

MINUTES OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6.00 PM
MCINTYRE BUILDING
RM 201/ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: A Wilson, B Taylor, L Leonhard, S Lombardo, N Scholten, V Palomar Conesa, E Barnett, C Michel, F Dinning, B Hay

Attending: P Swinton, J Small

- **Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt**

H Pentleton-Owens asked all Council members to observe proper meeting etiquette during Council meetings and Welfare/Academic Forum meetings.

H Pentleton-Owens asked all Council members to only detail their Council activities on their Council report.

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

H Southall asked why there was no mention of the motion 'A Motion to Condemn the Current Violence in Gaza' in the minutes of the previous meeting.

H Pentleton-Owens explained that, as the motion was withdrawn, Council would proceed under the basis the motion was not submitted and, as such, discussion of it would not be recorded within the minutes.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

H Pentleton-Owens asked if any Council member was interested in the LTC MVLS position.

F Girvan expressed an interest to run for the position but asked if she could run for this at the next Council meeting.

H Pentleton-Owens said the matter would be revisited at the next meeting of Council.

- **Council Reports**

H Pentleton-Owens - SRC President

H Pentleton-Owens gave Council members the opportunity to ask her any questions on her Council report. No questions were asked.

R Whip – VP Education

R Whip said there was discussion at the recent Academic Forum meeting of the potential for live captioning of lectures. Also discussed were issues relating to mandatory unpaid placements in

courses and the associated pressures of these courses on students. R Whip said he will be investigating this matter in the coming weeks and will provide an update to Council in due course. He said this will involve a focus on reviewing transport costs and how students can be better supported in this area.

R Whip said it was also mentioned at the Academic Forum that K Prentice intends to start a PGR Society.

R Whip said unfortunately he did not have an update to offer on the establishment of Class Rep Teams.

R Whip said applications are currently being sought for Period Subject Reviews in March 2024. The application deadline is 17/11/2023.

R Whip said he and H Pentleton-Owens recently travelled to Edinburgh to secure visas for their upcoming SRC trip to China.

M Bah – VP Student Activities

M Bah said there are four 16 Days of Activism events currently being planned. These include The Gender Equality Roadshow event and Protest Placard Workshop on 28th November, as well as the Fight for the Night march on 29th November. On Mon 11th December there will be a vigil from 6pm - 7pm in the University Chapel. M Bah encouraged Council members to share details of the events on social media and to attend the Fight for the Night march.

T Anderson – VP Student Support

T Anderson said the march will meet at 5.30pm at the Memorial Gate. A team of trained volunteers will assist in carrying out the march.

T Anderson attended a catch-up meeting with Robert Garnish and raised concerns regarding the University's hospitality loyalty schemes and how the number of purchases needed to get a free coffee/pizza are too high (9 and 5, respectively). T Anderson said he believes there has now been an update on this.

T Anderson and A Hutchison met with Daniel Keenan and Jennifer Weightman from the University's Widening Participation team to discuss working plans. T Anderson hopes to meet with Neil Croll soon to discuss additional funding for the SRC's work in this area.

T Anderson said Trans Day of Remembrance is happening on 20th November and the flag will be raised at lunchtime. There will also be a vigil in the evening with the SRC hosting the pre-vigil and the QMU holding a post-vigil event.

H Pentleton-Owens requested an action for Council members to be emailed about Trans Day of Remembrance and the SRC's 16 Days of Activism events.

R Whip expressed thanks to J Lismore for encouraging students to participate in the Maths & Statistics Period Subject Review. He said these efforts helped ensure a great student contribution to the PSR.

T Frater apologised to Council for the late submission of his Council report. He reported that he had a productive meeting with his fellow General Representatives.

- **Discussion of Motion**

H Pentleton-Owens clarified that, while she would chair this section of the meeting, R Whip would speak to the motion and its motivations, allowing her (the motion's proposer) to remain neutral. H Pentleton clarified that H Busquier Cerdan's request for an emergency meeting to discuss the motion after the last Council meeting was wholly constitutional and was not blocked. She said this request would have been granted had she and H Busquier Cerdan not agreed that the motion would be re-submitted at this meeting of Council.

R Whip apologised for the lack of communication regarding the reasoning behind the motion's withdrawal at the previous Council meeting. He said the motion was ultimately withdrawn as the SRC Exec felt this was the only choice, given that, while well-intentioned, it was agreed the final amendment suggested could potentially imply illegal support for Hamas. R Whip said, as a registered charity, the SRC must ensure it abides by charity law and, as such, it was decided by the Exec that the motion would be withdrawn, rather than the Exec requesting the amendment be withdrawn and this potentially leading to heated debate.

R Whip said the SRC Executive appreciate the request for an emergency meeting as well as the amendments submitted at the last Council meeting and are grateful for the feedback on the motion. R Whip said Council members are encouraged to contact the SRC Executive directly in the future if they have any queries regarding decisions around motions.

R Whip said point 4 of the motion submitted to this meeting has been re-worded in a way which is inspired by the last amendment proposed at the October Council meeting, while being careful not to contravene charity law. R Whip clarified that the wording of the motion being discussed would be distinct from the wording of the statement released by the SRC if the motion passed. He said there would be flexibility within the latter to address different issues. R Whip said he hoped the motion was now acceptable to Council. He opened the floor for discussion.

E Murray proposed an amendment to the second line of the motion, so that it would say 'the SRC commits to supporting all students affected by the Israel/Hamas war.'

Amendment passed by simple majority.

H Southall proposed an amendment to point 3 of 'This Council Believes' section of the motion, so that it would read *'That the violent targeting of Israeli civilians by Hamas should be condemned. This included the mass killing of civilians and hostage-taking which constitute war crimes.'*

Amendment not passed by Council.

T Anderson said he has been made aware of concerns surrounding the organisation Magen David Adom (MDA) and asked if the mention of this organisation could be removed from the second point of the 'Therefore, this Council Resolves' section.

H Pentleton-Owens said the University provided this information to the SRC and that the British Red Cross Appeal Fund would fund this organisation and the others mentioned regardless of whether the mention of the organisation was removed from the motion or not. She said this whole section would likely need removed if T Anderson wished to pursue the amendment.

T Anderson said he was happy for this section to remain un-changed.

O Saleh proposed an amendment to remove the mention of the named organisations in point 1 of the 'This Council Believes' section, except for the British Red Cross.

Amendment passed by simple majority.

W Alvarado Reinos asked who would write the statement if the motion passed.

H Pentleton-Owens said the statement would be written by the Sabbatical Officers in collaboration with the SRC Communications Team.

M Rodriguez Perez proposed adding '*and to support the calling of a humanitarian ceasefire*' to the end of the first point of the 'Therefore, this Council Resolves' section.

Amendment passed by simple majority.

O Saleh proposed adding '*Christian*' to the second point of the 'This Council Believes' section so that it would read '*That the safety of Palestinian, Israeli, Muslim, Christian and Jewish members of our community...*'

Amendment passed by simple majority.

Council voted on the amended motion.

The motion passed with 26 votes to approve and 5 to reject.

- **AOCB**

H Busquier Cerdan said, as part of the Inclusive Assessment for Quantitative Disciplines Working Group, he and C Prime have been asked for Council's input on examples of inclusive assessment. A form/survey will be circulated and Council Members are encouraged to complete this.

H Busquier Cerdan asked for an update on the student numbers this year.

H Pentleton-Owens said she would provide a full update on student numbers at the next Council meeting.

O Saleh said he has received reports from students, particularly those studying International Relations and Human Rights, that their lecturers are using the current conflict to offer their political opinions, some of which have been seen as offensive by students. O Saleh said any Council members,

or their peers, who are aware of such things happening should email T Anderson or contact The Advice Centre.

H Pentleton-Owens reiterated that The Advice Centre can support students in instances of hate crime and discrimination.

H Pentleton-Owens said the Council Holiday dinner will happen on the 11th December, 2023. T Anderson will contact Council members with further information in due course.

H Pentleton-Owens encouraged Council members to sign up for Frank Coton's University Strategy Session, taking place in the Williams Room on November 21st, 2023.

T Anderson encouraged Council members with ideas for the SRC's Destress campaign to contact himself and M Bah.

- **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 14th December