

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) AYR

Tuesday 22nd October 2013, 12.30pm, room GT31

In the Chair, Cal Reid, Campus President Ayr

1. Sederunt

Cal Reid	Campus President Ayr (CPA)
Blane Abercrombie	President
Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Vonnie Sandlan	BA Childhood Studies
Leigh Graven	BA Commercial Music
Rebecca Skinner	MA Creative Media Practice/Vice President Sports and Societies Ayr

In attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator
Heather Armstrong	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Women's STAR Group

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
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3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes-

- I. CPA feeds back regarding ICT. States that we know the WiFi access is not good but we have spoken with Brian Mullens, Head of ICT, for access in halls so it is less restrictive, some students on particular programmes have affiliated to websites which aid their studies however they can't get access to them as these are blocked, CPA will work with ICT to improve this situation. Vonnie Sandlan comments that a mail app she uses for work related NUS activities, employment and childcare doesn't work as the student WiFi servicer blocks SMTP from phones, added that she spoke to ICT but didn't manage to get it resolved. The main issue is that she can't access email via the phone because of a poor signal and now can't get emails. DPEW suggests contacting him and will take it forward. Heather Armstrong suggests there is a similar issue at Paisley, however has downloaded the GMail app which seems to work ok and is used for emergencies. CPA will look into phone reception.
- II. CPA notes changes to the Election results as stated in the previous minutes, changes are: DPEW is Iain Shepherd, not Stephen Smith. Connor McRae should be Connor Smith

Minutes unanimously accepted.

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

CPA reads through report, states that he has been working closely with union staff to build up trade as all money spent in the Union goes back into the Union. Also drafting an Accommodation report to reduce the cost of halls, currently CPA is getting evidence from NUS in support of this. Reminds members that Friday 25th October is 'wear it pink' day and he will be raising money for Breast Cancer Awareness UK.

CPA invites members to ask questions. Vonnie Sandlan asks with regards to charities, can we invite the Anthony Nolan trust in for donors. DPEW asks what it is, Vonnie Sandlan explains it's a bone marrow donor register charity and would like to fundraise for them, Heather Armstrong suggests to possibly hold super hero day. CPA and Council agree this would be a good idea.

Rebecca Skinner states that with regards to halls, the current price is ridiculous, adds that there have been several issues with the water supply going off or is brown in colour. Vonnie Sandlan suggests that as part of the report from CPA, the cost per square feet of rooms at halls should be looked at. Council members suggest that they are aware of students living in 4 bedroomed houses in Glasgow which is lower in price than the cost of halls.

There are no further questions, CPA report accepted.

President reads through his report. States that he has been working on his manifesto pledges, comments that the Board of Trustees and some staff have been doing equality and diversity/liberation training which has gone really well. Also been working with the University on issues relating to international students, Student Administration are writing a paper on how the University interact with this group of students, adds that currently international students are expected to get a signature from the lecturer that they are in class as well as sign the class register and this is unfair. Also, if they need to be away from University for any period of time they must inform the Uni of this. The University suggest they are following UKBA guidelines on this however President believes these requirements are unnecessary as do NUS UK who are also working on improving the experience of these students. President adds that Glasgow Students Forum (GSF) will be release a statement in conjunction with Glasgow Caledonian University and UWS as police came into both institutions asking for names of members of the Muslim societies, this was not appropriate and was refused by both institutions, DPEW adds the police misinterpreted instructions from their Commanding Officers. President suggests they have been disciplined for this however it has happened again at another institution, Heather Armstrong asks if anyone has informed the Islamic Society at SAUWS of this, Sports President suggests not as yet, adds that once the statement is prepared, the President will inform the Society. Adds that the Islamic Society have been the best so far, raising over £700 for charity to date and would like to commend them on their hard work and effort. Vonnie Sandlan asks if SAUWS reps have been to the GSF meetings this year yet, President states unfortunately not yet however will endeavour to attend the next meeting.

There are no further questions, President's report accepted.

DPEW reads through his report. States that he has been working on Pay Day Loans websites trying to get these blocked, Council members thank DPEW for this action as a positive step, DPEW asks if anyone sees anymore just get in touch and he'll ask ICT to block them. States that he has been meeting with banks and credit unions to help with the saving for summer campaign, which aims to encourage students to save money for the summer when SAAS is not paid. Adds that if external organisations can't accommodate, the other option is to get the University to assist with this.

Vonnie Sandlan states that she has raised this with NUS and SAAS have been active in engaging students, suggests that SAUWS submit a motion to the appropriate NUS (UK and Scotland) conferences for 12month SAAS payments, also suggests she is happy to assist in this, DPEW welcomes input. DPEW further states that he is also looking at the provision of the library service and how we sit with other institutions, a paper has been written and will go to the appropriate committee. Hopes that funding will be in place for next year to improve the access to power supply for students bringing their own computers as well as more computers generally, also looking at getting more books and improving the library buildings. DPEW states that he has also been meeting with relevant people regarding assessment methods and will get information from UWS on the different methods used and then look at other institutions to get examples of good practice to share. States that International events are on-going, has been encouraging international students to explore Scotland while here. Also has been lobbying the University for smoking shelters as can cause a lot of litter and students have to walk through smoke to get into campus which is part of why the ban was brought in in the first place. Vonnie Sandlan suggests that at the end of the day, dropping cigarette butts is dropping litter and people who do this should be fined in the same way, CPA suggests that South Ayrshire Council are sending out a litter patrol to check for this specific issue. Vonnie Sandlan suggests it may be better to attempt to reduce the cost of paper and printing than invest in shelters. Heather Armstrong asks if they could invest in bins rather than shelters. Leigh Graven states that the issue is ironic since we sell cigarettes on campus and then we don't have bins. Don't think we should be persuading students to stop, it is up to them, not all at Council agree with this.

Sports and Societies President reads through his report. States that the Sports Union has been rebranded as 'Team UWS' and has received funding of £5000 from the University to get an official logo and to support the rebranding process of kits. SAUWS had a launch night in Paisley for this which was well received, there will also be a similar event held at Ayr and Hamilton. Adds that the affiliation deadline to Team UWS is 31st October 2013, if sports teams or societies are not affiliated by that point we will need to check where they stand as they cannot run under Sports Presidents remit. Also states that the SAUWS constitution by-laws 11 and 12 are relevant to Sport and Societies and is being reviewed.

Sports President invites questions. There are none, Report accepted.

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

SRCo-ord explains that these are reports from sub-committees of Council such as the Disciplinary Committee or Elections Committee. There are none to be presented at present

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) SAUWS Annual Report 2012-13

CPA reminds Council that the SAUWS Annual report is available on the SAUWS website and encourages members to read this to see what we did last year and what we can build on for the year ahead. Reminds members that SAUWS won Students Association of the Year 2013 from NUS Scotland and Campaign of the Year 2013 for the campaign 'Retaining Scotland's Potential' run by the former President Garry Quigley

(b) SAUWS Priorities for 2013-14

CPA reiterates that he will be working on decreasing Accommodation prices for Halls and trying to get better events at the Union.

President explains he will be working on his manifesto pledges. In particular will be looking at getting the travel expenses from SAAS reinstated and will be working with the National Union of Students (NUS) on student travel costs generally. Will be doing work around opening up the Students Association to be more accountable and transparent for students. Will also be looking at the Assessment methods used by UWS alongside the DPEW and will write a paper to evidence this and how we can learn from and share practice with other institutions. Also looking at the academic experiences of our international students as stated in the Report of Business of the Association. The president invites questions from members. There are none

DPEW explains his priorities for the year ahead are to look at the provision of the library, in particular the academic resources in terms of books and access to and condition of study areas as well as opening hours as stated in the Report of the Business of the Association. Will also be looking at getting more structured hours while at University so that students have timetabled study times. In addition is also working with international students on their cultural experiences while studying in Scotland and encouraging and supporting them to visit different areas. Also will be looking at the long term running of the Students Association with a view to enhancing the services we provide. Adds he will also be working on improving funding from SAAS, looking at the possibility of continuous funding for 12months rather than 9months. There are no questions from members.

Sports President explains that he is developing the Sports Union to run more efficiently, the system hasn't really work in the past and he would like to see more students engaged in sports and activities as this is good for future employment. Also will be working with the University in looking at introducing Wednesday afternoons free, so far this has been well received as the consultation process for timetabling so far has been extremely positive. There are no questions from members

(c) Timetabling of classes – UWS Consultation

CPA informs members of the UWS timetable consultation being conducted at the moment. States the survey will close on Monday 28th October. So far there has been a good response from the student body. It has been suggested that the University will run staff-student focus groups on each campus to discuss the findings from the review. The dates and times which have been agreed with the Campus Directors are as follows:

Campus	Date	Time	Room
Ayr Campus	Tuesday, 12th November	12.00 noon	GT 25
Hamilton Campus	Wednesday, 13th November	11.00 am	C3.16
Paisley Campus	Thursday, 14th November	1.00 pm	D147
Dumfries Campus	Friday, 15th November	12.00 pm	TBA

The intention is that each of the meetings would last about an hour. It is expected that there will be around 12 members of staff to the campus meetings and there should be a similar number of Student Reps going along as well. We would encourage student reps to attend the meetings in order that the student view is considered. If you would like to attend please email src@sauws.org.uk as soon as you know you can attend. We have been asked to forward the number attending for catering purposes. Although only 12 reps are required, if more than 12 reps wish to attend, the Students Association will ensure a good mix of programmes and schools are represented. Heather Armstrong states that she and the President sit on the project team for this and although 800+ students have answered the survey only around 40 staff have and points out

that the focus groups is where issues or concerns may be made so it is essential that students put the date in their diary if they can attend. Staff are more likely to attend focus groups however in order to ensure an equal mix of views, we would encourage students to attend.

7. Motions-

(a) Notice in terms of the Education Act 1994

Speech for is taken by President. States that each year we are required under the Education Act 1994 to provide this to Council to ask for approval to affiliate to these external bodies – The National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS UK)/ NUS Services Ltd, British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS), Scottish University Sports and British Universities American Football League (BUAFL) – explains that these organisations assist SAUWS in running our organisation in terms of activities and campaigns etc., the fees stated were from last year, they are not likely to change drastically from this.

Council seek clarification on how many students play American football and should we be paying the amount asked? Sports President states that this now comes under BUCS and no longer requires affiliation.

Speech against is not taken.

*For: unanimous
The motion passes*

(b) Keep the song 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke banned from our Unions

Speech for is waved by the President to Heather Armstrong. States that there is a need to ban this song, it is not about banning a sexist song because if it was we would be banning songs left right and centre. The reason this song was banned and should continue to be banned is to keep women and men in our unions happy and healthy. This is not about offending it's about protecting, protecting inspiring women at our university who have survived sexual violence. These women are some of the strongest people I have ever met but the lyrics are triggering their experiences of the violence they have been subjected to. Triggers are caused by a strong emotional response to depiction or description of past trauma without any notice. This may not be the case for all our women and men students but the fact is that as student representatives we have a duty of care to all our students. We talk about SAUWS being a safe space for everyone and promoting healthy minds, so why don't we practice what we preach, respect the amazing students who are willing to speak out about their experiences and vote for this motion, keep 'blurred lines' out of our unions.

Speech against is not taken

CPA allowed a discussion among members – Leigh Graven states that we should have a consent awareness raising day/week as a lot of students get raped and don't realise it, even some guys have been raped and don't realise it either. Heather Armstrong suggests the Women's groups are going to work on this and will discuss with the Welfare Campaigns and Activities Co-ordinator about how best to do this.

A vote is taken

*For: 5
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1*

(c) Constitutional Change – Quoracy of Council meetings

CPA states that the proposer of the motion is not available to speak on it however requests members to read through the motion and invites discussion . DPEW states that Council has the power to amend quoracy. Vonnie Sandlan states that this could be a temporary measure until a better quorate is set however there is a wider concern on why students don't get involved.

There is no speech against, a vote is taken

SRCo-ord reminds members that this requires a 2/3 majority to pass

*For: 3
Against: 2
Abstention: 1
The motion falls*

(d) Scottish Living wage

President requests that this is left on the table at the request of the proposer. Council accept this. President states that this will be discussed at the Video Conference meeting next month.

8. Elections-

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

CPA explains the role of the Disciplinary Committee and encourages members to stand.

Chair – Proposed Rebecca Skinner, Seconded by Vonnie Sandlan

Depute Chair – none, remains vacant

Ordinary Member – Proposed Vonnie Sandlan, Seconded by Rebecca Skinner

Four places remain vacant

All vacant positions will be tabled at the next meeting of Council

(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)

Both positions remain vacant, this will be tabled at the next Council meeting.

9. AOCB-

Vonnie Sandlan asks for clarification on how attendance at NUS UK and NUS Scotland conferences works at SAUWS. SR Co-ord explains that this is usually done via elections and a notification will be sent to student email accounts from the Returning Officer in due course. Explains that nomination forms will be available online, these should be downloaded, completed and returned to the Returning Officer or their nominee and then students will vote for their preferred representatives.

*Start: 12.45
Finish: 13.45*