

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 20th JANUARY 2022 AT 6.00 PM
ZOOM

ACTION

Present : As per sederunt

Apologies : H Baer, B Craig

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay, J Small

1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

As per sederunt.

E McCabe said several late reports have been received for this meeting. She said Council members should ensure that they submit their Council report on time and with relevant details of the work they undertake, so that other Council members have a chance to read them and offer comments/questions.

E McCabe said, while the Sabbatical Officers are accepting of mitigating circumstances for absences, it is expected of Council members that they send their apologies for Council meetings in advance. She noted that the SRC's constitution dictates that 3 missed meetings results in a Council member being deemed as resigned. She said that Council members not attending, with no explanation, is unacceptable and unfair on the Council members who do attend Council meetings, particularly considering all Council members gain HEAR recognition for their roles. E McCabe said unexplained absences will be taken into consideration when awarding HEAR recognition.

M Clarke said last week there was a low number of volunteers during January Welcome Week. She said she understands Council members are busy but said they are expected to volunteer when they can, as part of their Council duties. She asked Council members to dedicate as much time to such activities as they were able to.

S Malis said he agreed with M Clarke. He encouraged Council members to dedicate at least an hour of their time per day to help with SRC activities. He said volunteering in this way allows Council members to meet more students and increases the visibility of the SRC. He said he will send out communications on volunteering opportunities via email for those who do not engage with the Council Facebook page.

S Malis to send out
notice of volunteering
opportunities

E Wilson offered apologies to Council for not submitting a Council report due to family circumstances.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

E Simmons said, with regards to an update on training for SRC and LSA officers for dealing with spiking incidents after they have happened, that Harm Reduction Society are going to be holding several events for Harm Awareness Month in halls this month. These will deal with spiking incidents and effects. Any interested Council members should reach out to E Simmons for more information.

With regards to 1st Year-specific events for Welcome Week next year, a recommendation for these will be included in the VPSA's handover for next year.

M Clarke said she was not able to provide an update from the Senate Office on GPA Covid mitigation measures due to her heavy workload over the past fortnight.

M Clarke will speak to Estates at ARPMG next week regarding the issue of mature students not being able to book study spaces after 5pm. She said she suspects she will be told this is a School issue/something Estates cannot assist with.

S Malis said he has not been made aware of any continuing concerns from Council members regarding whether pre/during COP26 events exceeded 50 people.

With regards to an issue raised by L O'Connor in the 1st Council meeting of this year regarding spaces showing as being open on the UofG Life app when they are not actually open, E McCabe said L O'Connor is welcome to provide info on what rooms/buildings are affected and the Sabbatical Officers will pass the information on to Timetabling and Facilities staff for actioning.

E Simmons spoke to Drew McConnell regarding improving the accuracy of lecture recording transcripts. D McConnell said a technical solution for this had not been achieved as packages were tested for this purpose but found to not be any better than the package currently being used by the University. He said, for improved accuracy, the University would have to pay a £1 per minute for human-corrected transcripts. E Simmons said this would be a disproportionate financial burden in consideration of the time needed for this task. She said the University has created a prioritisation list, along with advice on best practice to improve the quality of audio transcripts. This advice is on the University website. The University has also emailed students with a reminder of their rights. D McConnell said there was more work to be done on this issue and that the issue is sector wide.

E Simmons said she was sent some information regarding how the SRC could improve the accessibility of minutes posted to its website. She said she can send this information to the relevant SRC department.

M Clarke gave a general update on matters relating to the UCU. She said the SRC is going to hold a forum with the UCU. Currently, the SRC is awaiting details from UCU Glasgow regarding possible future strike/industrial action. Once these details have been provided, and if strike action is planned, a forum will be held

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

M Clarke to speak to Estates at ARPMG next week regarding the issue of mature students not being able to book study spaces after 5pm.

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 send info on improving accessibility of minutes to relevant SRC department.

M Clarke to take lead on organising UCU forum once further details have been provided by UCU on future action.

where staff and students can discuss the strike action. M Clarke, E Simmons and S Malis met with a UCU representative last week, and they (the SRC) communicated that it is positive that the SRC enjoying a good dialogue and communication link with the UCU.

K Craig asked if there was any feedback from students on the strike.

M Clarke said there has been generally positive feedback online from students regarding the SRC's support of the strike action.

E McCabe said if further strike action is announced the SRC will re-discuss the matter.

M Clarke said she has asked Information Services several times about the possibility of a third 'non-bookable but available' room indicator for the JMS building but has been assured each time that the room booking indicators are accurate and that changes have been made to ensure accuracy.

E McCabe is yet to discuss, with K Craig, incorporating her work on sustainability into the Estates strategy, however, they have discussed the possibility of incorporating this work into the SRC's website. K Craig will discuss the possibility of this with her line manager.

E McCabe to discuss, with K Craig, incorporating her sustainability work into Estates Strategy.

K Craig said there are other areas of work within the School of Medicine which can be included in this discussion.

E McCabe said if there are other relevant areas of work then K Craig is welcome to contact her, M Clarke or her line manager to further discuss the possibility of incorporating these into the SRC website.

K Craig to contact line manager/M Clarke or E McCabe if she would like to discuss incorporating other relevant work from within School of Medicine into SRC website/ bringing it under SRC banner.

E McCabe said when the next update regarding the SRC's GBV module goes out, this could also be sent to clubs and societies for their information.

S Malis asked when the next update on the module would be sent out.

E McCabe said the SRC is currently awaiting information from the University on what support it can offer the SRC with regards to the monitoring of module responses. She said this needs to be confirmed before the next update is sent out. She said that the SRC is cautious about describing the module as 'mandatory' given that the University has not yet confirmed that it will monitor responses. She said the SRC will meet with University staff next week and consult them on how communications regarding the module should be presented. After this meeting, J Small will be consulted regarding the release of communications on the module, at which point S Malis should ensure clubs and societies are included in communications.

S Malis to ensure clubs and societies are included in comms re. SRC GBV module.

R Vare said she is going to ask S Malis to email clubs and societies regarding International Women's Week. She suggested this communication potentially be combined with the update on the GBV module.

R Vare to contact S Malis regarding combining clubs and socs comms on GBV module with IWW comms.

E McCabe said this would be a good idea and could form part of a wider conversation which S Malis, E Simmons and Gina Connor could have regarding training for clubs and societies. She said these parties could discuss what they wish to promote to clubs and societies in terms of the SRC's activities, for example, its workshops, and discuss potentially making workshop attendance mandatory for Office Bearers.

S Malis and E Simmons to meet with G Connor to discuss forementioned comms and what they would like communicated to clubs and socs re. clubs training. Also, to discuss potential of mandatory workshop attendance for Office Bearers.

S Malis provided an update on the issue raised by H Baer of some floodlights being out around the Vet School. He said last semester he was in touch with staff from Glasgow City Council and that he plans to contact them again this semester to see if anything can be done regarding road improvements/lighting to increase the safety of students and the general population. He said he is going to follow up on this matter.

S Malis to contact GCC regarding road improvements/lighting to increase the safety of students and the general population

E McCabe asked S Malis to contact H Baer to discuss the issue further. She also asked S Malis to contact the relevant University staff to see if they can remedy the issue if it persists.

S Malis to contact H Baer to discuss Vet School lighting issue. S Malis also to contact the relevant University staff to see if they can remedy the issue if it persists.

E McCabe said Council members who would like a shared inbox for 1st Year/General Representatives should contact her to discuss this. She said there are a few options for how this could be achieved and that these could be explained/discussed in a meeting with the Sabbatical Officers and G Connor.

Council members who would like a shared inbox for 1st Year/Gen Reps to contact E McCabe to discuss with her and G Connor.

E McCabe asked if any Council members had any comments/questions on agenda items from the last Council meeting.

L O'Connor asked how he should prepare the financial proposal for the Class Rep ball. He said that, upon looking into possible venues, the Glasgow Grosvenor was most suitable. He said if the SRC was to contribute £2.5k in funding for the event, then tickets could be sold to Class Representatives for £30. This would include a 3-course meal, wine, photographer, DJ, and ceilidh.

E McCabe asked L O'Connor to submit a budget proposal in writing and advised L O'Connor to approach M Clarke for advice on putting together a draft budget proposal. She said such a proposal should include details on where the funding is coming from, approximate costs and the expected financial input from the SRC. E McCabe said once this proposal has been received and considered it can be discussed at a future council meeting. E McCabe said L O'Connor could still speak to S Malis for VPSA input on the planning stages of the event, if needed.

L O'Connor to submit budget proposal for Class Rep Ball in writing. To approach M Clarke for advice on drafting budget.

M Clarke said the issues raised at the previous Council meeting regarding Class reps would be taken forward for discussion at the next meeting of the Academic Forum.

M Clarke to take forward issues raised at the previous Council meeting regarding Class reps for discussion at the next meeting of the Academic Forum. Local/broader solutions to be discussed.

E McCabe said, with regards to student accommodation-related matters raised at the last Council meeting, that the SRC is continuously providing input into the formation of the new Residential Strategy in terms of what it would like to see (e.g., certain deliverables including short term accommodation offers). With

E McCabe to discuss following with head of AS – encourage AS to

regards to the issue raised of students potentially looking to move to Glasgow from further afield accommodation (for example, Paisley), E McCabe asked for feedback on this, however, Accommodation Services have not indicated that there are cases of such requests. She said any Council members who are aware of students who have had moving applications of this type rejected should contact her. E McCabe noted that the housing pressures from last semester seem to have eased slightly.

E McCabe said she will raise, at the next Digital Experience Board meeting, the room booking suggestion P Su raised at the last Council meeting.

J Mackay said, with regards to document upload times/file limits for exams, each School he has spoken to has confirmed that they have a 5-file limit. He said he is not aware of any exams which have exceeded this limit.

E McCabe said discussion regarding the next exam diet is currently taking place at the University. She said any Council members who wish to raise concerns/issues regarding exams should do so during this meeting or at the next meeting of the Academic Forum, so that the Sabbatical Officers can take these issues forward to the University.

E Simmons said any Council members, regardless of remit, who wish to assist with the work of the Mental Health Equality Officers' role, or perhaps have ideas for mental health-related activities for this term, should email her.

H Pentleton said she would be happy to assist with this work.

S Malis said, with regards to planning activities for students living in Paisley accommodation, that he and E Simmons have recently discussed contacting these students, and that they will follow up with T Anderson regarding this. S Malis said students in Paisley would likely be emailed tomorrow.

3) Winter Destress Report – Sam Malis & Eva Simmons

The SRC's Winter De-stress campaign ran between the 29/11/2021 and 17/12/2021. The event was a success and E Simmons expressed her thanks to all those involved in the organisation and delivery of the event. She added that the level of interaction between the SRC and students was very positive.

S Malis said the De-stress bags and Tea-stress event, in particular, were positively received and that these events, and the high level of SRC and helper involvement, worked towards increasing the visibility of the SRC. S Malis noted strong student engagement with De-stress events and said plans are being made for the Summer De-stress campaign, with the hope being this campaign will feature even more events.

D Henderson noted a conflict of interest relating to his being a member of the Glasgow University Union Standing Committee. He asked for elaboration on what informed the decision not to undertake the De-stress campaign as a cross campus initiative.

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.

E McCabe to raise, at next Digital Experience Board meeting, the room booking suggestion P Su raised at the last Council meeting.

S Malis and E Simmons to follow up with T Anderson re. planning activities for students in Paisley.

E McCabe said cross campus collaboration on campaigns is normally discussed initially at meetings of the Cross Campus committee and Welfare Forum, where enthusiasm for collaboration is gauged. She said that last year, when cross-campus campaign collaboration was agreed, the SRC did not receive details of other student bodies' events on time for posting to its online events platform. As such, the SRC was not prepared, this year, to take on the time-consuming commitment of collaboration when it had been let down the previous year in this regard. E McCabe said, while a collaborative De-stress campaign did take place last year, the SRC ultimately carried out virtually all of the work for this. Despite last year's complications, collaboration with the other student bodies on this year's campaign was offered by the SRC at a meeting of the Cross Campus committee, however, there was no discernible appetite from the other student bodies for hosting De-stress events. E McCabe believes it is not the SRC's responsibility to force the student bodies to run such events if they do not wish to.

E McCabe said the SRC is happy to explore cross campus collaboration if the other student bodies wish to engage with it, however, it is reluctant to push for collaboration if the other student bodies are not keen to put on activities, owing to the fact this has resulted in time-consuming chase-ups, missed deadlines and coordination issues in the past.

M Clarke congratulated E Simmons and S Malis for organising a successful Winter De-stress campaign.

4) Inclusive Education Charter – Mia Clarke

M Clarke met with Council representatives and University staff members to discuss the Inclusive Education Charter. She said she was aware of certain matters raised in a meeting of the Welfare Forum and that she would edit the document to address these. M Clarke asked Council members if they had any requests for alterations/objections to the Charter, or any objections to the SRC using it as a piece of campaign material for its website.

H Pentleton asked if care responsibilities would be added in as a primary area.

Mia confirmed they would.

As there were no objections, E McCabe said the document was approved in principle with the changes put forward.

5) Winter Exams Feedback

E McCabe said, as the recent Academic Forum meeting was cancelled, Council members would have the opportunity here to raise any concerns they had regarding the operation of the recent winter exam diet. She said University staff

Sabbatical Officers to reiterate to University that in cases where exams are mandatorily moved back to campus,

have asked for feedback here and that the Sabbatical Officers would pass on any concerns raised by Council members.

M Clarke said M Stavrou supplied her with survey data which would inform this feedback.

A Kainth said he is currently gathering feedback on this from Class Representatives and that he should have this information soon.

E McCabe thanked A Kainth and asked him to keep in touch with M Clarke.

E Barre said she is also awaiting feedback from Class Representatives.

K Craig said Class Representatives have made her aware of student concern in the School of Medicine regarding the difficulty level of an exam which was thought to have been made more difficult so students could not cheat.

M Clarke said it is difficult to influence exam policy within the School of Medicine due to the external accreditation involved in its exams. She said, however, she is aware of the issue and has recently been in contact with Maureen Bain (the Dean of L&T in MVLS) and they have spoken about this matter.

L O'Connor asked what year group sat the exam in question.

K Craig said she believes it was a 2nd year exam, however, a 1st year student also brought the same concern to her.

E McCabe said she believes the School of Medicine are pushing for a return of on-campus exams for the next diet and believes this relates to external accreditation expectations. She said a return to on-campus exams may resolve the issue in question but could pose other issues.

K Craig said L O'Connor has undertaken a significant amount of work in this regard. She said the School will be going ahead with in-person exams live on computers for Year 3 students in February. K Craig added that L O'Connor reached a resolution with the School, whereby an extra exam will potentially be given to students required to self-isolate.

E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers will reiterate to the University that in cases where exams are mandatorily moved back to campus, consideration must be taken of the fact students have expressed concerns over the difficulty levels of exams. The SRC will feed back to the University that the content of these in-person exams should be appropriate to their level.

M Mosjiej said he has received several angry emails from students concerning an exam in a specific subject. He said the exam in question was a 24hr exam which featured a 2hr paper, however, the paper was 100 pages long. As such, it took students a minimum of 3 hours to read it. Students were consequently upset that the paper was this long, considering the exam was meant to be a 2hr paper.

consideration must be taken of the fact students have expressed concerns over the difficulty levels of exams. SRC to feed back to the University that the content of these in-person exams should be appropriate to their level.

M Clarke asked M Mojsiej to supply the course code relating to the exam in question and said she would follow this matter up.

M Mojsiej to supply M Clarke with course code in relation to exam timing issue, so that M Clarke can follow matter up.

M Stavrou said he has received feedback from 1st Year students regarding exams and, through tutoring, has had direct contact with around 40 students with whom he has discussed exams. He said that Year 1 Statistics work is not as challenging as Year 3 or 4 work to those who have studied statistics beforehand and, as such, most 1st year students, with a few exceptions, found their exam to be okay. As such, he said he was unsure as to the value of this feedback. M Stavrou added that feedback from Honours-level students would not be available until May when they sit their exams.

E McCabe said it was fine if Council members did not have feedback to report regarding the winter exam diet. She said she expects communications on exam conditions for the next diet to be released next week.

M Stavrou said the main concern he has heard from 3rd and 4th year students concerns the time allocation for their exams. He said students are worried that they won't be able to complete their exams on time if they are given less time to sit a paper the same length as last year's.

E McCabe said she and M Clarke have communicated to the University that any exam papers should be able to be completed within the time allocated for them. She said the SRC will continue to emphasise this point to the University and encouraged Council members to also communicate such concerns to their respective Schools. She said if M Stavrou has any further concerns he should contact the Sabbatical Officers.

E McCabe and M Clarke to continue emphasising to the University that any exam papers should be able to be completed within the time allocated for them.

6) Semester 2 Timetabling Provisions

E McCabe acknowledged discrepancies regarding the level of face-to-face teaching received by students last semester and noted that many students felt unhappy with their level of in-person teaching. She said the level of face-to-face teaching was supposed to increase and that the University has assured the SRC that students unable to travel to Glasgow are being supported online wherever they can be. E McCabe asked Council members if they were aware of any instances of this not happening or had any comments they wished to make on this agenda point.

H Pentleton said she has received complaints from students in the College of Arts regarding there being no option to join online classes if their subject is seminar-based only. She said this issue has affected her own studies and results in students missing out the entirety of their teaching for particular modules.

M Clarke said she is aware of this issue, adding that she believes the biggest issues regarding online teaching lie in the College of Arts due to its hesitancy regarding the recording of teaching. M Clarke said, when this issue has been raised in the past, academic staff have asserted that they cannot double-teach, however, M Clarke does not believe double-teaching is the issue here as the problem relates to recording. She said, unfortunately, the teaching recording policy does not cover small group teaching with the reason being it is easier to

identify participants in small group teaching scenarios. M Clarke said, for seminars to be recorded, every seminar participant, including the academic staff member, would have to sign something saying they are happy to be recorded.

H Pentleton asked if this rule applies to hybrid meeting formats.

M Clarke confirmed it did. She asked H Pentleton for the course code of the course in question so that she could speak to the College Dean and communicate the issue of students missing out on teaching.

E Lindquist asked if it is worth the SRC pushing for recording for small group teaching/teaching taking place in a hybrid format.

M Clarke said if students wish for small group teaching classes to be recorded then they should ask for this on a local level, i.e., ask their tutors. She said that, unfortunately, if she were to ask for this at a University level the idea would be rejected. M Clarke asked E Lindquist to inform her of the outcome if she pursues this on a local level, so that she can take the issue forward herself if necessary. She added, however, that she is doubtful about what progress can be made on this in the time she has left in her post.

E Lindquist asked if University staff could be reminded to end classes at 5 minutes to the hour and begin classes at 5 minutes past the hour. She said this gap would allow students to get to their other classes on time. She said, since her classes have resumed post-Christmas, she has experienced this gap not being implemented.

M Clarke said she will raise this issue at the Timetabling and Teaching Planning Group and remind staff these timings should be kept to.

Z Kiss said the School of Computing Science has tried a variety of teaching formats. He said, in the Graduate Apprenticeship programme, students on Zoom joined meetings and the Zoom chat was projected onto a board. He said, while it took staff some time to get used to the technology, the feedback from students on this format was very positive. He said other Council members could use this as an example if they are asking for similar arrangements to be made within their School's classes.

M Clarke said she sat on a group during the summer which was tasked with discussing hybrid teaching. She said the conclusion drawn was that some members of staff would not be sufficiently technologically competent to implement hybrid teaching in their classes. She said privacy concerns were also raised. M Clarke added that this was a local level issue, rather than a wider University level problem.

E McCabe said useful feedback on student experiences of hybrid teaching, in relation to online/in-person teaching, could be gathered at Academic Forum. She said the SRC has been asked several times about whether students would be interested in hybrid teaching. She asked M Clarke to raise this issue for more extensive discussion at Academic Forum.

H Pentleton to supply course code of affected modules so M Clarke can communicate the issue of students missing out on teaching to the CoA Dean.

E Lindquist to inform M Clarke of outcome if she contacts tutors to ask for small-group teaching to be recorded, so that she can take the issue forward if necessary.

M Clarke to raise, at Timetabling and Teaching planning group, the issue of classes not ending and beginning with 10 min gap and remind staff to keep to this gap.

M Clarke to raise hybrid teaching as a matter for discussion at Academic Forum, with a view to gathering feedback on student experience/interest.

Q (Vivian) Zhang asked why one of her lectures has changed to a format whereby weeks 1 and 3 receive in-person teaching and weeks 2 and 4 are online.

M Clarke said she believes this policy has only been implemented in the Business School and that the reason for it is to lower the Covid risk, as well as due to the lack of room space for teaching on campus. She said Q Zhang's class would alternate with another class in terms of online and in-person teaching.

X (Nora) He said she has noticed timetabling errors on the UofG Life app.

M Clarke said this is primarily a Business School issue which also affects staff. She said she has raised the issue to try and get it resolved.

X (Nora) He asked if students could be informed of the issue.

M Clarke said she would speak to the Business School Director for L&T to try and get a notification about the issue sent out on the app.

7) Coronavirus and Isolation Rules in University Accommodation

At this point in the meeting T Anderson's internet connection broke up so E Simmons raised the following concern on his behalf as they had previously discussed this matter prior to the Council meeting.

E Simmons said this issue was discussed at the Welfare Forum. She said the issue at hand concerns the guidelines in University accommodation being unclear with regards to instructions on when students should self-isolate. She said if students are living in a flat with a covid-positive student then there is currently ambiguity, with regards to the guidelines, over whether they also need to isolate. E Simmons said she believes the current guidelines are that students are not required to isolate in these circumstances if they are fully vaccinated (including the booster jab) and they have returned a negative lateral flow test. She said, however, that there is concern that some students are not following these guidelines. She added that, when this issue was discussed at the Welfare Forum it was posited that there is perhaps uncertainty among students in halls over whether isolating in one's room, away from flatmates, changes anything. E Simmons said Avril Conacher opined at the Welfare Forum that, while Council is unsure as to how much responsibility it should take in telling students what to do, it should perhaps seek to inform students of the correct guidelines.

E McCabe said the SRC could ask the Accommodation team to communicate a message to students in halls encouraging them to take note of the guidance and reminding them of current guidelines. The SRC would also mention to AS that some students feel uncomfortable due to other students not following the guidance and communicate the importance of current correct policy being highlighted to students. She noted that confusion among students may stem from regularly changing guidance.

M Clarke to speak to Business School Director for L&T re. sending out a notification on UofG Life app informing students about timetabling errors.

E McCabe to ask AS to communicate a message to students in halls encouraging them to take note of COVID guidance and reminding them of the current guidelines. SRC also to mention that some students feel uncomfortable with other students not following the guidance and communicate the importance of current correct policy being highlighted to students.

E McCabe said, while she is happy to approach AS and ask them to promote this messaging, she does not believe the SRC should begin promoting Covid guidelines to students as this is the University's responsibility.

E McCabe to contact AS and ask them to put out accommodation-specific Covid guidance on their social media channels.

T Anderson said there is also a concern that students who are close contacts of Covid-positive persons are not testing themselves and still coming onto campus. He said he is aware of instances of this happening. T Anderson said the SRC could try and push for the University to increase its messaging on Covid guidelines.

E McCabe said she would contact AS and ask them to put out accommodation-specific guidance on their social media channels. She added that she is aware of a current messaging campaign by the University concerning Covid guidelines. She said these communications would be released within the next fortnight and encouraged T Anderson to check the messaging, once released, to see if he believes anything has been missed out. If so, he should contact E McCabe and she will raise the issue with the University Communications team.

T Anderson to review new University Covid messaging guidelines to see if anything has been missed out. If so, E McCabe to raise with Uni comms team.

8) Invisible Disability Awareness Guide

E Simmons said the Invisible Disability Awareness Guide is being worked on with H Pentleton and some other members of the Disability Working Group. This guide will essentially be a campaign to raise awareness of, and disseminate information on, hidden disabilities, both for students who may have an invisible disability and for the general student population. E Simmons said she is happy for Council members to email her or H Pentleton if they have any ideas for the guide, comments on any of the guide topics mentioned in her Council report, or any questions.

9) Council Reports

a) SRC President: Ella McCabe

The Student Experience Strategy is in its initial stages of planning. E McCabe said the SEC has operated on an agenda-point basis and that there has not been an underlying strategy which informs the overall remit of the committee. However, a strategy which will serve this purpose is now being worked on by E McCabe and D Duncan. An initial meeting on this has taken place to discuss and outline a remit which will cover all of the committee's items and a draft strategy has been written. The hope is that the strategy will pull together the disparate areas of work that the SRC is involved in, such as the Home Student Report/Action List and the International Student Action Report, both of which are currently in development. Currently, both items sit as appendixes within the committee, however the hope is they will become key points under a clear strategy and that this will allow them to be driven forward, with their work focused within the group. Council can have sight of the strategy once fully developed. E McCabe said any Council members with insights to contribute here should contact her.

Council to be provided with sight of SEC strategy once developed.

E McCabe said the Dear Safe Place GBV campaign will be launched within the next fortnight. This is a cross-campus initiative. She said details will be posted on the Council Facebook page and any feedback after the launch is appreciated.

Within the last two weeks, the SRC has provided its final comments on its Student Body Funding bid. The bid is now with Robert Partridge and D Duncan for their consideration. E McCabe said there will be another chance to hold discussions about their recommendations. The Sabbatical Officers will keep Council members informed as to the progress of the bid.

Sabbatical Officers to update on progress of Student Body funding bid.

E McCabe said the SRC's Spring Election is approaching. She encouraged Council members to run in the elections and to raise awareness amongst students of the benefits of getting involved in the SRC. She said communications on the election would be released in February. She said Council members interested in running for other positions should reach out to the representatives currently in those positions if they have questions about the role.

M Mosjiej asked if in-person canvassing will be permitted in the forthcoming election.

E McCabe said this has not yet been confirmed but she hopes this will be the case. She said the SRC needs to confirm with the University how many students have still not returned to campus. She said the Sabbatical Officers will provide an update on this in due course.

Sabbatical Officers to provide update on in-person canvassing for Spring election.

D Henderson said, with reference to the 13/01/2022 meeting of the Covid Planning Group detailed in E McCabe's report, that he has strong concerns over the prospect of penalties for students not wearing masks in the library. He said he does not know how, in a large student population, penalties could be implemented without penalising students who are lawfully exempt from mask-wearing. He added that he feels the current messaging on mask-wearing is intimidatory for those who are exempt, and that the addition of fines could result in students opting not to study on campus.

E McCabe said this issue has been discussed in a range of different committees. She said Library staff are very concerned as soft messaging on mask-wearing has not made an impact on the issue of students not wearing masks. E McCabe said she included this issue in her report to highlight that this is a problem being continuously raised by University staff and that, as a result of the problem, staff are considering more punitive measures. In the meetings this has been discussed at, the SRC has made it clear that, while it feels all students should obey policy on mask-wearing, it would not advocate for the application of penalties for non-compliance. She said staff posited different scenarios in discussions, such as removal of students from the Library who repeatedly refuse to wear masks after being asked to. E McCabe said the SRC has communicated that, while there is a pandemic, students should not be removed from their study spaces (especially when they rely on such spaces to access their classes). It has also communicated that the potential of confrontations arising from staff challenging students who are legally exempt

from mask-wearing is an undesirable outcome. Library staff have opined that students who are exempt should carry their exemption cards, however, the SRC has made it clear that not all students feel comfortable carrying or presenting their exemption cards. As such, the SRC has made it clear that punitive measures would be a last resort to address the issue of students not wearing masks in the Library, and that it would not endorse or support such measures. E McCabe believes the issue will be raised again after the forthcoming round of communications on Covid safety have been sent out. She said she agreed with D Henderson on the current hard-line nature of the University's messaging, however, she said such messaging constituted the middle-ground solution to the issue.

M Mosjiej said Library staff are legally permitted to call the police in instances of non-compliance with mask-wearing policy. As such, he said he did not understand why penalties were viewed as a drastic measure.

E McCabe said the SRC would not support any punitive measures for non-compliance with mask-wearing policy.

M Mosjiej also noted that staff are legally not permitted to ask students why they are exempt. As such, he said he did not understand how penalties could be enforced.

E McCabe said when the issue is raised again, Council must decide its official opinion on it, noting that she assumed Council members would not be in favour of endorsing any penalties.

b) VP Education: Mia Clarke

M Clarke explained that her Council report this month is brief due to the fact the workload of the VPED diminishes when learning and teaching is paused, as well as the fact that several of her meetings this month were confidential.

M Clarke said the STA ceremony this year is planned to take place in-person; however, an online contingency plan has been formulated in the event this is not possible. She encouraged all Council members to submit nominations for the awards and to encourage their peers to submit nominations. M Clarke said she plans to reach out the societies she has been involved in during at her time at the University and ask them to include STA nominations in their newsletters. She encouraged Council members to do the same for any groups they are involved in.

D Henderson said the primary function of Council is to hold Sabbatical Officers to account. As such, he believes Council members require more detail than what has been provided in M Clarke's report. He said he is concerned that Council members will not be able to fulfil their roles and adequately scrutinise the work of Sabbatical Officers if they are not given sufficient details. He said he respects that some meetings are confidential. He added however, that he is concerned that without adequate knowledge of what meetings the Sabbatical

Officers are attending, Council members who do not sit on these committees will lose the opportunity to hold the Sabbatical Officers to account and understand what the SRC is advocating for.

M Clarke said she understood the point raised by D Henderson and understood his frustration, however, she reiterated that the majority of the meetings she attended over the last two weeks were confidential and that, as such, she could not provide details in her Council report concerning them without breaking the trust of senior management.

E McCabe suggested a resolution to the issue: if confidential meetings take up a large part of a Sabbatical Officer's time during the month, then they could detail what meeting they attended on their Council report, indicate its confidentiality, and provide Council members with further details during the Council meeting to offer context, where this is appropriate.

E McCabe said each Council member should complete a Council report with an adequate level of detail on what work they have undertaken in the weeks preceding each Council meeting. She said, while the work of Sabbatical Officers in particular should be held to account at Council meetings, so too should the work of all Council representatives. As such, E McCabe reiterated that Council members should provide details of work undertaken in their Council report so that other representatives have the opportunity to ask them questions on it.

c) VP Student Activities: Sam Malis

In the previous two weeks, S Malis has undertaken work planning the SRC's De-stress campaign and January Welcome event.

S Malis attended a meeting of the Hillhead Community Council on 13/01/2022. He discussed student safety with the councillors present at the meeting. S Malis said R Partridge also attended this meeting and will be attending the next meetings while S Malis is in post. S Malis said he will detail the responses he receives from R Partridge on matters he raises at these meetings in his Council report. He added that a member of the meeting was keen to hear from students regarding any problems/concerns they may have in relation to private accommodation. S Malis said he is going to contact this member to ask for more information on what they require from students, and that he will subsequently gather this information by reaching out to students via email and Facebook. Council members will have the opportunity to reply with any feedback.

S Malis ran activities, including tours, for the January Welcome event. He said the level of engagement with events has been strong and has exceeded his expectations. S Malis added that there are still events due to take place this month and that he will be contacting Council members for their assistance with these events.

S Malis to contact member of Hillhead Community Council for clarification on what they require, re. information from students on private accommodation concerns. S Malis to then gather this feedback via email and Facebook.

Nominations for the VCS awards are now open. The ceremony will take place in March and the hope is that it will take place in-person.

The SRC Volunteering and Social Justice Fair will take place on February 9th, 2022 at the GUU. S Malis will be reaching out next week to the SRC Ambassadors group for assistance with the event and will possibly contact Council members as well if more help is required.

D Henderson asked if S Malis could expand on his meeting with St. Andrews SRC Sabbatical Officers on 14/01/2022.

S Malis said part of his manifesto focused on increasing day-trips and off-campus trips for students. He said the purpose of this meeting was to establish the feasibility of a trip for GU students to the University of St. Andrews. He said the hope is that this trip will take place in early March. He said such events are designed to target international and exchange students.

E McCabe thanked S Malis for the trips and tours he has been undertaking for students and commended the high level of student engagement with these activities and the positive feedback received on them.

d) VP Student Support: Eva Simmons

E Simmons has undertaken work planning events for LGBT+ History Month in February. As part of LGBT+ History month there will also be campaign work undertaken to raise awareness regarding transphobia. This will be an updated version of the campaign undertaken a few years ago to address transphobia wherein anti-transphobia posters were put up in bathrooms. E Simmons said the other student bodies are on board with this campaign. She said the hope is the campaign can be expanded to include posters being displayed in Library and study space bathrooms as well. She added that information on how to be a good ally will be shared and that hopefully the unions will share this messaging as well.

E Simmons hopes to advance her policy work for groups with protected characteristics, such as student carers and student parents. She said the SRC has recently hired a new Head of Advice (Thomas Killean), who has expressed a keenness to assist E Simmons with this work.

A vigil will take place between 5pm and 5.30pm on Thursday 27th January for Holocaust Memorial Day. E Simmons encouraged Council members to attend the vigil.

D Henderson referenced E Simmons' meeting on 20/12/2021 with the Equality and Diversity Strategy Committee, and the mention of a presentation given on the Jerusalem declaration as a potential alternative/to be used alongside the IHRA definition of antisemitism. He noted that E Simmons said the presentation was for further understanding for the EDSC and not for decision-making but asked if she could provide further

information on the purpose of the presentation, why it was delivered at EDSC and the likely outcomes of the presentation, stating that he was concerned about the University backsliding on its commitment to the IHRA definition and tackling antisemitism more generally.

E Simmons said the IHRA definition has attracted considerable scrutiny and issues have been raised with it. She said she believes the Jerusalem declaration offers clearer definitions. She said one of the issues raised with the IHRA definition is that any criticisms of the Israeli state could potentially be construed as antisemitic. She said the Jerusalem declaration was not intended to be used as a replacement for the IHRA definition, but rather used as an additional declaration with more explicit definitions and clear information on what constitutes antisemitism and what does not. She said the Jerusalem declaration could be used alongside the IHRA definition in order to help institutions tackle antisemitism. She said the presentation in question was merely for the EDSC's understanding and that she will update Council if a vote is taken on adopting the declaration or if it is passed by the EDSC.

H Pentleton referenced E Simmons' meeting with Paul O'Donnell on 16/12/2021 and said that, in the focus groups undertaken last year, it was discovered that many students were not registered with the Disability Service not through choice, but rather as a result of how strict the registering process can be with regards to diagnosis. H Pentleton said certain conditions can take many years to diagnose and, as a result, students can go through their entire University careers without receiving a diagnosis and, in turn, the appropriate support. H Pentleton asked E Simmons to present this to the University as a reason that students may not be registering with the Disability Service.

E Simmons thanked H Pentleton for this information and said she would take this forward. She said this information could possibly be integrated into the Invisible Disabilities campaign and there could be discussion of why, currently, there is such a strict, exclusive list of conditions which receive diagnoses.

- 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) Culture and Creative Arts School Rep: Chloe Waterhouse
- l) Law School Rep: Miko Mojsiej
- m) Life Sciences School Rep: Hanne Krogsaeter
- n) Mathematics and Statistics School Rep: Michalis Stavrou
- o) Medicine School Rep: Kirsty Craig
- p) Psychology School Rep: Paul Skinner
- q) Social and Political Sciences School Rep: Matilda Franz
- r) Charities Officer: Becky Laird
- s) Gender Equality Officer: Rinna Vare
- t) International Students Officer: Xinyu He

E Simmons to update Council if a vote is taken on adopting the Jerusalem declaration or if it is passed by the EDSC.

E Simmons to take forward H Pentleton's information regarding students not registering with DS because of strict registering process with regards to diagnoses. Information to be possibly integrated into Invisible Disabilities campaign and possible discussion of why there is currently a strict exclusive list of conditions which receive diagnoses.

- u) Race Equality Officer: Temisan Atsegoh
- v) General Rep: Eleanor Wood
- w) General Rep: Lewis Trundle
- x) General Rep: Qijia (Vivian) Zang
- y) First Year Rep: Tony Anderson

10. AOCB

D Henderson queried the use of certain platforms (such as Gather and ayda) to host some of the SRC's virtual events. He said when events are hosted on these platforms, they can require an extra step from students to download an app or set up an account. He said he is concerned that this may result in decreased engagement from students who do not wish to complete any extra steps to engage with an event. He asked if there was a particular reason underpinning why the SRC chooses to use these platforms. He also asked if there was any thought on how engagement could be increased, referencing the mention in a Council report of an SRC Gather space which was poorly attended. D Henderson posited that a reason for the latter could be the fact that Gather is an external platform which, not being integrated with anything else, requires extra effort from students to engage with it.

M Clarke said she understood the point raised by D Henderson. She said Gather was recently used for the Class Representative Mixer as the previous turn out on Zoom for this event was so low, and it was thought that a different platform may increase attendance (which it did not). She said students are not going to engage with online events. M Clarke acknowledged that there were issues with the ticketing process on Gather but posited that ultimately students are less inclined to attend online events, regardless of the platform.

S Malis said he understood D Henderson's point but said attendance for online events is generally far lower in comparison to in-person events. He added that, while there may be less students isolating/off-campus compared with a year ago, the SRC still needs to offer online events to students who may wish to engage with them. S Malis said engagement with Zoom-based events has been poor so the SRC has sought to find more engaging platforms to try and boost student interest. He said that the promotion of the SRC's online events could perhaps be increased, however, there is only so much that can be done to convince students to attend online events. He said that, nonetheless, there is value in the fact the SRC offers online events to students.

E McCabe agreed with S Malis. She added, however, that where there is appetite for online events, students will engage with online platforms, positing the successful use of Gather for flatmate mixer events last year as an example of this. She said these events were well-attended and that Gather was significantly better than Zoom for these events, as it gave students a more natural way to meet and chat. E McCabe said ultimately, however, she believes students now do not wish to attend as many online events as they perhaps once did, and that this disinclination exists regardless of what platform an online event is held on. She agreed with S Malis that the SRC cannot stop offering online events while students are unable to travel to Glasgow, as it must ensure it is catering to all students.

L O'Connor said students are more likely to engage with online events which serve a purpose for them, i.e., helping them to find a flat. He said he understands that

online events must be planned for the benefit of students who cannot travel to Glasgow, but said students are less likely to engage with social online events when they can now socialise in person. He posited also that low online engagement is a result of students experiencing Zoom fatigue after using the platform so heavily during the pandemic.

L O'Connor said, with regards to in-person 3rd year exams in the School of Medicine, that there was a plan in place whereby students who could not make their exam in person due to self-isolation would then take their exam during the July re-sit period. However, in this scenario, students who failed the exam during this period would not be offered a re-sit and, as such, would be required to repeat the year of study. L O'Connor said this proposal had the potential to have a disproportionate financial impact on Widening Participation students and international students. L O'Connor said he and others have now successfully negotiated with the School for a second exam to be offered in these instances. Students will sit their first exam in June and then sit a re-sit in July, if required. He said Senate is approving this and advised other Council members to cite this negotiation as an example if they experience similar problems in their Schools.

L O'Connor asked if there could be an in-person Council meeting this year. He said he understood the reasoning as to why in-person meetings could not be held but posited that the lack of in-person meetings may have had a negative impact on Council members' engagement with Council volunteering opportunities this year.

E McCabe said the Sabbatical Officers would investigate the possibility of running a Council meeting hybrid-style before the end of the year.

E McCabe said the provisional date for this year's Council dinner is 20/05/2022. She said the hope is the event can take place in-person.

11. Date of next meeting – Thurs 17th February, 2022