

MINUTES

STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) PAISLEY

Thursday 24th October 2013, 4.30pm, level 1 Paisley Union

In the Chair, Iain Shepherd

1. Sederunt

Iain Shepherd	Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)
Blane Abercrombie	President
Ryan Wood	Sports and Societies President
Stuart McCabe	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Disabled Students STAR Group
Heather Armstrong	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/Women's STAR Group Convener
Cameron Stewart	Ordinary Trustee Paisley/ Disabled Students STAR Group Convener
Louise Lawler	Adult Nursing
Ann-Marie Bennett	Adult Nursing
Marc Shmitz	Mental Health Nursing
Charleigh Burbank	Psychology/LGBTQ STAR Group Convener
Amanda Randos	Psychology
Lauren Gilmore	Social Sciences/Women's STAR Group
Jack Douglas	Social Sciences/LGBTQ STAR Group
Rebecca Miller	Social Sciences
Sarah Anderson	Social Sciences
Morgan McQueen	Social Sciences
John Black	Social Sciences
Laura Baillie	Social Sciences
Toni-Elaine Morrison	Social Sciences
Drew McGowan	Social Science
Jade McFarland	Social Science/Politics
Maxwell Tcheunou	Business Technology
Ademola Obafemi	Business Technology
Jessica Lane	Applied Bioscience
Will Little	Biomedical Science

In attendance

Claire Lumsden Student Representation Co-ordinator

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Ashley Forrester	Business Technology

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting

(a) **Matters arising from those minutes-** None, minutes accepted

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

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 invites questions. Jack Douglas asks how Freshers went commercially, President suggests it went well, events were well attended. Will Little asks if we made a profit from events, President states that figures are available upon request to the President, DPEW suggests the Association did run fresher's at a profit.

There are no further questions, Presidents report accepted.

DPEW reads through his report. States that he has been working on Pay Day Loans websites and has got many of these blocked from Uni computers, 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. 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.

DPEW invites questions. Will Little asks how much discussion there has been with NUS on the Save for Summer campaign and the 12 SAAS payments, DPEW suggests it will be discussed at the next Glasgow Students Forum (GSF) and he has been in talks with Gordon Maloney (NUS Scotland President) regarding this. Adds that the President has met with David Wallace CEO of SAAS and he is also keen to look at this. Jack Douglas asks if NUS have policy for this, DPEW states not as yet however after NUS Scotland Conference hopefully they will. Jack Douglas further asks what the DPEW has been doing as part of the Welfare remit, DPEW states he has been focusing on international students as the National Student Survey results (NSS) results show we are well below other institutions on international student issues and is developing funding for away trips to experience Scotland while here as well as cultural exchange classes.

There are no further questions, DPEW report accepted

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. Council members ask when the first meeting of General Committee of Clubs and Societies (GCCS) is, Sports President stats it is on Friday 25th October.

There are no further questions, report accepted.

5. Acceptance of the reports and minutes of committees -

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

DPEW 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

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 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 Report of Business of the Association. The president invites questions from members.

Ademola Obafemi asks when the travel expenses will be done, President explains that the campaign won't be a quick fix however reiterates that he is in discussions with NUS with regards to this. John Black asks how the President intends to undertake this campaign for the West of Scotland as currently there is a monopoly with McGills busses and Scotrail, President suggests he would prefer students to campaign for this, however he does have ideas on how it could be done but students should lead the way and would be happy to assist students in executing any campaign ideas in this area. Drew McGowan asks if expenses would be claimed back from the business or the University, President states neither, the plan is to have a pot of money set aside for students which would sit with SAAS however if this is not possible then the University could control this, adds that it may only be possible for some student to access this however it would be better than nothing at all. Maxwell Tcheunou seeks clarification from the President as to whether he intends to negotiate the cost of travel or campaign for SAAS travel expenses to be reinstated, President states that any campaign would be based on both the cost and travel expenses reimbursement and will try to get a 'ring-fenced' fund for travel expenses. Jack Douglas asks if this

is about claiming travel expenses back like the old system or something else, President explains he is trying to get it back but also make it better.

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

Cameron Stuart states that he is working on improving the Board of Trustees and Students Association accountability as some students are not aware of what exactly we do and inform students that we are not just a bar.

Heather Armstrong states that she will be working on retention of students and looking at the support provided to students with caring responsibilities. Will also be supporting the priorities of the Sabbatical officers, looking at students who have caring resp.

Stuart McCabe states he will be working on braking down the barriers that some students think Ordinary Trustees are different to Sabbatical officers in terms of Board of Trustees decision making. Will also be looking at promoting the services we provide such as assistance with academic and welfare issues, will also be working on promoting the Safe Space Policy as UWS and SAUWS is about inclusiveness on all our campuses, we want to make people feel part of both organisations and able to engage with our activities as without student we wouldn't be here at all.

(c) Timetabling of classes – UWS Consultation

DPEW 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.

Sports President clarifies that the Education Act suggests that the University is supposed to provide a space for activities, we are the only institution who doesn't have Wednesday afternoons free and from next year Wednesday's will be free for Sports and thereafter all other activities.

7. Motions -

(a) 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: There is no speech against however DPEW allows a discussion.

Cameron Stewart asks how we are planning to impose the ban. President states that all artists will be given notice of the ban and that they can't play the song, it has also been removed from SubTV. Jack Douglas states that the song is disgusting and when it was banned there was a lot publicity about it which wasn't always positive whereas Hamilton campus just banned it which had a better effect. Heather Armstrong agrees with this comment adding that the amount of publicity wasn't necessary which the Women's group agree with. John Black thanks Heather Armstrong for the work she and the Women's group have done as well as the President and asks how we stop people from playing it on their own devices, if they did play it would we ask them to stop and if they didn't, would they be asked to leave. President suggests this would be the case. Sports President agrees that we gave it too much press however it was done at the same time as other institutions so it would have been noted anyway. Maxwell Tcheunou understands the concerns and agrees with the ban however asks what we can do to further this campaign to bars and nightclubs, Heather Armstrong suggests that unfortunately we can't stop outside events from playing the song but can lobby to stop playing it, points out that this is about protecting our

students while at our events. Stuart McCabe states that we would be failing as a union and a University if we don't take account of our liberation groups or any other groups in their concerns, adds that if we don't take action and listen when we need to we will fail our students. A Council member states that it is great that we are taking a stand against the song as they have had negative experiences at another institution with regards to sexual violence, Council thank the member for their contribution.

DPEW requests Council vote on the motion.

*For: 21
Against: 2
Abstention: 1
The motion passes*

(b) Constitutional Change – Quoracy of Council meetings

The motion has been withdrawn at the request of the proposer, Council vote and agrees to remove the motion.

(c) Scottish Living wage

Drew McGowan as the proposer of this motion has requested that the motion not be put in order to allow for amendment prior to the next SRC.

8. Elections-

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

Chair – Proposed Maxwell Tcheunou, Seconded by Cameron Stewart

Depute Chair – Proposed Charleigh Burbank, Seconded by President

Ordinary Member – Proposed John Black, Seconded by Stuart McCabe

Ordinary Member – Proposed Laruen Gilmore, Seconded by Heather Armstrong

Ordinary Member – Proposed Drew McGowan, Seconded by Jack Douglas

Ordinary Member – Proposed Ademola Obafemi, Seconded by Sports President

Ordinary Member – Proposed Sarah Anderson, Seconded by Lauren Gilmore

(b) Elections Committee (2x Ordinary Member)

Ordinary Member – Proposed Morgan McQueen, Seconded by Cameron Stewart

9. AOCB-

Jack Douglas requests that Council refer the rules that make up quorum to the next Students Council as currently the President interpretation of the constitution suggests we can recommend that we waive quoracy to the next Council meeting. Adds that quoracy during Trimester 2 is difficult to meet and can cause issues in terms of policy of Council. Sports President states that the motion was removed from Paisley and Hamilton Councils because it failed at Ayr as it requires a 2/3 majority across each of the campuses, Jack Douglas states this is incorrect adding it was removed as there was a mistake in the motion. Maxwell Tcheunou asks what the term 'plus 1' means with regards to this, Jack Douglas explains that if there are 20 students at the first meeting, quorum thereafter would be at least 11 students. Sports President suggests this is a discussion which should be left to the next Council meeting. Cameron Stewart reminds Council that we are reviewing the constitution and that this can be considered under that.

Cameron Stewart states that as an autistic student one of the things he'd like to do is ask what students with autism are looking for from the University and the Students Association via the Disabled Students STAR Group, along with Stuart McCabe, Heather Armstrong suggests she will be happy to help. Sarah Anderson asks what the group does, Cameron Stewart explains that they campaign for a better student experience for students with disabilities and work with NUS in terms of this.

Jack Douglas reminds Council that the month of November is Movember, which raises awareness and money for prostate cancer. Maxwell Tcheunou asks if people grow their own or wear a fake one, Jack suggests either.

DPEW thanks members for their input and declares the meeting closed

Start: 4.30pm
Finish: 5.30pm