

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) HAMILTON

Thursday 30th October 2014, 12.30pm, room A723 (Almada Building)

In the Chair, Isla Todd, Campus President Hamilton

AGENDA

1. Sederunt

Isla Todd	Campus President Hamilton
Jack Douglas	President
Lauren Miller	Depute President Education and Welfare
Ryan Wood	Sports President
James Adams	Ordinary Trustee
Blane Abercrombie	Ordinary Trustee
Stephen Russell	LGBT+ STAR Group
Robert Neil	Adult Nursing
Sean Dalziel	Adult Nursing
Cammie Mathieson	Law
Jade McCarroll	Social Science
Alex Pearson	Sport and Exercise Science
Michael McCluskey	Computer Games Design
Micheal Harrower	Computer Games Design
Fraser Ellis	PG International Management

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Stephen Inglis	Computer Networking
Joe Smith	Social Science
Joanne Hughes	Social Science
Cameron Young	Law and Business
Jessica Combe	Primary Teaching
Gavin Murray	Social Science

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) Matters arising from those minutes-

There are no matters arising, minutes are accepted

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

CPH reads through report, states that she has helped international students find accommodation as they need a guarantor to get private accommodation; currently the University doesn't do this, looking to see if we can do anything to help. Fresher's events went well and we have started campaigning and raising awareness of several issues including library improvements, sexual health and alcohol use. CPH invites questions. There are no questions, Blane Abercrombie states that he had spoken to the University about the accommodation issues with a request for them to act as

guarantor, the Uni were not very receptive of this, adds that there are many Universities in England that do and NUS are working with 'findaguarantor.com' to vet private letting agents and landlords to ensure accommodation is up to standard. CPH Report accepted.

President reads through report, states that he will be getting involved with the NUS housing campaign called 'The rent is too damn high' and will also be working with the University on accommodation issues particularly the rent for Halls. President states he is also raising awareness of the NUS national demo being held on 19th November, any student wishing to go down should contact him on president@sauws.org.uk. Has also been working with 'Villigedigs', one of the organisations we're working with, to better promote their services. President invites questions. Blane Abercrombie asks how the trip to London is being funded, President explains that it has come from the Citizenship budget as spending that funding is time limited and this is a relevant use of budget, Blane Abercrombie further asks how much it is costing as a whole, President suggests its £350. President report accepted.

DPEW reads through report. States that she has been working with the Citizenship Co-ordinator and Campus Presidents on the international welcome day at each of the campuses. Has also been looking at ways of recording lectures as part of 'e-learning' and looking at a partnership approach with curriculum design so that students can have more input into what is being taught and how. Adds that the Student Fellows are now in place, this is a research based post within each School which will look at results of different surveys on the Student Learning and Teaching Experience to enhance how we do things. DPEW states she has also organised a Breast Cancer awareness session and volunteer fairs as well as visiting the other campuses. DPEW invites questions. Jade McCarroll states that e-learning could free up time for students, adds that there are inherent dangers related to censorship as students or staff may sensor their views or comments and could stifle discussing. DPEW agrees but adds that we are looking at different circumstances via our research as well as working with Student Service departments and looking at learning styles, some students don't see the point in going to lectures and just listening, e-learning can be accessed anytime and helps individual students timeframes, it may also lead to classes being more interactive/engaging. Sean Dalziel states that being on the Nursing course it almost feels like an open course and this may become more prevalent if time is taken away from lectures, Jade McCarroll responds stating that learning isn't just what goes on in the classroom, everything should be about learning and development even through conversation in the corridors or in group work etc. DPEW states that the e-learning model is a more personalised learning approach, working on its development with teaching staff and students. Fraser Ellis raises concerns around the Data Protection Act as some students don't know why they can't record without expressed permission. DPEW understands the concerns and is researching into this along with the other research, understand that there is a balance and there will be extensive consultation before anything is decided or implemented. DPEW report accepted

Blane Abercrombie left the room 12.55pm

Sports President states that he is looking at how we reward volunteers and provide development for students involved with Sports and/or Societies. Informs members that Team UWS have been awarded an additional £26,000 for coaching development. Sports President invites questions, there are none, 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. Jade McCarroll suggest that we should work with the Job Centre to establish what benefits or other support students are entitled to as they don't know what their rights are. President agrees.

James Adams entered the room 1.00pm

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. We are also working with ChildReach and Exchange Scotland to raise awareness of the support available for studying abroad. Fraser Ellis states that Erasmus covers EU placements and asks if the campaign includes American partner Universities, DPEW states yes.

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 adds that she is also trying to organise Mental Health First Aid Training for students to attend, this will be provided by an external organisation.

(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

President 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

CPH 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, adds that BUCS is a UK wide organisation who help 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

*Agree: 12
Disagree: 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 is meeting quorum (the number of students attending for the meeting to take place), adds that there is also a perception that Council is a clique/closed group and hopes that allowing any student to attend will overcome this. 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.

Speech against is taken by Cammie Mathieson. States that he feels this motion would enhance a closed group and that the composition is flawed, in its current form the motion would enable an

SRC to be held with as little as 3 members, meaning something like this could pass without any real debate. Adds that there is also a flaw with any student being able to attend, this could be abused and students may vote at each campus. In addition the demographics is a concern, if the Chair doesn't like a motion they could block it unnecessarily. Any changes to the Bye-law must protect the student body.

Another round of speeches is requested by the President, this is seconded by James Adams.

Cammie Mathieson calls Procedural Motion 1(b) – that the motion is left on the table, seconded by Alex Pearson. Cammie Mathieson suggests that focus groups or workshops should be set up to discuss the changes outside of Council and allow members to suggest amendments to strengthen the principle of what is being proposed.

SRCo-ord suggests the motion and bye-law can be email out with a deadline for comments and a workshop to discuss what the comments were and then develop an amendment. Council agree to this course of action.

There is no further discussion, Council move to vote for Procedural motion 1(b)

*For: 12
Against: 0
Abstention: 1
The procedural motion is carried*

(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 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.

CPH allows questions. James Adams asks if this is a group just for care leavers, President states yes. Stephen Russell asks if there are going to be implications for the STAR group budgets, will they be increased, President explains we have managed to secure additional funds for this group from the Citizenship budget for this year so there are no changes to other STAR groups.

There is no speech against, Council move to vote

*For: unanimous
The motion passes*

8. Elections (attached) -

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

Chair - Proposed Cammie Mathieson, seconded by Sports President

Depute Chair – Proposed Jade McCarroll, seconded by Cammie Mathieson

Ordinary Member – Fraser Ellis, seconded by President

Ordinary Member – Alex Pearson, seconded by James Adams

Ordinary Member – Stephen Russell, seconded by DPEW

Two (2) 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-

James Adams asks what's happening with the Safe Taxi Scheme, President states that he has spoken to Dot Watson and Cammie Mathieson who led on this last year, we are waiting for more information. Cammie Mathieson explains they needed to speak to the University around some financial issues but that it is still being worked on.

There is no other business, CPH thanks members for their input and declares the meeting closed.

Start time: 12.30pm

Finish time: 2.10pm