

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025 AT 6.00 PM  
ROOM 201, MCINTYRE BUILDING AND ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: C Rushesha, L Thompson, K Kirkpatrick

Attending: B Hay, P Swinton, J Small

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

N Gillies proposed the minute of the previous meeting for approval. Natasha Pooley seconded.

- 3) EmilyTest – Verbal Update (Duncan Calvert / Frank Chen)

F Chen said progress over the last year on the University adopting the EmilyTest charter has been delayed due to resource pressures, particularly the UKVI audit and the Quality Assurance Review led by Student and Academic Services which temporarily diverted staff capacity. There was initially a joint paper between the Gender Equality Working Group and Student and Academic Services which was intended for submission to the University's Senior Management Group (SMG). This paper is currently pending while work in this area continues. F Chen said staff members will attend the EmilyTest Conference on 20/11/2025. The SRC will ask if student representatives may also attend here, including F Chen and Gender Equality Officer, N Pooley. The SRC will remain actively engaged with the EmilyTest Research Expert Group and ensure the student voice is represented in this process.

D Calvert acknowledged the SRC's disappointment that the University has not yet adopted the EmilyTest charter. He said the requirement is now that Student and Academic Services write a new proposal – something they do not wish to move forward with at this stage. Instead, they plan to write their own prevention, resources and policy – a measure which would not incur accountability to a third party. D Calvert assured Council members that the SRC will continue to lobby the University on the EmilyTest charter and how its adoption would reassure students that gender-based violence is not tolerated at the University.

4) University of Glasgow Singapore Review – Verbal Update (Duncan Calvert)

D Calvert recently visited the Singapore Institute of Technology alongside a team of academic and professional staff from the University to review operations at the UofG Singapore Campus. An official review will be circulated in due course and D Calvert plans to write a review based on the student experience and circulate this in due course. D Calvert said the trip was an enjoyable and valuable experience, and that conclusions of the review would point to under-staffing and under-resourcing in several areas of the University.

5) University Committee Role Elections

**SRC Court Assessor**

CJ Adebayo Omoaka and S Millar put themselves forward.

CJ Adebayo Omoaka was elected SRC Court Assessor.

**Learning & Teaching Committee (College of Arts)**

L Holmes was elected LTC rep for College of Arts.

**Learning & Teaching Committee (College of Social Sciences)**

W Chew and C Atsegoh put themselves forward.

C Atsegoh was elected LTC rep for College of Social Sciences.

**Learning & Teaching Committee (College of MVLS)**

J Stephen was elected LTC Rep for College of MVLS

**Learning & Teaching Committee (College of Science & Engineering)**

M Masaoud was elected LTC Rep for College of Science & Engineering.

**Student Experience Committee (UG Representative)**

N Pooley was elected Student Experience Committee UG rep.

**Student Experience Committee (PG Representative)**

A Mathur was elected Student Experience Committee PG rep.

**Academic Dress Committee**

N Pooley was elected to the Academic Dress Committee.

**Military Education Committee**

M Masaoud was elected to the Military Education Committee.

**Health Safety & Wellbeing Committee**

N Gillies was elected to the Health Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

#### **Hunterian Strategic Development Board**

CJ Adebayo Omoaka was elected to the Hunterian Strategic Development Board.

#### **Library Committee (UG Representative)**

J Afzal and A Hutchison put themselves forward.

A Hutchison was elected to the Library Committee as UG rep.

#### **Library Committee (PG Representative)**

K Yu was elected to the Library Committee as PG Rep.

#### **Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee**

S Felkner was elected to the Scotland's Rural College Liaison Committee.

#### **CIVIS**

L Thompson, R Gardner, A Matough Essa, M Masaoud, A Hutchison, J Stephen, S Millar, S Gelidi, E Rezaei and B Asmelash put themselves forward.

R Gardener was elected to the CIVIS Student Council.

A Hutchison was elected to the CIVIS Student Council.

L Thompson was elected to the CIVIS Student Council.

#### **Student Voice Working Group**

H Watters was elected to the Student Voice Working Group.

### **6) Council Reports**

Written Reports submitted -

#### **a) SRC President: Duncan Calvert**

The SRC has continued to lobby the University to divest from the arms and defence sectors. It received a letter from the Principal reaffirming the University Court's supportive stance of a socially responsible investment policy. Under this policy, students are permitted to make representations on specific investments of the University. While this is a positive step, the SRC does not believe it goes far enough and that the University should divest from the arms and defence trades entirely. D Calvert said, across several meetings, the SRC communicated this view to the outgoing Principal, A Muscatelli, as well as the new Principal, A Schofield, however, both were reluctant to take the SRC's view on board. Despite this reluctance, the SRC will continue to campaign for divestment.

The University is supporting a group of students evacuated from Palestine. Most students have arrived in Glasgow and those who have not yet arrived are being given later start-dates. The students have received support in the form of counselling and accommodation, while some charities have also donated clothes and vouchers. The SRC will maintain a dialogue with External Relations - the University department which is making the support arrangements.

The SRC has been engaged in conversations surrounding the University's new Extenuating Circumstances Policy and how this is being implemented and communicated to students. Council will be given updates as the year progresses.

The SRC has been working on Progress Committee template letters with the Clerk of Senate and the Learning and Teaching Policy Group. In the past, there has been relatively little support for students attending these committees so these letters will be provided to students to explain their circumstances to the progress committee who can support them through the process.

D Calvert delivered a presentation to the Campus Development and Maintenance Group on 08/09/2025 on student views concerning the organisation and maintenance of campus. D Calvert referenced the frustrated views expressed by students on social media regarding inaccessibility and long walks between University buildings. The Committee seemed surprised by these views but resolved to work with the SRC on any future developments in this area.

D Calvert delivered a presentation to Court on the international student experience alongside colleagues from Student and Academic Services. The presentation looked at problems which affect international student communities, such as social integration, financial concerns and mental health and wellbeing. On these metrics, international students often face worse experiences, particularly in social integration which is made more difficult by xenophobia and racism – something on the rise in the UK. Court members were very concerned about the matters raised in the presentation and will continue to monitor the international student experience closely.

A Chauhan said some of the students that the Uni is helping evacuate from Palestine have had to defer entry to the January intake, or next year, due to a lack of funding. She said student groups have had to step in to help organise funding and support for students being evacuated as the University has not been able to cover the necessary accommodation and tuition costs. A Chauhan said most of the students are PG students.

D Calvert said there were more applicants than available scholarships for conflict-affected students. He said he has spoken to External Relations regarding increased scholarship provision, particularly for students from Palestine, and that these conversations were positive. D Calvert said any increase in scholarship provision would need to be approved by SMG.

D Calvert said support for students from conflict-affected areas is regularly discussed with colleagues from External Relations, as well as on the Sanctuary Working Group and the Humanitarian Response Working Group. D Calvert asked A Chauhan to follow up with him outwith the meeting to discuss the support still needed for these students.

A Chauhan said a student group received an email from David Duncan saying they need to take down certain social media posts or the University would halt conversations on evacuations of students from Gaza.

D Calvert said he has not seen or heard of the email from D Duncan, referenced by A Chauhan. He asked if a copy could be sent to him so that the SRC could take any necessary action.

b) VP Education: Ayush Garg

A Garg is working with the Careers and Opportunities Hub to have a dedicated green careers platform, so that students can access sustainability-focused volunteering and internship opportunities.

A Garg is working with Andrena Dougall on piloting a revised timetabling process for Curriculum for Life courses. If successful, this will be implemented University-wide.

A Garg is helping to provide the student voice in shaping AI guidance for staff and students, as he is concerned by the rising number of plagiarism cases. Work in this area is ongoing.

A Garg is working with the Assessment and Feedback Practice & Policy group on topics such as deadline clustering and introducing alternative assessment for students who require reasonable adjustments.

There have been changes to the Exam Board remit. New guidelines have been issued and staff will now undertake training in completing a standardised template before attending the Board. These measures are designed to ensure a clearer and faster grading process for students.

A Garg is working with the Student Voice Working group to make adjustments to Student and Staff Liaison Committees. These changes would focus on cross-College integration and the sharing of good practice.

A Mathur asked what work is being done to improve the assessment feedback process for students. She said students on her course are not receiving continuous feedback from professors and that efforts to contact them about this have not resolved issued.

A Garg advised A Mathur to direct students facing these issues to The Advice Centre or Student Learning & Development (SLD). He said the Assessment and Feedback Practice & Policy group has also gathered internal data on the staff side regarding feedback and this will be used to identify and resolve issues.

H Watters asked if work regarding AI would result in standardised guidance across University courses. She said the current College-specific guidance causes confusion for students studying across different Colleges.

A Garg said he is currently collecting student feedback on AI to inform new guidance. Any changes to the University's guidance would be implemented from the next academic year.

c) VP Student Activities: Eoghan Morris

E Morris said that Welcome Week 2025 was a great success. He said a formal report would be written and circulated for the next Council meeting. The event was the most well-attended Welcome Week to date with 120 events held across 10 days, almost all of which hit capacity-attendance. All SRC events were free to attend and many events catered to under-represented student groups, such as students of colour, disabled students, mature students and students from a widening participation background. 125 helpers were trained for the week, with helpers undertaking training sessions such as Mind Your Mate, Mind Yourself, Let's Talk Consent and Bystander Training. Team and Depute leaders also undertook training called Wellbeing Skills for Student Leaders, designed to help them understand their responsibilities as well how to effectively signpost to the support available for students.

This year's Welcome Fair saw 250 stalls from clubs, societies and external organisations. All societies who applied for a stall were granted one and 5000 biodegradable goody-bags with a copy of The Guide were distributed.

E Morris thanked all staff and helpers for their help in the organisation and delivery of Welcome Week 2025.

E Morris said, on student experience, there are currently issues facing clubs and societies who wish to book rooms on campus for their activities. He said he would be monitoring the situation and would be working to improve the provision of space for clubs and societies.

A student kitchen in the Fraser Building is currently in development. Plans have been approved, however, E Morris is still awaiting a timescale for implementation.

At a meeting of the Sustainability Working Group, the reduction of the University's carbon footprint was discussed. A discussion is to take place on whether the institution can meet its carbon footprint goals by 2030. The SRC highlighted concerns surrounding campus new-builds and whether these were accounted for in the University's sustainability goals. The University indicated that they have been accounted for, however, E Morris said discussions in this area are ongoing and that the University has not met its sustainability goals in previous years.

E Morris thanked Council members involved in the organisation of the SRC's Hunterian Halloween event on 31<sup>st</sup> October and encouraged attendance.

d) VP Student Support: Frank Chen

F Chen said there has been little progress on accessibility issues by the University's Estates department. Last year, the University doubled its accessibility improvement budget from £250k to £500k, however the SRC has not seen meaningful progress to address accessibility issues. The SRC continues to receive reports of barriers to accessibility, such as the stairs at the Alexander Stone building and the QMU bathrooms. The only progress F Chen has been made aware of is the repair to the Fraser Building lift which was previously out-of-order. F Chen will continue to lobby the University for improvements to accessibility in the Accessibility Working Group.

The University is developing a sensory mapping guide and virtual access guide project, beginning with the creation of a virtual tour of the JMS Building. F Chen will update Council on the progress of this work at the next Council meeting.

The SRC has been in contact with Commercial Services to address cost-of-living pressures facing students, and this has included lobbying for more affordable food options on campus. Many students have expressed concerns that the new meal package and loyalty app introduced by the University are still not affordable and that

University food prices remain high. The SRC will continue to push for affordable food options on campus for all students.

Waiting times for student counselling are now within 1 week of request – an improvement on previous waiting times.

The Equality and Diversity events at Welcome Week 2025 were a great success, with increased engagement compared with previous years. F Chen will compile a report which will be circulated alongside E Morris's Welcome Week report. F Chen thanked all the Welcome Helpers who assisted with the events.

Last year, previous VP Student Support, I Duane, raised the question of how the SRC can reach student groups who have previously been less engaged during Welcome Week. To this end, changes were made this year, including format adjustments to the Mature Student Mixer and the launching of an Asian student mixer event, the latter of which was very well-attended.

The SRC's Black History Month campaign was launched with a very successful opening event on 10/10/2025 which saw 200 attendees. F Chen encouraged Council members to attend the remaining BHM events in the calendar.

The SRC will hold its annual Disability History Month and 16 Days of Activism campaigns in November. This year's Fight for The Night march will take place on 27/11/2025, starting in Kelvingrove Park and marching to the Buchanan Street steps, before joining the activity hub at the Strathclyde Student Union. A press shoot to promote the march will take place on 24/10/2025 and promotional activity will begin shortly thereafter.

A Gender-Based Violence Vigil will be held on 08/12/2025 at the University Chapel. Council members are encouraged to attend.

CJ Adebayo Omoaka asked if the Accessibility Working Group did not keep minutes of previous meetings.

F Chen confirmed this was the case. He said the Chair of the group has now confirmed that future meetings would be recorded and a transcript generated by AI.

D Calvert added that the SRC realised the absence of minutes when F Chen began attending meetings of the Accessibility Working Group. He said F Chen has been pushing for the group to implement the necessary recording processes



e) UG MVLS Convenor: Ebrahim Rezaei

E Rezaei attended a meeting of his College's Research Ethics Subcommittee (REsC) on 10/09/2025. He said he is happy to attend these meetings, however, attendance at these meetings may be better suited to a Welfare representative.

D Calvert said the Sabbatical Officers could investigate the suitability of a Welfare representative attending these meetings.

f) UG Science and Engineering Convenor: Salem Gelidi

g) Engineering School Rep: Santiago Rivero Fafian

h) Humanities School Rep: Sarah Millar

i) Environmental Officer: Alina Chauhan

A Chauhan raised the presence of Domino's and other companies at the Welcome Fair, saying that the practices of these companies are environmentally unsustainable. She said this issue has been raised in past years, however, no change has been made.

D Calvert said he understands the objections to Domino's presence at the Welcome Fair, however, he said most students want their presence on campus. He added that the revenue generated by the SRC's commercial agreement with Domino's allows it to continue holding events for students. D Calvert said he would be happy to investigate alternatives for next year.

E Morris said the loss of the income generated by the SRC's commercial agreements would be such that it would inhibit the organisation from fulfilling its operational obligations.

A Chauhan asked if Council could look into alternatives.

B Hay said that a shortfall exists between what the University gives the SRC in its block grant and what the organisation needs to operate its services. He said there are limited viable alternatives to the commercial partners that provide the funding needed though the SRC has continues to investigate alternatives. B Hay said he believed that most members of Council are aligned on values and that granting a stall to a company is not an endorsement of a perceived political position. He said Council members are always welcome to suggest alternative routes of funding and that each suggestion would undergo consideration for viability.

7) AOCB

D Calvert reminded Council members to complete and submit their Declaration of Interests and Eligibility Form and Trustees Declaration Form as soon as possible. He said a deadline for completion would be sent out in due course.

D Calvert stated the minimum requirements for Council member HEAR recognition as

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Attendance at 3 Council meetings at least

Submission of at least 4 Council reports

Completion of the Declaration of Interests and Eligibility Form by given deadline

Completed of the Trustees Declaration Form by given deadline

S Maharaj said there have reports from students concerned at treatment by Counselling and Wellbeing Services. She said students have reported being told they will not be treated unless they are suicidal. This has negatively impacted the mental health of students and caused some to question their return to University this year. She said students must feel reassured that there is help available to them on campus if they are experiencing mental health problems.

D Calvert said the matter raised by S Maharaj is deeply concerning as the University has a duty of care to its students. He said he and F Chen will raise this matter as soon as possible with Clare Craig, Director of Student Wellbeing. **ACTION POINT.**

A Matough Essa said he has had two meetings with the Operations and Planning Manager of the Adam Smith Business School, Heather Stenhouse. He said an issue has been identified whereby students from the School who wish to report a general problem, or a health, safety or wellbeing concern within the building, are more likely to report the matter to the Business School reception, rather than their Business School Representative. As such, A Matough Essa and H Stenhouse have resolved to publicise the Business School Representative to students and make them aware that they can approach A Matough Essa to report issues and concerns.

N Gillies said Trans Day of Remembrance will be held on 20/11/2025. A vigil will be held in the cloisters and a minute of silence will be observed for those lost to hate crime. There will also be aftercare, speeches and poetry. N Gillies noted that the vigil clashes with the Second Council Meeting.

D Calvert encouraged Council members to attend Trans Day of Remembrance. He said he would endeavour to resolve the clash between the event and the Second Council Meeting.

N Gillies said in April, the UK Supreme Court made a ruling on the definition of sex according to the Equality Act 2010. The SRC released a statement on this and N Gillies encouraged Council members to familiarise themselves with the resources available at the end of the statement for signposting purposes.

D Calvert said the SRC has had meetings with the head of the University's Equality and Diversity Unit regarding the Supreme Court ruling referenced by N Gillies. He said he believes the law has not yet passed and that the Unit are currently looking at scenarios which satisfy legal compliance, but which also protect the dignity of the UofG Trans community.

R Gardener said planning is currently underway for International Students' Day. Work on this is ongoing with activities planned to take place in November.

B Asmelash referenced the issue raised by S Maharaj around Counselling and Wellbeing Services and said this is deeply concerning. She said she would like to work with the Sabbatical Officers to address this issue with the University. B Asmelash said Council members should feel free to contact her regarding working together to increase mental health support at the University.

D Calvert thanked B Asmelash and said they could hold further discussions together on the issue raised by S Maharaj.

M Corbett asked, as RAG is no longer the fundraising arm of the SRC, could Council become involved in fundraising initiatives such as Movember.

D Calvert confirmed this would be fine.

- 8) Date of next meeting – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025