

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Ayr

Wednesday 29th February, 12.30pm, GT 7

In the Chair, Daniel Copithorn, Campus President Ayr

Quorum was not met therefore the meeting has been cancelled.

AGENDA

1. Sederunt
2. Acceptance of Apologies
3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting
 - (a) Matters arising from those minutes-
4. Acceptance of the report of the business of the Association (attached)
5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees- None
6. Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-
 - (a) Car Parking Ballot (attached)
 - (b) NUS Scotland Motion (attached)
 - (c) SAUWS Strategic Plan (attached to email)
 - (d) Post-16 Response (for information only, attached to email)
 - (e) Student Led Learning and Teaching Awards
7. Motions-
 - (a) Armed forces recruitment
8. Elections-
 - (a) Disciplinary Committee (Chair, Depute Chair, 4x Ordinary members)
 - (b) Elections Committee (1x Ordinary members)
9. AOCB-

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Ayr

Wednesday 19th October 2011, 12.30pm, GT 11

In the Chair, Daniel Copithorn, Campus President Ayr

AGENDA

1. Sederunt

Daniel Copithorn	Campus President Ayr
Garry Quigley	President
Cara Lee	Depute President Education and Welfare
Alastair Adamson	Sports President
Richard Hughes	Mental Health Nursing
Stewart McKay	Mental Health Nursing
Eilidh White	Broadcast Production
Connor Burgess	BEd1 Primary
Mark Adams	Pre-Reg Nursing

In attendance

Heather Weir	General Assistant
Kristina Nitsolova	Transition UWS (Ayr rep)
David Devlin	Scottish Agricultural Collage (observing guest)

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Alison Aitken	Ordinary Trustee Ayr
Nicola Neill	BEd Primary
Karen Purdie	BEd Primary

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes- None

Minutes accepted as accurate

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

CPA informs council that the move from the old campus was generally successful however there were a few issues to begin with as the campus couldn't accommodate postgraduate students in August, the Unions came to chat to them however and issues were resolved. Since the start of the academic year the student guides have done a great job directing and advising students. CPA also welcomed SAC students to the Campus.

CPA outlines that freshers went well, the freshers fayre was held outside due to room restrictions, although it was windy it didn't rain, everyone had a great day with there being three times more sign ups to campaigns and activities than last year. Also states that the freshers events have seen good attendance.

Report is unanimously accepted.

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

**6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-
(a) Campaigns 2011-12**

CPA outlines this years campaigns.

Feedback – this is the second year of the feedback campaign. We know that feedback is an important part of the student experience and students' development, this campaign aims to get all students better feedback on all assessments and this includes end of year exams. To get involved in this campaign please email dpew@sauws.org.uk.

Healthy body healthy mind – We will be working with the university on this campaign, it aims to raise awareness of the links between recreational activities and positive mental health, it will also look at the social aspect of being at university and how to balance your social and academic life. To get involved in this campaign please email Alastair Adamson on sp@sauws.org.uk.

Affordable accommodation – This campaign was voted for by our students last year. Informs Council that UWS accommodation fees are too high as Ayr Halls of Residence students are being charged approximately £105 and in London is £108. The campaign will raise awareness of student debt and hardship and ensure you are getting a good deal on your halls and private accommodation. To get involved with this campaign please email Daniel Copithorn on cpa@sauws.org.uk.

RUK fees – President states that universities in Scotland have freedom to charge up to £9000, UWS have set theirs at £7,250 which is one of the most expensive. The Students' Association have responded to the consultation and sent emails/letters to senior management at UWS. President informs Council that the Students Association are against variable fees and have urged the university to consider bursaries over fee wavers. Suggests to Council that we have secured some wins however bursaries have not been decided. Also informs Council that UWS has approximately 105 RUK students and are fighting for the fair redistribution of RUK fees with the widening access principle in tact. The response to the Consultation has been submitted to the Scottish Funding Council, Mike Russell and other MP's and MSP's. President further suggests that the Students Association will be looking at the drop out rates for UWS and asking why students are leaving. Notes that all developments will be sent to Council members for information and comment.

(b) Smoking Ban

CPA informs council of the new smoke free policy and asks what they think about it. States that the Students Association has questioned the university with regards to safety, although from 8pm to close smoking is allowed, explains the reason for this is that night classes don't finish until 8pm and the university wanted them to finish. Currently all smokers are required to go to the red path at back of the building or at front off campus. Stewart McKay suggests the policy is not being adhered to, when it rains many congregate at the back of campus, under the building. President

agrees and suggests the university railroaded the policy passed committees in order for it to be passed in time for the new academic year, informs council that as a result of this, tactics will change for some other campaigns to ensure the student voice is heard. Suggests that the role of the Students Association is to be a critical friend and perhaps we have not pushed our point enough. Reminds council that students should hold the Board of Trustees to account and asks council members to keep this in mind when discussing policy of UWS and SAUWS.

Stewart McKay, comments on the lack of shelters, Connor Burgess suggests there has been talk of a shelter at halls but this is no longer happening, asks if this can get pushed through, as a non-smoker, he would be happy with designated areas. CPA suggests he will put this to the relevant committee. DPEW suggests that if there is a shelter people wouldn't stand at doors or at the bottom of campus under the building. Council asks if halls are exempt, CPA states there are boundary lines, however the law states smoking areas should be 3 meters away from buildings.

7. Motions- None

8. Elections-

(a) Disciplinary Committee

SR Co-ord outlines that the disciplinary committee is responsible for upholding the Code of Discipline as set out in Appendix 5 of the SAUWS constitution and that fair and equal treatment is expected, adds that full support will be given to aid the running of the committee.

There is no uptake for Chair or Depute Chair

Ordinary Members:

Proposed – Mark Adams (seconded by Garry Quigley)

Mark Adams is duly elected

Unfilled positions will be taken to the next meeting of Council

(b) Elections Committee

SR Co-ord outlines that the Elections Committee oversee the running of any elections and by-elections as set out in by-laws 8 and 9 of the SAUWS constitution.

Proposed – Eilidh White (seconded by DPEW)

9. AOCB-

Council members wish to discuss the issues of car parking. CPA informs council there was a parking ballot on the 28th September for 100 spaces. States that the Student Guides let people in until spaces are filled. From next week nurses are on placement which should cut congestion. CPA informs council there will be another draw for approximately 100 spaces which will exist until the final policy is approved. Richard Hughes starts at 11am with car park areas 3 and 4 being full, however in car park area 2 there was lots of spaces free, suggest there should be a first come first serve basis, CPA suggests it can be proposed but it could be disruptive at busy times. Council members feel there are also safety risks with parking elsewhere. Members are aware of some students that come in at 7.30am just to get parked as they don't feel safe parking elsewhere. President asks about staff spaces, CPA suggests all staff have a right to a space, there are approximately 150 spaces for staff, SAC have approx 40 of these. Staff can only use parking 1 and

2. President asks if we know how many staff actually use the car park, CPA is not sure, suggests that once the new system is in place there may be possible charges.

Kristina Nitslova Left the room 1.20pm

CPA reminds council that there is a bus service from Ayr Town to the campus which is £1 each way. Council members ask if it is possible to park at the old campus, CPA suggests the University will be fined by the local council if found using this and that there are security issues. President will make a request to the Ayr Campus Director for more spaces as there are empty spaces in parking areas 1 and 2, will also request a questions and answer session. Stewart McKay suggests there are still lots of questions regarding empty spaces, it may also be necessary to assess individual need for parking. Council members suggest priority should be made for journey share and disability. Council agree that a priority system would be fairer than first come first served, further note that the issue is not getting to university but the parking at university.

CPA outlines the meeting that was held specifically to discuss the car parking issue and action points derived from it. Connor Burgess outlines the intention to petition the local council to open the old car park, students as well as local residence will be asked to sign it.

CPA suggests the ballot has not been sent to students through email yet as there have been some issues identified with student email system. This is currently being addressed.

Stewart McKay comments that the Journey share website has been difficult to find. CPA will look into this.

*Start: 12.40pm
Finish: 1.30pm*

Campus President Ayr, SRC Report - February

In the time since the winter break the Student's Association in Ayr has been planning for the upcoming second trimester. This has included looking at various campaigns and deciding on the best way to talk them for the students of this university. We are continuing to look into the halls fees and gathering what evidence we can to show that students are struggling with the high rent. Furthermore SAUWS has launched campaigns on student dropout rates and the financial, social, and cultural effects which lead to students leaving high education without a certification/degree.

In the upcoming weeks SAUWS will be holding three activity filled weeks including Refreshers, Green week, and a Health body Healthy mind campaign. These events aim to get students involved in all the facets of the Students Association and further the student's involvement with the charity. We hope to increase student participation in sports and societies and to hear what students would like to see from their Association.

The Student's Association has also been further developing initiatives that have been in the works. These include student run events both in the University and the Unions, The UWS parking policy, and the volunteer accreditation scheme. We have been working to gain student opinion and

interest in the development of all of these areas to best represent what the student body want and need.

Student elections will be held in the near future with nominations opening up for both the 3 trustee positions and the Campus President in Ayr. We look forward to seeing who the nominees are and further more what their views of a better university and union would be. In addition the annual learning and teaching awards are coming up in which SAUWS highlights the work of nominated staff from the university. It is important that student show appreciation to the staff members that truly make a difference in the student's education.

Car Parking Ballot

The University have come up with specific criteria for the next car parking ballot, it is hoped that students can comment on the extensiveness of the criteria and if anyone has been missed out.

Criteria are as follows:

1. Caring responsibilities – Dependants such as small children, elderly relatives, blue badge holders (supply scan/photo copy)
2. Health/Mobility – Confirmed via occupational health or doctors note
3. Travel routes – Based on compilation of radius distance from selected campus and available transportation routes. This is checked via software by the University
4. Car share scheme – students/staff who are signed up to the website will be selected above ones that are not, the website address is www.uwsjourneyshare.com.

NUS Scotland Motion

Making Retention a priority in Scotland

Conference Notes that:

- That student retention rates, in Scotland, are higher than the retention rates of England.
- There has been a national; three-year research project commissioned, in England, that is looking into why students leave their course early and what might have be done to support them.
- In Scotland there has been little research, of a large-scale commissioned looking into student retention and examining the reasons why students leave their course early.
- Research in England shows that those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds are more than likely to drop-out of their course.
- That there is no standardised system in place which measures student retention, amongst Universities, in Scotland.
- That most Universities in Scotland don't include, in their retention figures, those students who have left their course in the first six weeks of study.

Conference Believes:

- That the only way in which we will be able to properly tackle issues relation to retention is by understanding the underlying factors which lead to students leaving their course.
- That we must examine the various reasons why students leave their course early.
- That there is little point bringing a student from a disadvantaged background into a university, if there is not enough support shown to keep them in their course.

- That using the phrase, drop-out, to describe someone who has left their course implies failure.
- That it is wrong for universities not to include those students who have left in the first six weeks into their overall retention figures.

Conference Resolves:

- To lobby the Scottish Government to allocate funding to a national research project which will examine, in depth, the student experience in Scotland, and in particular will focus on retention issues.
- Instead of using the phrase 'drop-out', all NUS Scotland publications will now use the phrase 'early-leaver' to properly sum up the real reasons why students leave their course early.

SAUWS Strategic Review (attached to email)

The strategic plan is the first of its kind for SAUWS and the vision that is set-out in the plan will be achieved over the next five years. In order that the plan reflects what our students want, we are inviting you to comment on its contents and action points. Garry Quigley, President, will be available at Council to take any questions or comments. All student should take some time to read over the plan, at the end of the day, this is your University and your Union.

Post-16 response (for information only, attached to email)

This consultation submission was in response to the Scottish Government's post 16 White paper: 'Putting Learners First'. Within the submission contains discussion that has taken place in Council over the past few months including emphasis on social equality, student retention and widening access.

Motions:

Motion Title: Armed Forces Recruitment Policy

Proposed by: Garry Quigley, President of the Students' Association

Council Believes:

1. That in previous years, Student Council has voted to not allow the Armed forces on campus and as such, this motion has been designed to overturn that decision.
2. That this Association respects the individual members of the Armed forces and the work which they are asked to do.
3. That although we may disagree with the actual conflict, we respect and support the members of the Armed forces who are asked to go to areas of conflict.
4. That joining the Armed forces is an individual choice and not one for the Students' Association to agree or disagree with.
5. That this motion deals only with the recruitment of Armed forces personnel within our students' union buildings.

Council Resolves:

1. To allow the Armed forces into our student union buildings to recruit students.

2. That this policy stay in effect until such time as it is voted down by the consensus of the three campus SRC's.
3. That the motion "armed forces recruitment policy" is automatically re-submitted to every campus students council before the end of trimester one each academic year, until the policy lapses.
4. That the Board of Trustees cannot overrule this policy during the summer months when meetings of the SRC's do not take place.