

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY THE 19TH MARCH 2026 AT 6PM

ROOM 201, MCINTYRE BUILDING AND ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: L Thompson, B Asmelash, Z Haque, K Kirkpatrick

Attending: G Connor, J Small, P Swinton (clerk)

1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt

2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minute of previous meeting approved.

D Calvert said he would provide an update on the actions against his name at the next Council meeting.

D Calvert said the SRC is planning to set up a meeting with the UofG Divestment Coalition.

3) Council Reports

Written Reports Received

a) SRC President: Duncan Calvert

D Calvert said the Chinese government is now focusing on having Chinese students enroll at home universities, rather than study abroad. As Chinese/international students bring considerable funds to the University, D Calvert said this downturn could have a detrimental impact on the University's budget.

The University is in early stages of a proposal to establish a joint educational institution with Nankai University, China. It is not a TNE partnership, however, the goal would be to progress the venture to this stage.

The Criminal Convictions Policy will soon be brought to Senate for approval. The policy is still in consultation phase and D Calvert and Advice Centre staff have provided input and suggestions. The hope is the policy will be approved by the summer and the process will be implemented shortly thereafter.

D Calvert attended the Academic Regulations Committee wherein he proposed that students who appeal a rejected extenuating circumstances claim should have their appeal processed within 10 days. He also proposed that students have a designated staff contact during the appeal process. These suggestions were taken on board by the Committee.

At a recent meeting of the Academic Forum, students reported a breakdown in communication during the extenuating circumstances process - particularly in the shift between stage 1 and stage 2 of the process. D Calvert raised this with Clerk of Senate, Martin Hendry, who has agreed to speak to Schools regarding this issue, with a view to ensuring communication during the process is timely, regular and compassionate.

D Calvert was involved in the interview panel and shortlisting meetings to find a replacement for the University's Senior-Vice Principal/Deputy Vice Chancellor, Frank Coton, who is retiring.

The SRC met with D Duncan and R Sandison to discuss support for students fleeing the genocide in Gaza. D Calvert felt it was a positive meeting, with room to have more regular updates from the student/staff coalition supporting Gazan students on campus. D Calvert proposed the University increase its lobbying activity for student visas and SAAS funding for students claiming refugee status. He said he looks forward to continuing these meetings while he is in office.

D Calvert expressed thanks to all those involved in the SRC's Spring Election and offered congratulations to those elected, especially the SRC's new Sabbatical team.

S Maharaj said, with regards to the extenuating circumstances process, students have reported feeling 'judged' for submitting a claim and feeling as if it will negatively impact them. She suggested the University could make clear to students that they would not be penalised by academic staff for submitting a claim.

D Calvert said he would follow up here.

S Maharaj referenced the University's support for conflict-affected Gazan students and asked if the University anticipates the need for support for students fleeing the Middle East.

D Calvert said the University is working to support students from the Middle East who are already on campus. He said he is unsure whether support will be extended to students fleeing the Middle East but said the University has stated it does not have funds to offer scholarships and financial support to these students. He said he and A Chauhan have spoken with D Duncan regarding support needed for students from the Middle East.

N Pooley said she has been made aware of an extenuating circumstances claim from a student following an assault. She said, considering this, there appears to be a lack of awareness among students regarding the automatic support available to them following cases of assault or miscarriage. She said students still seem to believe they must provide evidence in these circumstances to receive support, however, they do not.

D Calvert said the self-certification/evidential requirement for cases of this nature is in the process of being removed from the extenuating circumstances process. He said he will follow up with those in charge of the process regarding this issue.

A Chauhan said a petition to the UK Government for visas for Palestinian students was raised in the SRC's meeting with D Duncan. She said D Duncan said there were channels through

which the petition could be submitted to the University. A Chauhan asked for clarity on what D Duncan was referring to.

D Calvert said he would ask D Duncan for clarity during their next meeting. **ACTION**

A Chauhan asked if the SRC can support the petition.

D Calvert said he would speak with B Hay regarding the legal framework for this and would come back to A Chauhan.

b) VP Education: Ayush Garg

A Garg said the most prevalent issues raised at Academic Forum have been the University's extenuating circumstances and AI polices. He said he and D Calvert have raised these issues with the Clerk of Senate and at relevant University committees.

A Garg said new part-time jobs and internships for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow have been added to the University's Careers Portal. An email has also been sent to the University's catering suppliers to ask them if they have any vacancies they can offer students. A Garg is following up with the companies who have not yet responded.

A Garg thanked D Calvert and J Small for their work organising the Student Teaching Awards.

c) VP Student Support: Frank Chen

Over the past month, the SRC has celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month, with around 150 students attending the LGBTQ+ Cabaret at The Hunterian event.

International Women's Week took place between the 8th and 15th March, with International Women's Day on 8th March. The SRC delivered a range of events in collaboration with affiliated clubs and societies and other partners including workshops and a trip to the Glasgow Women's Library.

March 19th is Student Refugee Day. The SRC is marking this by holding 3 events - an art gallery and t-shirt store in the Williams Room in collaboration with Solidaritee; a Taste of Home session at the Eco-Hub and a welcome letter-writing activity and international film event supporting Refuweegee, held in collaboration with the International Film Society.

The International festival will take place at the GUU on Monday 23rd March. The event is being co-delivered by the SRC and GUU, with engagement from GUSA also. The event will feature a cultural society fair, live performances, interactive activities and international food. Each participating society will be given up to £30 to support their stall/activity. A wooden sign-making event for the festival was held on March 18th in the Williams Room.

As referenced at the previous Council meeting, the SRC has agreed a process with the Financial Aid team to support students who may not be able to afford the hire of a graduation gown. The Financial Aid team will purchase codes from Ede & Ravenscroft, which

students can input at checkout to nullify the cost of hire. Financial Aid will manage the allocation of codes and will accept referrals for students from The Advice Centre, Student Support Officer teams and Widening Participation. Students referred by the Advice Centre will automatically receive a code. If the initial allocation of codes is used during summer graduations, the University will purchase additional codes.

d) VP Student Activities: Eoghan Morris

E Morris met with J Harris, head of Keystone Operations Group, to discuss plans for the building. The SRC has been invited to sit on this group, with the plan being to explore space provision in the building for clubs and societies.

E Morris met with the Hunterian team to discuss student engagement and student experience, and how the SRC can assist this work. The establishment of a Student Panel to aid these efforts was discussed and it was agreed that these conversations would be picked up again prior to the next Hunterian Strategic Development Board meeting.

The Workspace Futures 2030, School of Education and School of Social and Political Sciences, Project Board will pause temporarily while details are sorted out with their design team. The hope is that the scope of the project will be finalised within the coming months. E Morris noted his disappointment that accessibility has not been treated as core to the project and said he plans to raise the World Changers Need Access campaign when the project is reconvened.

E Morris met with J Jones, A Shields and colleagues from Commercial Services to discuss room bookings and the booking of spaces controlled by Conferences and Events. The meeting was in response to a paper drafted by the University which highlighted the issues faced by clubs and societies with regards to securing space for their activities. Discussions explored the use of Commercial Services space, use of spaces after-hours and expanding weekend access across campus. Catering options on campus were also discussed. A group has now been set up to explore these issues and an action plan will be drafted.

E Morris offered his congratulations to the new Sabbatical Officers elected at the Spring election.

E Morris thanked the volunteers involved in the VCS Shortlisting Committee.

- e) Charities Officer : Molly Corbett
- f) International Students Officer : Reilly Gardner
- g) Mental Health Equality Officer: Batseba Asmelash
- h) UG MVLS Convenor: Ebrahim Rezaei
- i) PG Arts & Humanities Convenor: Kelly Yu
- j) PG Science & Engineering Convenor: Akshita Mathur
- k) PG Social Sciences Convenor: Craig Rushesha
- l) Biodiversity, One Health & Veterinary Medicine School Rep: Elena Eliza-Pérez
- m) Critical Studies School Rep: Liberty Holmes

L Holmes said she had planned to undertake a review into AI policy but had to postpone this due to lack of engagement. She said she may attempt to undertake the review in the future, perhaps as a broader review of the College of Arts & Humanities.

D Calvert suggested A Garg may be able to help with the project.

- n) Geographical & Earth Science Rep: Chloe Chigumba
- o) Humanities School Rep: Sarah Millar
- p) Infection & Immunity School Rep: Nishka Pranay
- q) Law School Rep: Wesley Chew
- r) Molecular Biosciences School Rep: Julia Stephen
- s) Physics & Astronomy School Rep: Daniel Keane
- t) Social & Political Sciences School Rep: Laurie Barr
- u) First Year Rep: Caelyn Bailey
- v) General Representative: Jannat Afzal
- w) General Representative: Laura Thompson
- x) General Representative: Fangning Yu

4) AOCB

S Maharaj said, during a mice-handling class, students in her School were bitten by a mouse and did not receive adequate support from the academic staff in the lab. She said the incident was not well-handled as there were no clear instructions in the lab for what to do in such situations. S Maharaj said the School is investigating the matter.

D Calvert asked F Chen to raise the matter of how students are treated and supported in such situations under AOCB at the next meeting of the Health Safety and Wellbeing Committee in April.

G Connor said there should be a first aid officer and incident report book containing guidelines in each building. She suggested asking the School to have sight of these. S Maharaj said this was her understanding too and that this was raised at an SSLC. She said staff seemed surprised as they were under the impression that this support was in place, however, it was not.

N Pooley said it was announced at the Gender Equality Group meeting on 12/03/2026 that the University is now part of the EmilyTest Network. Members of the group, as well as certain University staff, will be given access to training resources through the network. F Chen and N Pooley will be granted access to these resources and will report back to the SRC.

N Pooley said a spreadsheet is currently being compiled of all the University's training and support opportunities. She said this work may be finalised by next year's Council.

A Chauhan said she is planning to raise ethical investment and sustainability at the next Sustainability Working Group meeting. She added that she has spoken with University staff who have advised that it would be an attractive divestment strategy to highlight that UofG would be the first Scottish university to divest.

A Chauhan referenced a new bill for Scottish independence being tabled in parliament. She asked what effect Scottish independence would have on international students studying on UK visas.

N Pooley said political decisions regarding Scottish Independence would not take place while any current students are still at the University. She highlighted that international students can vote in the upcoming May local elections and that the SRC could perhaps issue communications on this.

D Calvert said he would speak to J Small regarding communications on the upcoming elections.

D Calvert mentioned that club/society activity must not be mentioned in council reports. He said any Council member who holds an executive role in a club or society should be aware that such a position is separate from their Council member role.

J Stephen said there is an SSLC Prep Brunch for her School taking place on 20/03/2026. Council members are welcome to attend.

A Garg said the Student Voice Working Group has been using College and LTC feedback to inform the drafting of new guidelines for SSLC meetings. A Garg said he would share the guidelines with Council members via email and that Council members are encouraged to provide their own feedback.

M Corbett asked why the SRC decided not to sign the Student Mental Health Agreement.

D Calvert said the SRC's primary concern was that signing the agreement would see the SRC lose its independence with regards to its data and the data it receives from students. He said signing the agreement would mean that the University could request the SRC to share confidential information given to it by students – a situation the SRC cannot permit given the fact that some students choose to consult the SRC deliberately over the University for its confidentiality.

M Corbett referenced the recent meningitis outbreak in Kent and asked if the University has any plans or strategy in place to deal with such an outbreak in Glasgow.

D Calvert said he would email D Duncan about the possibility of a meningitis vaccine rollout on campus. **ACTION**

J Small said the University are aware of the outbreak and sent out communications to students regarding it on 19/03/2026. The SRC was consulted in the process and links to The Advice Centre were included in the email for any students requiring academic support. J Small said the University are in communication with Public Health Scotland – the body who would issue guidance on any vaccine rollout.

A Garg asked Council members who have held Class Rep mixers to submit a report to him detailing how the event went. Such information is helpful for compiling the SRC's annual report.

- 5) Date of next meeting – Thurs 16th April, 2026