware of a protest/meeting occurring in Kelvingrove Park at 6pm on 10/12/2021 advocating for better lighting in the park. E McCabe said that over the last few years the SRC has been engaged in trying to improve the lighting in the park so if Council members are interested in attending, they should consider making SRC banners for the protest.

b) VP Education: Mia Clarke

M Clarke went to Brussels with H Krogsaeter for Global CIVIS Days 2021. She said a focus of CIVIS going forward looks to be short-term student mobility. M Clarke met with Celine Reynaud, the project lead at the University for CIVIS, and they discussed the possibility of short courses, weekends away and 5-day trips to partner universities, with these activities being fully funded. The SRC will also be involved in future presentations to both Court and Senate.

c) VP Student Activities: Sam Malis

S Malis held an Interclub Forum on Tuesday, 30th December. 4 sessions took place across the day and S Malis met with lots of clubs and societies, gathering feedback from them on how the semester has played out for their club's activities thus far and what their experiences have been with covid restrictions easing. S Malis brought up the subject of room bookings, as well as the subject of inclusive societies, and said it was beneficial to gather feedback from clubs and societies on these subjects. He said it was good for T Anderson and L Trundle to also be involved in the sessions and to hear the feedback from clubs and societies. This feedback will be used to inform plans for what the SRC will do to support clubs and societies in semester 2. S Malis aims to begin working on his ideas for plans before the end of semester 1, so that these plans can be rolled out in semester 2.

S Malis met with Moira Fischbacher-Smith, B Hay and M Clarke on December 7th to discuss support for academic societies. They discussed plans for building a case for a project which would try to strengthen the link between the societies, the Academic Representatives and School staff. Such a project would take place across this year and next year. S Malis met with Academic Representatives prior to this meeting to gain feedback on academic societies. He thanked the Academic Representatives he spoke with for their input.

E McCabe encouraged Council members to attend De-stress events.

R Vare asked if there were any events planned for students required to isolate over the festive period/students who cannot travel home due to travel restrictions.

E Simmons said the SRC are in discussions with staff at Murano about this and are meeting with them tomorrow to continue these discussions. She said the SRC will look to organise activity for students across all year groups who may be in Glasgow over the festive period.

T Anderson said he is in charge of Christmas planning at Murano Student Village in his role as an LSA. He said there is discussion of making Murano the hub for activities over the festive period. He said there are lots of plans for activities but that a budget is required. T Anderson expressed hope that E Simmons could approach the University to obtain a budget for holding these activities. He added that one such event that will take place is a pyjama night on Christmas Eve.

D Gabra noted that the Scottish Government had recently advised that Christmas parties be cancelled, in light of the new Omicron variant.

E McCabe said Council members could expect a communication on this in due course and that discussions on this matter would take place outwith Council.

d) VP Student Support: Eva Simmons

E Simmons is going to be working to address student housing issues. She said the housing situation has not improved since the passing of COP26 and that she is doubtful the situation will improve in January. E Simmons is in wider discussions with other universities and colleges in

Glasgow regarding the issue. She said the SRC will look to discuss the issues with GCC going forward. She said that the University has discussed the issues with GCC already but if the SRC are going to approach GCC then she would be willing to receive input from Council members on what issues they feel should be raised.

The GND has begun positive conversations with the University. A point that was discussed was the GND's demand to increase the regularity of forum-style discussions/level of representation specifically regarding sustainability issues. This would allow greater student representation on these issues and would possibly involve the input of the UCU as well. E Simmons will update Council on the progress of this in due course.

T Anderson referenced E Simmons's meeting on December 6th with the University Principal and the mention in her report that "Anton implied that concerns about casualisation were 'propaganda' on the UCU's half." He asked if this would mean that the University would be unwilling to resolve this issue or if this opinion was merely expressed in a tongue-in-cheek way and would not have much backing.

E Simmons said she is unsure, but that the University seems to be expressing opinion that casualised contracts/insecure working are not major issues at the University, and that the issue is being propagated by the UCU as a form of propaganda to increase their support base. She said this could possibly be discussed at the UCU forums. In terms of the University not agreeing to the UCU's demands, E Simmons said she believes this is possible, however, she posited that this could simply be rhetoric that the University is using in an attempt to get the UCU to back down on their demands. E Simmons said, while the University's claims may seem genuine, she also feels, from the SRC's interactions with UCU members on picket lines, that members would not be taking such action if there was not a significant problem at hand.

E McCabe added that, while it is possible that this may be a personal view held by the Principal, the Sabbatical Officers were not given the impression from the meeting that this was the Principal's view on the matter. She said the implication mentioned in E Simmon's report came when the Principal was trying to group the issues at hand collectively. She said, however, that the Sabbatical Officers addressed the issue of casualisation when it was raised and asserted that this is more of a local issue, as opposed to the issues being discussed on the national

negotiation stage. E McCabe believes that the Principal may have been trying to communicate that there are a variety of opinions regarding different contract types and that he was trying to be persuasive on one side of this, however, she said the SRC clearly communicated that there are different lines of argument on this subject and that the University are not accommodating these by taking the line they are. E McCabe said the Principal expressed a willingness to continue to engage with the SRC and UCU on this matter.

e) PG Arts Convenor: Kevin Leomo

K Leomo said he was impressed with the SRC's statement on the UCU strike action. He said he spoke to staff members (including other GTAs) on the picket line and that they were appreciative of the SRC's support. He thanked the SRC for this show of support, as well as the Sabbatical Officers for coming to the picket line on 03/12/2021.

E McCabe thanked K Leomo for his comments and said the statement received positive feedback on Twitter.

f) PG Social Sciences Convenor: Catriona Thornton

g) UG Arts Convenor: Emma Lindquist

h) UG MVLS Convenor: Lewis O'Connor

i) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Duncan Henderson

j) Computing School Rep: Zoltan Kiss

Z Kiss asked if anyone would continue the work of the Mental Health Equality Officer role once T Agarwal leaves this post in January. He suggested a General Representative could perhaps take up this role and emphasised the importance of the Mental Health Equality Officer position.

E McCabe suggested that E Simmons speak to 1st Year Representatives and General Representatives to see if any of these Representatives would be interested in contributing to the work of this role. She said it is important, however, that Council members do not take on too much responsibility and overwork themselves.

E Simmons said she would be working on mental health-related issues within her role but that any Council member who wishes to offer help in

E Simmons speak to 1st Year Representatives and General Representatives to see if any of these Representatives would be interested in contributing to the

this area, and who may feel like there is an overlap with the remit of their own role, is welcome to contact her.

T Anderson said he would be willing to help.

- k) Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Chloe Waterhouse
- l) Geographical and Earth Science School Rep: Elizabeth Barre
- m) Humanities School Rep: Reece Paul
- n) Life Sciences School Rep: Hanne Krogsaeter
- o) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Michalis Stavrou
- p) Medicine School Rep: Kirsty Craig
- q) Psychology School Rep: Paul Skinner
- r) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz
- s) Age Equality Officer: Ethan Wilson
- t) Environmental Officer: David Gabra

D Gabra referenced a meeting of the Sustainability Working Group on 02/12/2021, where the University presented a carbon management plan outlining the various steps it is going to take to reduce its carbon footprint. Mentioned in the plan was the intention to permanently make blended learning a fixture of the academic experience. D Gabra said he found this worrying and said blended learning would allow the University to admit more students for less money, using more casualised labour and less permanent academic staff. He asked Council members for their thoughts on this matter so that he could effectively represent the views of the Council going forward. He said these views could be emailed to him.

E McCabe said this matter has arisen in several discussions and the SRC has communicated each time that this is not a confirmed plan of action. She said the University has said that the future of learning and teaching is not currently certain and will depend on rulings from such committees as the Learning and Teaching Committee and University staff such as M Fischbacher-Smith and that, as such, nothing will be dictated by what is written in the Sustainability WG's carbon management plan. E McCabe said herself and M Clarke are involved in the ongoing discussions on these matters and that if any Council members have concerns in this area they can approach them, however, the Sabbatical Officers have already communicated to the University that any decisions on learning and teaching must involve vast student consultation and feedback.

work of
Mental
Health
Equality
Officer
role.

- u) Gender Equality Officer: Rinna Vare
- v) International Students Officer: Xinyu He
- w) Mental Health Equality Officer: Tanya Agarwal
- x) General Rep: Eleanor Wood
- y) General Rep: Lewis Trundle
- z) General Rep: Pak Su
- aa) First Year Rep: Isaac Gilbert
- bb) First Year Rep: Tony Anderson

T Anderson asked for an update on students currently living in Paisley due to the housing crisis. He said he is planning to visit these students in the new year, along with either a General Representative or the Sabbatical Officers, to offer support. He asked if there were plans to move these students to University accommodation in Glasgow.

E McCabe said she asked Robert Garnish about this. E McCabe said there has been a greater demand on University accommodation than anticipated and that the University are meeting all students who have been given an accommodation guarantee, including those who were on a sign-up list from last semester. She said, however, that in meeting this guarantee she does not believe the University has been able to offer accommodation to students who wish to move. E McCabe said she asked if any such requests had been coming through and said she did not receive confirmation that requests were being turned down from students who wish to move to more mainstream accommodation in Glasgow. E McCabe said she will follow up on this matter to see if requests of this kind are being turned down, or if there is accommodation in Glasgow, even in the private provider market, that can be offered to students who would like it.

S Malis said would be keen to go to Paisley to offer support to the students there. He said that the Sabbatical Officers met with these students at the beginning of the academic year and that he was planning a pizza night social for Glasgow University students to get to know each other, however, this was not possible due to a refurbishment of the common space in the halls at the time. He said he would follow up with T Anderson with regards to planning an activity of this kind in semester 2.

E McCabe to follow up on whether requests from students who want to move from Paisley to Glasgow are being turned down or if there is Glasgow accommodation, even in the private provider market, that can be offered to such students.

11. AOCB

E McCabe wished all Council members a happy festive period.

E McCabe highlighted the March elections to Council and encouraged Council members to think, over the festive period, about running for a position on Council. Any Council members with questions are welcome to contact the Sabbatical Officers.

E McCabe wished all Council members good luck with their exams.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 20th January 2022.

S Malis to follow up with T Anderson re. planning an activity in Semester 2 for GU students in Paisley.

Appendix - Commentary on decision making process regarding supporting UCU Strike

This was not an emergency meeting. It was a consultative meeting convened by the Executive to continue the discussion on supporting the strike, as borne out by the description of the meeting 'UCU Consultation Session'.

I was consulted by the Executive and did indeed advise that the process of events was constitutional. I didn't consider that there was anything particularly controversial so didn't provide anything in writing. (One particular pleasure of working with the SRC is that Council focus on issues rather than get tied up in procedural matters so I rarely have to advise on such matters).

There are a couple of ways that the process of decision making could be deemed as valid.

1. Most straightforwardly: the consultative meeting had been agreed at the previous Council meeting thereby giving notice and consenting to it occurring. The discussion that took place was an extension of the initial discussion at the previous Council Meeting. The Executive followed good practise and brought in speakers from each side so that Council could make an informed decision. Those that attended participated in a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion covering all the relevant issues. Subsequently, 80% of those attending voted in favour of the strike. As an extension of the previous meeting this could arguably stand on its own, though homologation by the next meeting might be advisable if time permits.

Alternatively

2. The consultative meeting was well attended and would have been quorate were it a formal meeting. Of those attending 80% voted to support the strike. The resultant vote informed the Executive's decision to reach a decision to support the strike. The Executive are entitled to do this by virtue of the Constitution – Clause 8.2:” **The Executive committee shall be accountable to Council but shall have the capacity to agree short term policy and campaigning initiatives where required.**”

The Executive chose to support the strike after an extensive consultative meeting with Council (which they were not required to hold) The process of reaching the decision was considerably more democratic and inclusive than constitutionally required and Council members should be commended for participating in the decision-making process so fully.

In either case

Council came to a decision that was

A reasonable decision it was entitled to make. Within its powers

Made in good faith and which was

considerate of relevant factors and ignored irrelevant ones

Additional point.

Even if there had been minor procedural glitches there was **no jeopardy**. All Council members had a chance to participate in a discussion and a vote. All was above board and there was nothing hidden. What really matters is that the process was **reasonable** and **fair**

Bob Hay

Permanent Secretary

09/12/21

Facts You Must Know About a Point of Order

(Edited for space, full text at <https://civility.co/uncategorized/3-facts-you-must-know-about-a-point-of-order/>)

By Sarah E. Merkle on April 3, 2019

There are common mental images that go with the words “parliamentary procedure” or “*Robert’s Rules*.” One of them is a person waving his arm and yelling “Point of order!” with all the vigour needed to move a mountain. But what is a point of order anyway?

Here are defining facts about a point of order that will help you understand when to say those words – with or without the arm-waving and vigour.

A point of order is an announcement that the rules are not being followed

If you’re in a meeting and the group’s rules are not being followed, a point of order is the way you deal with that.

Here’s the picture: It’s the chair’s job to know the group’s rules and enforce them. And if he’s not paying attention, and something’s happening that shouldn’t be, a point of order is the way to let him and everyone else know: *Hey, we have rules here because we care about members’ rights. Here’s how the rules are not being followed right now. Can you please fix that?*

And remember, organizations have many different kinds of rules: statutes, bylaws, special rules, parliamentary procedure. You can use a point of order to address violations of *any* of these rules.

A point of order is not a way to show off your *Robert’s Rules* expertise.

Many groups have a Nancy Know-It-All – a member who makes it obvious she knows more parliamentary procedure than everyone else. If that’s you, that’s awesome that you’re in the know, but please use your knowledge for good and not to slow down the meeting with points of order about *Robert’s Rules* minutiae **when members’ rights aren’t actually being stepped on.**

And if you’re Nancy, you’re probably thinking that I just sold you out. After all, aren’t professional parliamentarians like me supposed to be consumed with making sure every last rule is followed? Not really. The rules are helpful, and even the picky points have their place. But the fundamentals are what’s important in running a meeting fairly.

And believe it or not, Robert is with me on this one. *Robert’s Rules* states that making points of order “on minor irregularities of a purely technical character” is “undesirable” if there’s no real harm to members’ rights or the transaction of business.

So, if you’re a walking resource on all things parliamentary procedure, that’s great. **Just make sure you use your familiarity with the rules for the benefit of the group and the goals it’s trying to achieve.**