

MINUTES 16.04.14

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) HAMILTON

Wednesday 16th April, 1.00pm, room A163

In the Chair, Kate Sharkie, Campus President Hamilton

1. Sederunt

Kate Sharkie	Campus President Hamilton (CPH)
Blane Abercrombie	President
Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Stephen Russell	Secretary, LGBT+ STAR Group
Lisette Van Dam	Badminton Team President
Will Little	UWS Labour
Lauren Gilmore	UWS Labour/Women's STAR Group

2. Acceptance of Apologies

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting (a) Matters arising from those minutes-

Motion 7 (d) No More Page 3 at SAUWS is noted as the motion passed, the vote was 1 for and 7 against therefore the motion did not pass. There were no further points, minutes accepted.

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

CPH gives a verbal report, states that things have been busy with elections. Is looking at setting up a food co-op, this is going well but is at an early stage of development, any fruit or food we buy which is not used will be sent back to the supplier to try to save waste. We are also setting up a questionnaire for students about what they want. We are also looking at the possibility of getting vouchers for food banks for students.

CPH invites questions, there are none. CPH report accepted.

President reads through report. States that the Hamilton Campus Development Board is on-going, we have argued for a bigger union and think we have won this now. We are also in talks with the University about what we sell and not competing with each other too much. We have also had a focus group for the redevelopment and more will be organised.

With regards to the International Student experience, the University have agreed to fix fees for the duration of the degree, we are also working with the University on how they track international students.

There is also a new Head of Human Resources and a name change for the department to People and Organisational Development. With the work of the UWS Labour Club, the university have

reduced the number of employees on Zero Hour contracts from over 900 staff to around 300, meaning 600 staff are now on fairer, more secure contracts. In addition the Head of People and Organisational Development was shocked at the small number of professorships being applied for and taken up by women and has decided that the University would review why this is, which will be done in conjunction with the Women's STAR group.

President invites questions, there are none. President's report accepted

DPEW reads through report. Some key points are that extra resources have been allocated to the Libraries, including the use of eBooks however will keep going with it as IT stock is still lacking i.e. PC's and mobile pods. States that £2000 has been awarded by the University to do research into how to engage students in study outside of class time.

The University is being reviewed via the ELIR process (Enhancement Led Institutional Report). As part of this, students have been consulted and over 200 responses have been received, have now written a summary of the Reflective Analysis document which will be available on Moodle. We are also working with Mike Williamson from SPARQS on designing a questionnaire on what's important to students, what makes a good student experience i.e. should we rate the University on food or class sizes etc. we are waiting on ethics approval for the questionnaire.

With regards to Grad Point Average (GPA) we are working with the Higher Education Academy to implement this on a pilot project, this is moving along well, the Pilot project is looking at modelling grades and the impact it might have on students. With regards to Graduate attributes, students were asked to feed into what these should be and the feedback was that we should be bolder in what students can achieve.

Other projects we are working on include the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR), states that we have been feeding into what activities can be eligible for HEAR, including sports and societies, student rep activities and other volunteering activities. The Timetable Review Implementation Group work has been completed and from next academic year Wednesday afternoons will be free for Sports and Societies activities. The Learner Attainment project has been cancelled as ethics approval was not granted. The Village Digs project is currently on hold as we are waiting for the contract to be drawn up. DPEW is also designing a student partnership agreement between the University and SAUWS to improve partnership working.

Informs Council that the Learning and Teaching awards are at the end of month on 25th April at Paisley Campus Union, the nominations were great and invites have been sent out.

States that he has also attended NUS Scotland Conference and the 12 SAAS payments motion passed and NUS Scotland and DPEW will outline the case for this to Mike Russell.

DPEW invites questions, there are none. DPEW report accepted.

Sports and Societies President reads through report, states that the Varsity event was great although we lost. Informs members that the Sports Ball is being held on Friday 25th April and tickets are still available. Adds that the Sports and Societies Union has achieved a lot this year.

Sports and Societies President invites questions, there are none. Sports and Societies President report accepted

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

6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-

(a) Changes to UWS Regulation 7 – Assessments

CPH outlines that the University has changed the rules regarding non submission of coursework this year. Previously if a student did not submit work in a module they could re-submit or re-sit at the next available opportunity, now however, if a student does not submit work or attend for exam without mitigating circumstances, they will be given a re-attend decision. Put simply, this change means that if a student has no mitigating circumstances and chooses not to submit any work it will result in a re-attend the module decision rather than re-sit decision. The issue we have with the change is that we don't believe it was communicated very well. The University management have decided that due to the issues around the communication of the change, all those who received a re-attend decision would be reviewed. States that most of the students who went to see CPH have had their decisions overturned. SRCo-ord reminds members that mitigation should be used if there are any personal worries affecting students' ability to attend class or exams or submit coursework and the Students Association can assist students through the process. DPEW states that the University Senate has asked for a review of each student with a re-attend decision on a case by case basis, decisions may be overturned depending on whether the student or lecturer has been informed properly of the change, students will be informed as appropriate.

(b) Feedback from NUS Conferences

President informs members of SAUWS attendance at NUS UK and Scotland Conferences. States that the delegate's reports have been received and are currently being collated. The NUS Scotland conference was a great event and NUS UK conference was good. Scottish Conference is more progressive with educational aspects though, NUS UK now supports free education and not a graduate tax or contribution. Tony Pierce had been re-elected as NUS UK President. President invites questions, Sports President asks about the BUCS motion and the democratisation of the organisation, President suggests that a delegate spoke against requesting it be put to the National Executive Committee (NEC) as there were things in the motion which were not verifiable, NEC will now look at this. Does NUS have any power to takeover BUCS, president suggests not but will submit a letter to BUCS regarding working with them, passed at NEC.

7. Motions-

(a) Their jobs; Our education

(b) Defend the right of students officers to support strike action

Will Little clarifies if these were merged at Paisley, President states yes they are essentially the same but the resolves are slightly different, would urge members to vote yes for both. Members hear motions as one motion.

Speech For taken by the President. States that in the last 5 years staff at Universities and Colleges have received a pay cut of approximately 15% due to the cost of living and tax increases, Senior Management pay is very high and has an ultimate impact on the lower staffing level pay. Council Notes 9 of motion A states that the average salary of a Principal and Vice-Chancellor is almost £250,000 with the University of the West of Scotland's (UWS) being paid £217,000, compared to the lowest paid staff member at UWS, who is paid just above £13,000, this is a pay ratio of 16.5-1. The motions are asking for SAUWS to stand side by side with the staff to support the strike action.

Speech against taken by DPEW. States that the issue isn't that the principle gets too much it's that everyone else gets too little and this is what we should focus on.

Council move to Vote for motions (a) and (b)

*For: Unanimous
Motions passed*

(c) 21st Century Quorums

The proposer of the motion requested the motion be removed, Council members vote to remove the motion.

*For: unanimous
Motion removed*

(d) Zero Tolerance for Zero Hours

Speech for taken by Will Little. States, imagine if you are unable to budget for the month ahead because you don't know how many hours you'll have or being called and asked to come in with an hours' notice, not knowing if you can pay rent or put food on the table. Zero hour contracts are in use at SAUWS and UWS. The University have agreed to cut the number of zero hours, SAUWS can do better and this motion is asking for you to vote on what's fair, progressive and right. Within SAUWS there has been rumours of an increase in the number of zero hour contracts used within SAUWS, we know students are most vulnerable and these contracts don't look after the welfare of student. The motion should eradicate zero hours from SAUWS so the motion asks for these to be removed, and that shifts are given on a fairer basis. Sauws can do better and should be doing better, voting for this will allow SAUWS to be a better employer.

There is no formal speech against however the Chair allows for discussion.

Sports President states that sometimes zero hours works for the organisation, adds that SAUWS is not in a great financial position and sometimes there wasn't work there. Will Little states that the motion is not asking for minimum hours, just that the hours are shared better, more equally, also some staff didn't realise they were on a zero hour contacts. DPEW asks if this is it a shortening of the number of staff, Will Little suggest not, just a fairer distribution of the hours so that staff know how much they will earn at the end of month. Stephen Russell asks if this will impact the student staff at the University, Will Little suggests student staff are on zero hour contracts at the moment however discussions with People and Organisation Development suggest the University are looking to reduce the number of zero hour contacts used. DPEW reminds members that this motion, should it pass, will also need to go to the Board of Trustees due to finance and staffing implications,

Council move to vote

*For: 5
Against: 0
Abstentions: 2
Motion passed*

The following motions have been submitted to NUS Scotland Conference

(e) Right to Education – NUS Motion

Speech for taken by President. States that if you're heading to university and getting stopped because of your nationality, how would you feel, a friend got a visa to study in UK however each time the forces get onto this they put him on a political charge, Israel haven't signed up to the human rights with regards to torture. The motion is in support of students in Palestine's right to education and would support action against torture and promote human rights. Adds that this has been passed at Paisley Council with one vote against.

Council members are asked to ratify the motion for acceptance to NUS Conference.

*For: Unanimous
Motion ratified*

8. Elections-

(a) Disciplinary Committee (2x ordinary members)

There is no uptake

(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)

There is no uptake

9. AOCB-

Members note their thanks to officers for their work over the year.