

MINUTES OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 6.00 PM
MCINTYRE BUILDING
RM 201/ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: H Pentleton-Owens, L Leonhard, L Thompson, N Scholten, F Girvan, P Lam Su (attended part-way through)

Attending: B Hay, J Small, K Barnes, M Card

- **Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt**

R Whip expressed apologies on behalf of SRC President H Pentleton-Owens due to illness and passed on H Pentleton-Owens' well wishes to the Council for their first meeting.

R Whip confirmed that Council training will be held Sunday 29th October, 2023 online.

- **Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes approved by H Southall, T Frater and M Bah.

R Whip advised there were two actions arising

First action was the implementation of PGR positions.. R Whip confirmed these positions have now been implemented and were available to run for during the 2023 Autumn Election.

The second action related to the running of peoples' sustainability assemblies, with this to be taken forward by M Bah and T Anderson. R Whip said a meeting has been set up with GUEST to discuss plans going forward.

- **Elections Report (Oral Update on Elections)**

R Whip gave an overview of the Autumn Election. 878 students voted in the election, with 21 positions available in total. 13 reps were elected, leaving Council with 8 vacant seats. R Whip said 3 seats were contested and 7 seats were uncontested. He explained this number was because of there being more than one General Representative, First Year Representative and PGR position available.

R Whip said the uncontested positions indicated lower engagement with some of the available roles which, in turn, may have had an impact on voter turnout, in addition to other factors such as the strikes and the sectoral trend of decreased engagement of students with elections in recent years. New engagement tactics were trialled this year to promote the election, specifically the use of TikTok videos. R Whip said the SRC will continue to review its

methods of promoting elections.

R Whip said the SRC will also review its PGR engagement as both PGR positions are currently vacant. He said the election's timing was not necessarily ideal as it occurred before the induction week and PGR students often arrive at the University around this time.

R Whip confirmed the SRC now has a full PGT Convenor team and an almost-full Welfare and Equal Opportunities team, as one Welfare representative stepped down from their position.

- **Elected Positions (Committee Roles)**

R Whip advised , for continuity reasons, ke P Moran Ruiz to continue on the Student Voice Working Group.

R Whip opened the voting for the various University Committee positions open to Council members

Results as follows

Court – SRC Court Assessor

P Moran Ruiz delivered a 2-minute speech.

O Saleh delivered a 2-minute speech.

P Moran Ruiz was elected SRC Court Assessor.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee – 1 x rep

M Corbett, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

M Corbett was elected to the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

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

College of Arts & Humanities

F Dinning delivered a 1-minute speech.

K Prentice delivered a 1-minute speech.

K Prentice was elected to Learning & Teaching Committee for College of Arts & Humanities.

College of Medicine, Veterinary Science and Life Sciences (MVLS)

No one in attendance of the meeting nominated themselves to run for this position. P Su sent apologies prior to meeting and sent a manifesto to run for position. B Hay clarified that if someone is not in attendance at the meeting meeting, they would not be able to run for a position.. **R Whip said P Su will be able to speak at the next Council meeting regarding this position.**

College of Science and Engineering

O Simon, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

O Simon was elected to Learning & Teaching Committee for College of Science and Engineering.

College of Social Sciences

A Chakraborty, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

A Chakraborty was elected to Learning & Teaching Committee for College of Social Sciences

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

Undergraduate Rep

T Frater delivered a 1-minute speech.

N McLaughlin delivered a 1-minute speech.

F Brown delivered a 1-minute speech.

Due to initial tie, R Whip called for a re-vote in with regards to T Frater and N McLaughlin.

N McLaughlin was elected as Undergraduate Rep for the Student Experience Committee.

Postgraduate Rep

E Olaley, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

E Olaley was elected as Postgraduate Rep for the Student Experience Committee.

Military Education Committee – 1 x rep

P Su, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

P Su was elected to the Military Education Committee.

Academic Dress Committee – 1 x rep

T Frater, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

T Frater was elected to the Academic Dress Committee.

Hunterian Strategic Development Board - 1 x rep

H Busquier Cerdan delivered a 1-minute speech.

S Blackburn delivered a 1-minute speech.

H Busquier Cerdan was elected to the Hunterian Strategic Development Board.

Library Committee - 2 x reps

A Hutchinson delivered a 1-minute speech.

C Nield delivered a 1-minute speech.

F Dinning delivered a 1-minute speech.

T Frater delivered a 1-minute speech.

A Hutchinson and F Dinning were elected to the Library Committee.

Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee - 1 x rep

H Southall, running uncontested, delivered a 1-minute speech.

H Southall was elected to Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee.

CIVIS - 3 x reps

F Brown delivered a 1-minute speech.

K Prentice delivered a 1-minute speech.

P Su delivered a 1-minute speech.

J Lismore delivered a 1-minute speech.

H Busquier Cerdan delivered a 1-minute speech.

F Brown, H Busquier Cerdan and J Lismore were elected to CIVIS.

- **A Motion to Condemn the Current Violence in Gaza**
Motion withdrawn
- **Council Reports**

- VP Student Support: Tony Anderson

T Anderson attended the flag raising for Roma Holocaust Memorial Day -the first time this has been done at the University. T Anderson said it was good to attend and hear about the work the University has planned in this area.

T Anderson said the SRC has been heavily involved in LSOs (Local Student Orientations) encouraging local students to be involved in university life.

T Anderson raised the lack of financial support for part-time students at Student Experience Committee. He said the matter is being investigated.

T Anderson congratulated all Council members on being elected to their roles.

T Anderson thanked the Council members who attended the first Welfare Forum and for the work being done there so far. He encouraged all representatives on Council to attend future Welfare Forums to provide a wide range of student perspectives.

- VP Student Activities: Mariama Bah

M Bah thanked all Council members involved in the organisation and delivery of Welcome Week 2023.

M Bah said space for societies on campus continues to be an ongoing issue and one she is committed to working on. She said the SRC is looking into funding for temporary external spaces for societies. The hope is that the University will provide societies with designated spaces on campus in the future.

M Bah said the SRC is working on the creation of 'digital badges.' She said these badges will help the SRC better engage with its affiliated clubs and societies and will serve to reinforce the positive value (in terms of gaining skills and experience) of joining clubs and societies.

R Whip asked Council members if they had any questions regarding H Pentleton-Owens' Council report. No questions raised by Council members.

- VP Education: Ross Whip

R Whip said the SRC is working to create a set of Microsoft Teams channels for Class Representatives which they would be automatically added to when they are added to MyClassReps. He said the SRC has sent the information for this to IT services. The hope is these channels will be implemented soon. Any Council members with questions on this should contact R Whip directly or post in the Academic Forum chat.

R Whip said plans for a Class Rep social have recently been finalised and further information would be circulated in due course.

R Whip said he has taken part in several induction events as a way of improving PGR, PGT and international student engagement and representation. He said is also working closely with Council's PG Convenors to help establish more of a PGR/PGT community at the University.

R Whip, T Anderson and H Pentleton-Owens met with Glasgow Students for Choice on Friday 20th October to discuss some University policy concerns raised by the society. One issue raised concerned Good Cause. R Whip said he is in regular communication with Martin Hendry regarding the Good Cause system and that all the Sabbatical Officers (bar VP Student Activities) have fed into a Good Cause website review. Further details on how Good Cause is progressing will be in R Whip's next Council report.

R Whip encouraged Council members with academic goals to submit agenda items for the Academic Forum meetings this year. Those in the Academic Forum Teams channel can add these directly. Those without access who wish to attend the meetings should contact R Whip or the SRC Representation team.

R Whip invited Council members in attendance to share anything from their reports they wished to highlight.

S Blackburn said an issue concerning the lack of accessibility at the Mature Students' Association building was raised at the recent Welfare Forum meeting. S Blackburn has been working to address this issue over the past year and said she had an encouraging meeting with Clarke Elsby (University Building Surveyor) on 26th October. Several issues with the building were flagged in the meeting and S Blackburn said C Elsby intends to address most, if not all, of these. An architect and surveyor are due to inspect the building and assess options soon. S Blackburn said she felt encouraged by the progress on the matter and said she will

update Council in due course.

H Southall asked to add a correction to his written report as he wrote of declining SSLC scores but had intended to write NSS scores.

- **Welcome Week Report**

R Whip thanked M Bah for her hard work in the successful organisation and delivery of Welcome Week 2023.

M Bah gave an abbreviated report on Welcome Week and said a full report will be available at the next Council meeting. She said the Welcome Fair was the busiest since before the pandemic, with upwards of 15,000 people attending the fair across two days and 250 exhibitors present. M Bah said all events were free (with one exception) and that student engagement this year, and across recent years, indicates that the most popular events are community-building-focused and sober events. M Bah said 78 events were held over the 9 days of Welcome Week, all of which were very busy, with several reaching room capacity early. She said there are now 6,500 students using the My SRC app. M Bah said she is still waiting on results from the Welcome Week survey which, once completed, will be shared with Council members.

- **Gender Based Violence Campaign & 16 Days of Activism Update**

R Whip said H Pentleton-Owens was going to give the update but asked T Anderson and M Bah to give an update in her absence.

T Anderson referred to the Ross Report – a thorough investigation and review conducted by Morag Ross KC of the University's staff and student procedures, and support available, in relation to gender-based violence. The review has been completed and significant work in this area is now being undertaken, with the SRC appointing its own part-time GBV adviser. An action of the report was for the University to co-create a GBV campaign with the SRC. This campaign is almost ready to be launched although there has been some difficulties in linking in with the University

M Bah said the campaign will be called 16 Days of Activism and this will run from November 25th to December 10th, 2023. She said the SRC will be leading on some of the campaign's events, including the Fight for the Night march which will be held on November 29th in collaboration with Strathclyde University Union. M Bah encouraged Council members to volunteer to help with the running of this event. She said the SRC is also looking into holding collaborative activities with the Unions, including placard-making and bringing back the Gender Equality Roadshow held during Welcome Week. There are also plans for a vigil to be held in conjunction with the University Chaplaincy. SRC-affiliated societies have also been contacted regarding the campaign and encouraged to engage with it.

R Whip said, historically, the SRC has always led on GBV-related work on campus, referring to the SRC's Let's Talk peer-led workshops and Let's Talk Moodle module as examples. He said the SRC provides free, confidential GBV support through its GBV adviser. R Whip said the SRC is working with the University to create the awareness-raising campaign referenced by T Anderson. The SRC and the University has consulted with all 4 student bodies and several SRC-affiliated societies on the web and campaign resources created for the campaign, to ensure the student voice is represented in this area. He said positive feedback has been

received and that the feedback has been used to shape the campaign going forward.

- **Industrial Action Update**

R Whip said the SRC has been working on mitigating the impact of the marking and assessment boycott on students and calling for the University to offer clarity to students in this area. Much of the work undertaken has been to ensure the University meets its marking deadlines and that no student who requires a resit at PGT level is unfairly disadvantaged. He said a deadline for PGT marking was set for October 20th. The SRC managed to ensure that PGT students requiring resits will not be required to sit these in-person. R Whip expressed his gratitude to The Advice Centre for helping students navigate the boycott, as well as for the support TAC have given him in his own work in this area.

R Whip said, with the marking and assessment boycott now over, he believes most undergraduate and postgraduate grades have now been released, however, he has not yet received an update from the University confirming this. R Whip said if any Council members are made aware of any student issues in this area, they should refer students to The Advice Centre.

R Whip said that students in the 1st or 2nd year have not been prevented from progressing due to the marking assessment boycott. He said that any student in those year groups who ordinarily would not have progressed has been made aware of this, however, they have still been progressed. He added that the University has committed to signposting these students to such services as Student Learning Development.

N McLaughlin said students in her College have expressed concern that they would have received a better grade if a piece of work had been marked, as well as concern on how to improve their work in subsequent years of study without having the chance to reflect on marked work. She asked for guidance on how to advise students here and what to relay back to College staff.

R Whip said the University's initial priority was completing marking for final year honours students graduating in the summer, then marking for PGT students. He said students who are in earlier years of study may not have received their marked work due to these priorities. R Whip said he believes a grade can be awarded if at least 75% of the work is marked. He said if there are specific cases where this has not happened and a student has been graded on less, they should be directed to The Advice Centre. The Advice Centre can also inform the Sabbatical Officers if any general trends emerge in this area and, if so, the Executive can raise these issues with the University.

R Whip recommended that if a Council member has had multiple students alerting them to similar issues with marking, they should contact their School's L&T convenor for clarification. R Whip reiterated that 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students may not have their work back yet due to the University's marking priorities.

N McLaughlin asked if there was a deadline for the marking of other students' work whose cohorts fall outside of the prioritised groups.

R Whip said the strict deadline for PGT students was to try to ensure that any resits could take place so any PGT students could graduate during the winter diet. He said PGT students who do not need to sit re-sits, and who do not have a conduct case, will graduate. R Whip said the hope is PGT students who need to re-sit any assessment will graduate during the winter diet, however, this has not yet been confirmed. R Whip said, regarding PGT students who are currently facing conduct cases, the SRC is less optimistic they will graduate in the winter diet. He said the deadline was set to allow a sufficient turnaround time for reassessment and added that Council members with any queries in this area could contact him or consult The Advice Centre.

I Alvarado Reinos said several disabled students have contacted her saying that, due to the sudden ending of the marking boycott, there was not sufficient time between the end of boycott and the graduation period to have their work marked. Furthermore, many disabled students with extensions or requests for extensions have had their extensions revoked. I Alvarado Reinos said many students have been told to either not take an extension or take one and graduate in summer 2024. She said departments are telling students that they are under no obligation to implement extensions as disability provisions.

R Whip advised Council members that for specific cases as described, students should be referred to The Advice Centre. He said, generally, the University are trying to ensure as many grades as possible are marked.

- **AOCB**

R Whip reminded Council members that Council training starts at 10.30 am on Sunday, 29th October and is now being held online. R Whip said an in-person Council social is being planned and information on this will be circulated in due course.

R Whip reminded Council members that a Facebook group has been set up for Council. Any Council members who have not yet been added should contact the Sabbatical Officers and they will add them.

- **Date of next meeting – Thursday 16th November**