

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL (SRC) Ayr

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 12.30pm, room J129

In the Chair, Daniel Copithorn, Campus President Ayr

### Introduction to SRC's

### MINUTES

#### 1. Sederunt

Daniel Copithorn	Campus President Ayr
Susan Duncan	Depute President Education and Welfare
Arnaud Bastianelli	Sports President
Chris Scott	Ordinary Trustee
Grace Nicoll	Ordinary Trustee
Laura Wiggins	Ordinary Trustee
Liam Pollock	Broadcast Production
Tommy Robertson	Primary Education, B.Ed 1 (L7)
Carrie O'Donnell	BA Hospitality Management (L9)

#### In attendance

Heather Weir	General Assistant
Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Coordinator

#### 2. Acceptance of Apologies

Caroline Sharp	General Manager
Tracey Dungavel	PgD Human Resource Management

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

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

*Item 6 (d)* – DPEW Notes that students council Ayr supported the motion as presented to them, the motion subsequently passed at NUS Scottish Council.

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

CPA gave an oral report. Ayr campus students attended the national demo, in total 122 students from UWS attended. Further reports that the event was very well organised and no-one got lost. The rally was very positive and spirits were high, only later in the day did CPA find out about the trouble at the Conservative HQ, however no UWS students were involved. Overall the day went well for the Association. DPEW reports that some students met with MP's at Westminster, although they hadn't said officially what their views on fees were, most said they would vote against any increase. CPA informs council that NUS are now using the 'right to recall' MP's for those who signed the pledge and are now going back on their word. The next major campaign is the feedback campaign, it will focus on letting students know about their right to ask for feedback and to receive it within 4 weeks of submission, there will also be a feedback toolkit for student

reps. Contact Claire Lumsden on email [src@sauws.org.uk](mailto:src@sauws.org.uk) or Andrew Taylor on email [welfare@sauws.org.uk](mailto:welfare@sauws.org.uk) if there are any questions. CPA also reports that from the commercial side of the Ayr union is going well.

Questions open to the floor – none, council accepts the report of business.

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

**6 Business Introduced by Officer Bearers-**

**(a) Halls Lease**

CPA attended meeting of the refectory and accommodation unit which discussed the halls lease. The lease locks students in for one year, the main concern is with the new halls which are more expensive, possibly causing financial difficulty for students. CPA wants to get the students point of view on how to progress and improve the lease policy, keeping in mind the up keep of accommodation. Tommy Robertson comments that from time to time students have parties, which is not a problem however some students are not happy being in Halls and regret being tied in, this can also impact on the students wellbeing. CPA reports there are no clauses to leave halls even from a medical point of view therefore technically the accommodations unit can still hold student to lease. CPA asks if council can suggest better clauses which support the students' point of view better and encourage the university to suggest other places to stay during term.

Tommy Robertson suggests perhaps a 3 month get out clause in order to give students time to settle in and gauge how they feel about living in halls. CPA reports that the university changed the lease a few years ago which allowed students to move out within 4 weeks but this was abused by some students who made friends and moved out. CPA recognises that not everyone can live in halls and that negative experiences can impact on students' wellbeing and suggests that students should work with accommodation management to improve the situation, DPEW suggest we should look at policies from other universities to produce potential solutions. CPA suggests we have a good opportunity to change the system with new halls being built. Sports President asks council members to let other students, who live in halls and may be affected, know about the issues and if they want to be involved get in touch with CPA to discuss further. Tommy Robertson suggests that as there are lots of different groups in halls this can cause conflict and there's nothing to help students resolve issues, reports however that wardens do a good job and want people to work with them. It was also reported to council that a student from halls got into a verbal altercation with a security guard and accused them of physical assault, to follow disciplinary procedures the security guard was suspended, however the outcome has yet to be reported. If any members of halls see or hear of any future altercations please report this as soon as possible.

CPA asks council, outwith the lease, are there any other issues with halls. Council noted that it may be good to have a disciplinary procedure, Tommy Robertson suggests this could be some kind of charter to show acceptable behaviour etc. Grace Nicoll reports there are some problem with containers/plates etc being locked away by the accommodation team if they are left out. Chris Scott suggests they could possibly start putting in complaints about unfair treatment by writing to the accommodations Manager (at Paisley), CPA can outline formal complaints letter for use, DPEW reminds council that any complaints should be depersonalised to avoid personally attacking members of staff. CPA reports there have also been issues with the price of accommodation which has been brought up at previous SRC's, DPEW suggests looking at a 6month lease as this is common in private lettings. Tommy Robertson reports that one student was given verbal permission to leave halls which was subsequently withdrawn. DPEW suggests that with previous

short leases it was easy for the university to evict students and therefore need to take care when considering changes.

DPEW further suggests having an informal discussion about ideas for proposals to the accommodation committee. Council agrees that a charter is a good idea, along with presenting lease issues. General Assistant suggests any meeting/discussions should take place in halls. DPEW suggests this needs to happen on all campuses.

### **(b) Smoking Ban**

CPA reports that a smoke free policy has again been proposed for the new campus and the other campuses. The policy will prohibited smoking on university property including parking lots and academic buildings. Further notes that this would be difficult to implement in halls. There is a need for general opinion of how to improve the policy. DPEW reports that with the current policy people cannot smoke near doors and must be 3 meters away from doors and windows, in addition people tend to crowd near exits and entrances, there are also safety issues for halls residents. CPA also suggests the university will not put in shelters or bins due to costs involved. The new policy proposed that students and staff should police (enforce) the policy, however the Students Association suggested this was inappropriate and the policy now asks staff only to enforce the rules.

CPA asks if council has any proposals of how to deal with it, need to ask for smoking areas. General Assistant suggests thinking about how schools do it, CPA suggests it depends on the school as some may have to leave school premises. CPA suggests that if the new policy includes halls there will need to be smoking areas with CCTV which is well lit.

DPEW suggests that any policy would be difficult to implement. There is some distance between the union in new build and the nearest campus exit, at Paisley the union is not part of the academic buildings. General Assistant asks if there are any punishments if caught smoking in undesignated areas. DPEW reports that not many have been taken forward however technically students and staff can be thrown out for persistent smoking against the rules, also looking in to clarifying what the disciplinary code would be and what the boundaries of academic buildings are. In addition some areas of the new build are council owned and there may be other implications for this. Tommy Robertson asks if the smoking point at the union can be moved, DPEW suggests the area of grass (next to the building) could be used as a smoking area, General Assistant however notes that this is owned by the local council again adding implications, CPA suggests this is the type of debate that will occur at the new campus, there are also safety issues.

### **(c) Blackboard feedback**

SR Coord explains what BlackBoard feedback is required i.e. are there too many items, is it too 'busy', does BlackBoard meet the needs of our students. DPEW suggests part of the problem is different lecturers use it in different ways and are inconsistent. Council reports that students are still getting used to it but that it is relatively easy to use. Tommy Robertson reports criticisms of BlackBoard are that the newest announcements are at the bottom of the page and asks if this can be moved to the top, further comments that many students missed one of their lectures due to not seeing the notification. Chris Scott also reports of the inconsistent use by lecturers. CPA reports that while studying so many areas of BlackBoard were not used, only the modules section. Tommy Robertson asks if BlackBoard could be set as a home page on a laptop or home PC or have a stay logged in option for ease of use, suggests he would use it more often if he could stay logged

in. CPA asks if students use the discussions section of BlackBoard or is Facebook the preferred option for class/group discussions. Council suggested the discussion section is not used often.

## **7. Motions**

### **(a) Safe Space Policy**

CPA reports that this policy is to make clear no form of discrimination is acceptable. DPEW suggests it will also tighten up SAUWS code of discipline. CPA reports that the motion also includes events run by SAUWS which mean that, for example, with SRC's being run in a university room, members would be protected.

Questions open to the floor – Tommy Robertson asks with regards to CN 1, if someone witnesses discrimination can this be reported? DPEW suggests that potentially yes, although it may not be directed at the witness, the witness themselves may feel upset by comments or abuse.

Council moves to vote – *passed unanimously*

## **8. Elections-**

### **(a) Disciplinary committee** (Chair, Depute Chair, x3 ordinary members)

**Depute Chair:** Proposed – Carrie O'Donnell, (Seconded – Grace Nicoll)

Carrie O'Donnell duly elected

**Ordinary Member:** Proposed – Tommy Robertson (Seconded – Susan Duncan)

**Ordinary Member:** Proposed – Liam Pollock (Seconded – Arnaud Bastianelli)

This item will be brought to the next students' council Ayr to elect a Chair and one more ordinary member.

## **9. AOCB-**

Grace Nicoll – Asks what was happening with the Snowball and what the dress code will be? CPA has a prize in mind which will be revealed later, no decision was made on dress code.

Tommy Robertson – Asks why the union is closed on a Friday and Saturday night, CPA suggests it is too quiet and we can't cover costs. Reminds council that the union will not be shut every Friday and if there are events students want to run to get in touch. General Assistant reminds students that they can hire out the union for parties etc, get in touch with Joanne McLaughlin on email [uma@sauws.org.uk](mailto:uma@sauws.org.uk) or Ann Finlayson on email [auma@sauws.org.uk](mailto:auma@sauws.org.uk) for more details and to make bookings.

Tommy Robertson – Are there any big nights at Paisley union, Grace Nicoll asks if students from other campuses are allowed to enter/use the Paisley union, DPEW comments yes and that they would be more than welcome.

Grace Nicoll – Asked what was happening with sports teams. Sports President reports that many of the sports teams are underway and if there is anything students want to know or share about any of the sports teams to get in touch with him on [sp@sauws.org.uk](mailto:sp@sauws.org.uk) and he will enquire further, he can also organise rooms for training etc. DPEW reminds council that students can join groups at other campuses if there is nothing on at their own.

*Start 12.35  
Finish 1.40*