

## MINUTES

### STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) HAMILTON

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 1pm, A424 (Almada)

In the Chair, Isla Todd, Campus President Hamilton

#### 1. Sederunt

Isla Todd	Campus President Hamilton (CPH)
Jack Douglas	President
Lauren Miller	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Ryan Wood	Sports President
James Adams	Ordinary Trustee Hamilton
Drew McDonald	Computing
Michael Harrower	Computer Games Design
Stephen Russell	Secretary, LGBT+ STAR Group
Simon Steele	Accounting

#### In attendance

Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)
David Devlin	Membership Development Manager (MDM)

#### 2. Acceptance of Apologies

Jennifer Sinclair	PGDE Primary
Andrew Casey	Social Science
Rebecca Coult	Midwifery
Fraser Ellis	PG International Management
Sean Dalzel	Adult Nursing

#### 3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

##### (a) Matters arising from those minutes-

There were no matters arising, minutes accepted.

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

CPH talks through report. States that the 'I want UWS...' wasn't successful, but will continue to campaign and raise awareness of the issues around the Almada building and get political support. CPH invites questions, Simon Steele asks if the funding was coming from the Scottish Funding Council, CPH states yes but couldn't get the funding, it may be possible around election time as parties and politicians are looking to gain support. President extends well done to CPH for the hard work in the campaign.

President talks through report. States the Union Survey will be launched soon, the survey will ask lots of questions on what students deem most important to them and comment on the work of SAUWS and building a better union. Also working on the awards, the 'Big Awards' merge the

Learning and Teaching Awards and the SAUWS Student Awards, we are currently working on the promotion of this. States that work has continued on the Summer Safety Net campaign which will be discussed at Scottish Government in the coming weeks, states that this is a great result, adds that there will be dedicated staff from the Government working on this. President invites questions, there are none.

DPEW talks through report. States that SAUWS now has Mental Health Ambassadors who will be receiving training on mental health awareness and campaigning, this is part of the MIND your Health campaign. There are also a number of institutions working together on this. The Paws Against Stress event went really well in Paisley and is now coming to Hamilton on 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Sports Hall, CPH will be attending, students who wish to attend should book their 'slot' from between 11.30am and 1.30pm, this can be done by emailing [dpew@sauws.org.uk](mailto:dpew@sauws.org.uk), there are 15minute slots available. States that the Healthy Body Healthy Mind campaign is continuing, working with the Sports President on this, the Mindful Mondays is part of this which includes facts and myths around mental health to reduce stigma, we've had a great response so far. The Smoking Prevention work is also on-going as part of the overarching campaign, we are putting posters near smoking hubs for students and staff to get information and support when trying to quit smoking. DPEW invites questions. Member asks how big a problem is there of mental ill health here at UWS, DPEW informs members that 1 in 3 students will suffer from mental ill health at some point during their studies, although there is no big campaign as yet, we wanted to education students on the main issues. The Sports President adds that we are looking at how people can improve their mental health through sports and we've just done mental health training. The MDM also adds that there is a high amount of students from the most deprived backgrounds coming to UWS and the risk of dropping out is high.

Sports President informs members that there are 68 UWS students going to Sheffield to compete in the BUCS championships. Has also been working with the DPEW on the Healthy Body Healthy Mind campaign, there will be a 'get wet' week which aims to get students to drink more and promote swimming among other things involving water. Also as part of LGBT history month many of the teams have been showing solidarity with LGBT members by wearing rainbow shoe laces and showing banners of support, Sports President hopes that further diversity/liberation campaigns can be organised. President extends well done on the work with LGBT history month.

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

**6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers**

**(a) SAUWS Constitution Summary of Changes**

President informs members that SAUWS has been running a series of consultation events at each campus looking specifically at the main changes to our Constitution and in particular the Governance of SAUWS, we now want to run it by Council. President informs members that new Constitution forms a major part of our restructuring and meeting the needs of our members and talks through the changes as follows.

States that the new governing document (Constitution) is simplified and clearer, giving members control at the grass roots level including Dumfries and Collaborative Colleges. The most prominent changes include a system focused on the Governance:

- The strategy level will sit with the Board of Trustees
- The operational level will sit with the Executive Committee
- The political level will sit with the Students' Voice

For example, a motion on removing Zero-Hour Contracts would be proposed at Students' Voice (to be passed or rejected), if passed the Executive Committee would decide how this would be run as a campaign, then the Board of Trustees would decide if and how much funding would be given to the Executive Committee in executing the campaign.

Members ask if students are going to engage with it, MDM suggests that the current system restricts membership of Council to Student Reps only, the new Students' Voice will be more like an AGM in that anyone can come, we will also be using more Video Conferencing facilities therefore Dumfries students and students at Collaborative Colleges and Distance Learners can join in via video link. The new system will also generate more referendums which are binding for passing policy. Essentially we are remove barriers to engagement and participation. MDM adds that we are also looking at investment in 'dial-in' meeting technology.

President informs members that the Board of Trustees (BoT) should be apolitical and this has not been the case in the past. The BoT is there to look at the wellbeing of the organisation, including the finances and strategic decision making. The BoT membership will be made up of the five Sabbatical Officers via elections (as is current practice) with the rest being made up of 4 Student members (one from each Campus) and 4 External members (with specific knowledge around for example Finance, Human Resources etc.). These members will apply for the role and will be appointed by an Appointments Committee who will look at the skills of applicants using a 'skills matrix' to bridge skills deficiency, adds that appointments in this way are standard in charity organisations.

For the Executive Committee we have used a hybrid model to reflect campuses and diversity and all positions will be elected. There will be two Campus reps from each campus (totalling 8 campus reps), four liberation officers (representing women, LGBT, black and minority ethnic and Disabled students), a Societies Officer and a Care Leavers Officer, the 5 Sabbatical Officers will also form the Executive Committee. The Societies Officer has been introduced so that Societies can develop more as they need different support than sports teams and they would also have a separate funding stream from Team UWS, Sports President states that he agrees with this new position. MDM adds that societies are developing and getting bigger so the potential is there however greater resource could assist the growth.

There is also a new addition to our accountability in the form of a Union Chair. This is an impartial person elected from the Student body (in the same way as the Sabbatical Officers) for a one year term of office who would hold officers to account on their decision making, they can attend any meeting of the Association except reserve business such as Staffing. The Union Chair will also act as Chair to Students' Voice meetings which will allow Sabbatical officers to argue from a political stand and put their view forward, currently this is difficult when acting as Students' Council Chair. MDM clarifies that this position could be seen as similar to Presiding Officer in Scottish parliament.

Members ask how long the Student Trustees will be appointed for, President suggests that Students will be appointed on a yearly term and capped at two years and the External Trustees will be appointed for a two year term capped at four terms (so they could serve for potential 8 years in total). Members feel that a 3 year term could be better for Student Trustee members to enable greater learning as one year can pass quite quickly. MDM reminds members that the student population changes every 4 years and this way it will keep it refreshed, also suggests however that they could be appointed for a term of two years then another two years, this is something we can look closer at however. Members also ask how the Trustees will be appointed. MDM suggests it will be like applying for a job, there will be an application process which will describe the skills

needed for the role and an application form, the Appointments Committee will be made up of the President as head of the organisation, the chief of staff (General Manager) and a representative from the University who will be an impartial person. As usual however, full training will be given to all trustees. Adds that all appointments will require ratification by the Students' Voice, there is also room for referendums on removing an appointment.

President informs members that the principle behind the change in membership of Students' Voice is one member one vote, this is so that all students can have a say on how we run and what we campaign for. It is intended so that there are no barriers to involvement, it is open and accessible.

Members ask what happens now. President states that we will have a final document to go for referendum which can be voted for at the same time as electing officers, we want a yes and no side to encourage debate around the changes, adds that resources will be made available to both sides. The current BoT and Students Association Staff are in favour of the changes however.

President adds that the Students' Council will be asked to ratify the result of the referendum, the Constitution will then go to the University's Court for ratification, provided all goes well, the new document should be in place for July and we will hold a second round of election for the new positions.

There are no further questions or comments.

### **(b) General Election information**

President informs members that we are working with other Students' Unions and NUS to look at General Election asks, i.e. what do students want out of the General Election manifestos for students. Members respond as follows:

- Better childcare funding for students
- Better online support for students who spend time away from campus- distance learning support
- Opposing Government plan to make voluntary work experience compulsory for under 25's
- Free education across all of the UK.
- Better funding and support for International students
- Improved housing for students including at University and in the public sector

*James Adams arrives at 2pm*

### **(c) Elections Information**

President states that an all student email has been sent out to inform students of the Union elections and encourage everyone to stand and vote when voting opens, adds that all the information is also online at [www.sauws.org.uk](http://www.sauws.org.uk). A change this year however, to comply with the Education Act, is that all Sabbatical Officers are now elected by a cross campus ballot, for example students in Hamilton can now vote for the Campus President Ayr, etc. Reminds members that there is remuneration for Sabbatical positions. Also reminds those who are standing to ask the current Sabbatical Officers questions about their role.

## **7. Motions –**

### **(a) Student Voice– Constitutional amendment to bye-law 6**

President proposes Procedural Motion 1. (a) to remove this motion as it is no longer relevant, seconded by DPEW.

Speech for removing the motion is taken by President. States that this was the proposed change to Students' Council, but it is now redundant due to current review.

There is no speech against removal.

Council move to vote.

*For: Unanimous*

**(b) SAUWS Constitutional referendum**

Speech for is taken by the President. States that there is a referendum taking place for the new SAUWS Constitution, however currently referendums are non-binding and Students' Council has the power to refuse the new Constitution, even if a referendum says yes. This motion is asking for Council to accept the decision of the referendum regardless of whether it is a yes or no vote.

Speech against is not taken.

Council move to vote.

*For: Unanimous*

**8. Elections -**

**(a) Disciplinary Committee (2x ordinary members)**

Positions remain vacant

**(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)**

Positions remain vacant

*Stephen Russell left the room at 2.10*

**9. AOCB-**

CPH would like to raise a point of Censure against the President and requests to pass the Chair, DPEW accepts Chair for this discussion.

MDM waives his right to anonymity for this discussion, explains that protocol doesn't exist to accommodate censures however that Council should decide to hear the case or not. Chair asks Council if they would like to hear the case, Council would like to hear the case.

CPH informs members of an incident which occurred a couple of weeks ago and provides members with a paper describing the events with some aspects blanked out for confidentiality of staff. States that she had immediately apologised for the incident however when the President called CPH to discuss the incident she felt his tone and wording was inappropriate and could be seen as bullying.

President defends his actions stating that he felt CPH didn't intend to apologise for the incident and therefore decided to call CPH to discuss further, President suggests CPH put the phone down on him during the discussion, adding that no one was present while talking with CPH.

CPH states this is not true as she 'replied all' by accident instead of one person, states that she did apologise immediately after sending the email. At no point did CPH refuse to apologise, feels that the way she was spoken to was completely inappropriate

President suggests that CPH broke policy for staff and that the CPH should be censured, adds that this should be discussed at the Board of Trustees rather than Council as staff are involved. Also states that the phone call can be considered hearsay as there is no evidence of the conversation.

James Adams states that after the call he could see that CPH was very upset and was crying which is not a good situation.

Simon Steele asks if the staff member involved complained, MDM suggests that they did. Adds that the reply was to everyone on the SAUWS mailing list.

CPH reiterates that she did apologise to the staff member in person and via email which was accepted by the staff member.

Chair suggests that a vote is taken however that this is done by secret ballot. Chair gives out paper for vote to be cast and counts these in front of members.

Vote is as follows:

*For: 2  
Against: 2  
Abstain: 3*

As no decision can be taken Chair has the casting vote, Chair abstains and therefore the matter is quashed.

The Chair is passed back to CPH.

There is no further business, Chair thanks members for their input and closes the meeting.

*Start: 1.05pm  
Finish: 2.20pm*