

MINUTES 28.10.14

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) AYR

Tuesday 28th October 2014, 1pm, Committee Room 2

In the Chair, Cal Reid, Campus President Ayr

AGENDA

1. Sederunt

Cal Reid	Campus President Ayr
Jack Douglas	President
Lauren Miller	Depute President Education and Welfare
Ryan Wood	Sports President
Pearl Willis	Ordinary Trustee Ayr
Matthew Love	BA Education
Benjamin Faraguna	Filmmaking and Screenwriting
Rebecca Skinner	MA Creative Media
Sonja Heyen	Journalism
Joe Donnelly	Journalism
Megan Mitchell	Journalism
Michal Sestak	Computing

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Louise Smith	MSc Mental Health and Education
Brittany Edwards	Education
Euan Kirkpatrick	Performance

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes-

i. Outstanding Motions from 2013-14 –

CPA outlines the outstanding motions as follows...

(a) Their jobs; Our education

(b) Defend the right of students officers to support strike action – These were merged at Hamilton and Paisley Campuses, we will therefore request the proposer to merge these for Ayr and propose the revised motion to the next meeting of Council.

(c) Strike Action from UCU – This is now outdated therefore won't be heard.

(d) Zero Tolerance for Zero Hours – This has been heard at Hamilton and Paisley campuses and will be proposed at the next meeting of Council to enable cross-campus policy

ii. Spelling error on page 4 – 'Principle' should be 'Principal'

Minutes are accepted

4. Acceptance of the report of the business of the Association

CPA allows members to read through report, adds that the Riverside Lighting campaign is moving along quickly, states that the local Councils/Councillors, Ayr College and SRUC (Scottish Agricultural College) are supportive of the issue, we are now lobbying for support from the University and Principal. There are no questions, report accepted.

President allows members to read through report, adds that engagement with the Summer Safety Net has gone well and hopes this continues as the campaign develops. Informs members of the National Demo 'Against Cuts to Education' taking place on Wednesday 19th November in London, states that Strathclyde University, Glasgow Caledonian University Students' Associations and SAUWS are sharing a bus to go down, there are 10 free places on the bus for SAUWS, if anyone would like to attend or wants more information please email him on president@sauws.org.uk. There are no questions, report accepted.

DPEW allows members to read through report, adds that the campaigns she's working on 'Mind your Health' and 'UWS Goes Global' are coming along well, more information is detailed later however has over 20 students involved in a Mental Health group but would like to see Ayr students get involved as well, if any student wants more information please contact her on dpew@sauws.org.uk. Also adds that she has been heavily involved in the International welcome day across the campuses. Informs members that there is a 'de-stress festival' being organised for November and hopes students will get involved. There are no questions, report accepted

Sports President allows members to read through report, adds there is now more sports activities being organised in Ayr and there will be a new Varsity Competition in April between UWS, SRUC and Ayr College, states that facilities in Ayr are an issue we are trying to sort out, more information on this will follow. There are no questions, report accepted

5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees - None

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Campaigns 2014-15

President introduces the 'Summer Safety Net' campaign, states that in the summer there is a spike in dropouts and we believe financial support is the reason as students are not entitled to support from the State. The campaign is running at Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley campuses however all our students should benefit from the outcomes. Around 500 students from Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley got involved by taking a picture with a sign saying "we need a summer safety net" and we're in the process of making a collage with these. The next step is getting detailed information from the University on trends in support and dropouts, we will also be asking students what support they have, if they have a backup plan should anything go wrong during the summer with their finance e.g. an unexpected bill and what support they want so they feel supported. President invites questions about the campaign. Rebecca Skinner asks if this will include Post-grad students, President suggests that with regards to PhD students, they get a stipend however for other types of Post-grads there are other forms of funding and scholarships available, we can also look at payment plans to be flexible for those in hardship.

DPEW introduces the 'Mind your Health' campaign, this is to raise awareness of students mental health and has set up a group for students to join, get in touch with her for more details on the group activities. As part of the Campaign, there will be a de-stress festival in November which will include massages, Therapet Paws (go to pet a dog!) and bubble football during which we will be fundraising for a mental health charity, there will also be activities during exam times.

DPEW introduces the 'UWS Goes Global' campaign; this campaign is trying to encourage students to consider studying abroad and helping international students settle here for their time at UWS. We've held some international events, including trips and film nights which have gone down well. In November there will be a session put on for students to ask questions about studying abroad and the support available to help students who are going abroad.

CPA introduces the Riverside Lighting campaign, explains that this is to get appropriate lighting along the riverside pathway as there is not lighting what so ever there. As well as continuing to lobby the University for support, during November there will be events to raise awareness of the safety aspect of the lighting issues and some stunts. If you'd like to be involved in any please contact Cal on cpa@sauws.org.uk

(b) UWS International Advisory Committee – Student reps needed!

President states that at the recent International Advisory Committee there was agreement that there should be co-opted student representatives. We need one undergraduate, one postgraduate and one research student to participate in the committee. It's not a huge time commitment but is a very important committee in which student input will be very useful. SRCo-ord points out that currently in the new School structure there is a 'School International Forum' which has no student representation on it, whereas the other School forums do, any student who is elected/nominated to sit on the International Advisory Committee should be pointing this out and trying to get it changed so that all forums have student representatives as full members. Please get in touch with Jack on president@sauws.org.uk if you are interested and would like more information.

(c) New staff and staffing structure

CPA informs members that SAUWS are looking at how we do things and how best we can support our students. As such, our staffing structure has changed and we are in the process of recruiting new staff. New roles include a Membership Development Manager who will line manage most of our non-commercial activities, including a new Website Development, Digital Media and Communications Co-ordinator and 2 new student advisors/caseworkers to work across Ayr, Hamilton and Paisley to give students a more extensive representational service. Currently, we have appointed the membership Development Manager and are interviewing for Website Development co-ordinator next week. In the coming weeks we will also be recruiting for Student Engagement Staff which are part-time and very flexible around students class time, if you are interested please keep checking the SAUWS website www.sauws.org.uk for more information and application form.

(d) National Demo – Against Cuts to Education

President informs members that on Wednesday 19th November there will be a national demo in London against cuts to education, although Scotland gets free education when England cut their budget for education it can affect us here in Scotland. States that there are 10 student places on the bus going down, this is in partnership with Strathclyde University and Glasgow Caledonia University Students Associations. President asks anyone interested in attending to get in touch with him at president@sauws.org.uk.

7. Motions -

(a) Notice in terms of the Education Act 1994

CPA explains this is a motion for affiliations to NUS, BUCS and SSS. President explains that NUS assist us with campaigns, resources and national lobbying for Education and the student experience. Sports President explains that BUCS and SSS are external bodies who assist with sports fixtures and sports related campaigns. Members ask what the difference is between BUCS and SSS, Sports President explains that BUCS is a UK wide organisation who helps us with competitions and elite sports, SSS assist more with health and wellbeing activities in Scotland.

There is no speech against, Council move to vote

*For: 10
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1
The motion passes*

The following are Constitutional amendments

SRCo-Ord informs members that as these are Constitutional Amendments, they require 2/3's majority in favour at each Campus to pass and be implemented.

(b) Student Voice– Constitutional amendment to bye-law 6

Speech for is taking by President. States that Students' Council in its current form isn't working, explains that it is the forum which can hold student officers to account and form the policy of the association. The biggest issue we have particularly in Ayr is meeting quorum (the number of students attending for the meeting to take place). States that there are several areas being amended, including the composition and numbers attending and the introduction of new sub-committees, the name will also be changed from Students' Council to Students' Voice.

There is no speech against, Chair invites questions or comments. Pearl Willis states that the changes are good but that communication is the problem to low attendance. President agrees however states that this is being address with new staff and that Council in the current form is outdated and too bureaucratic making it less engaging. There are no further comments.

Council move to vote,

*For: Unanimous
The motion passes*

(c) Let's show we care-Care Leavers STAR Groups – Constitutional amendment to bye-law 13

Speech for is taken by President. States that STAR groups were set up to represent the underrepresented, they are a mix of liberation campaign groups and peer support groups. States students in care are more likely to see the inside of a prison than attend university and face specific issues if they do attend university with little support outside university, although we have the 'Buttle' mark which shows a commitment from the University to provide additional support to care leavers, the Association does not currently have anything in place to support this group and this is why we are asking for a group to be set up via the STAR groups. Adds that this is national Care Leavers week and it would be great if the motion can be passed.

Cameron Stuart asks how many other associations have Care Leavers groups, president states that there are none however many do have dedicated staff support. Member asks what is a care leaver is, President explains that it's a person who has stayed in care for more than 3 months which can extend to people who have been adopted however would on how long they were in care for.

There is no speech against, Council move to vote,

*For: Unanimous
The motions passes*

8. Elections (attached) -

(a) Disciplinary Committee (Chair, Deputy Chair and 5 ordinary members)

Chair – Proposed Rebecca skinner, seconded by President

Deputy Chair – Matthew Love, seconded by Rebecca Skinner

Ordinary members – Proposed Sonja Heyen, seconded by DPEW

Four (4) Ordinary Member places remain vacant, these will be tabled at the next meeting.

(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)

The positions remain vacant, these will be tabled at the next meeting.

9. AOCB-

There is no AOCB raised by members.

Chair thanks members for attending and input, declares the meeting closed

*Start time: 1pm
Finish time: 2pm*