



## STUDENT VOICE MINUTES

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 1.15pm (rescheduled from 21<sup>st</sup> October)

Venues:

Ayr - LT2

Dumfries - R217

Hamilton - A216

Paisley - P118

*In the Chair – Anne Mitchell Union Chair*

Chair welcomes members to the first ever meeting of Student Voice, informs members that this is the successor to Students' Council and is the main forum for forming policy and discussing the activities of SAUWS and UWS.

### 1. Members Present

*Ayr:*

John Black                      Depute President Education and Welfare (DPEW)

*Dumfries:*

Sam Glendinning              Executive Officer Dumfries (EOD)

*Hamilton:*

Douglas McWhirter          Campus President Hamilton (CPH)

Heather Armstrong          Social Science (Paisley)

Blane Abercrombie          Graduate School

*Paisley:*

Jack Douglas                  President

Simon Cain                      Sports President (SP)

Emma Shotter                  Disabled Students Officer

Emma Wilson                  Biomedical Science

Bren McNeil                      Information Technology

Fraser Ellis                      Post-graduate Society

Kevin McKinley                Convener People and Planet Society

Jenni Tyyska                      Mechanical Engineering

Cameron Stewart              Social Science

Kristin Ivanova                Chemistry

Joao Paulo                        Business

In attendance

David Devlin                      Membership Development Manager (Paisley) (MDM)

Claire Lumsden                      Student Representation Co-ordinator (Hamilton) (SRCo-ord)

## **2. Apologies**

Simon Taylor	Executive Officer Ayr
Stephen Russell	Executive Officer Hamilton
Connor Smith	Executive Officer Paisley
Margo MacMillan	Executive Officer Paisley
Nathan Bone	LGBT+ Officer
Laura Baillie	Women's Officer
Kate Morrison	Societies Officer

## **3. Minutes and Matters Arising**

None – First Meeting

## **4. Items of Business**

### 1. Sabbatical Officer Remit Review

President introduces the Sabbatical Review taking place, states that the survey went live this morning and all students will be informed and invited to complete the survey. With all the changes taking place this is an appropriate opportunity to look at the role and remits of Sabbatical officers and would encourage everyone to take part.

President invites questions. Heather Armstrong asks where it's being advertised, President states that everyone will have received an email by 5pm today.

### 2. Student Partnership Agreement (SPA)

DPEW introduces the SPA, this has been developed as part of the Post-16 review report. The document outlines the principles and expectations of partnership between SAUWS and UWS/students and staff and what we hope to achieve over the course of this year. There are 3 main themes, one being Student Representation, involvement and participation, one being Assessment and Feedback and the other is Wellbeing. All students will be made aware of the document once it has been passed at the appropriate University Committee, however the themes were derived from a number of sources including survey results, officer manifesto's and student feedback. Student Reps will be invited to comment on the document in due course.

DPEW invites questions. Cameron Stewart asks what the Executive Committee think about the current HE bill. DPEW states that they are supportive of it but they are currently reviewing it, President adds that there is more transparency and representation embedded within the bill and that we do support the principles of it.

### 3. Careers and Employability Services Rebrand

DPEW informs members that the Careers service are currently looking at re-branding and renaming the service, DPEW asks members for their views of renaming the service. Some names that have been considered include 'Aspiring Futures' and 'Confident Futures'.

DPEW invites comments. Member suggests that the suggestions are patronising and the service should be called what it is - careers guidance. Other member feels that they should keep it the same as it is now established and is a good name for the service. Another member suggests that the service covers all students at all levels and this should be taken into account.

DPEW states that he will share these comments with the team at Careers Service and will take any further work forward with Student Voice being consulted.

#### 4. Motions

##### i. Policy Lapse

Union Chair introduces the Policy Lapse motion. Informs members that the Executive Committee have considered each of these and made recommendations for Voice to consider either allowing the policy to lapse (no longer policy of SAUWS) or to stay (we keep the policy).

Union Chair asks if there are any objections to these recommendations. Cameron Stewart requests that the policies are discussed separately rather than all together, this is seconded by Heather Armstrong.

Union Chair goes through the policies as follows. (NB: Motions with \* were debated separately and summary outlined below)

<b>Motion Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Lapse/Stay</b>
SAUWS Hardship Fund	14	0	0	<i>Lapse</i>
Armed Forces recruitment policy	13	0	1	<i>Stay</i>
SAUWS Learning and Teaching Awards	14	0	0	<i>Lapse</i>
Keep Free Education	12	0	2	<i>Lapse</i>
Things can only get better	14	0	0	<i>Lapse</i>
*Safe Space Policy	13	1	0	<i>Stay</i>
Election Participation	14	0	0	<i>Lapse</i>
SAUWS Environmental and Ethical Policy	14	0	0	<i>Lapse</i>

##### \*Safe Space Policy:

Speech against (keeping the policy): Cameron Stuart states that this policy is no longer needed as the principles of safe space is embedded in the Constitution.

Speech for (keeping the policy): Blane Abercrombie states that the policy is still needed and we can have the policy and the Constitution, they are not mutually exclusive.

*A vote is taken, the policy stays.*

##### ii. Fighting against austerity, fighting for social justice and to defend and extend free education

Speech For: President states that this motion is to replace the lapsed policy 'Keep free education', this motion better serves the organisation and highlights the impact of the austerity package

forced on the UK by the current Conservative Government. Reminds members that there are other EU countries with free education and we want to continue be one of them.

Speech Against not taken.

Chair invites members to vote,

- For: 13
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 1

*The motion passes*

### iii. Fossil Free Forever

Speech For: Kevin McKinley states he is the convener of the People and Planet Society and the group submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to find out how much investment UWS has in Fossil Fuels. The response was that there was over £1million investment which included fossil fuel companies. The group requested a further FOI request which noted investment at £0. Although this is a positive result, there is nothing from stopping the institution from investing again, therefore we are asking Voice to pass this motion to ensure we have a sustainable future.

Speech Against: DPEW states that he is not oppose to the motion, only that the President is mandated to undertake the activities related to it, this should be all of the Executive Committee.

Speech For: Kevin McKinley states that he agrees with the point however doesn't feel that this is any extra work for the President and they can delegate tasks if they wish.

Speech Against: Heather Armstrong states that the motion should be resubmitted with the Executive Committee taking the work forward rather than one person.

Speech For: Kevin McKinley states that this is a bureaucratic point to prevent the motion passing, the President is the head of the Organisation and this sits within their remit.

Speech Against is not take.

Chair invites members to vote,

- For: 9
- Against: 3
- Abstain: 2

*The motion passes*

## 5. Disciplinary Committee Election

SRCo-ord introduces the Election for the Disciplinary Committee. States that the Disciplinary Committee is responsible for upholding the Code of Discipline as set out in bye-law 4 of the SAUWS constitution. Fair and equal treatment is expected at all times and full training and support will be given to aid the running of the committee.

*Positions available: Chair x 1, Deputy Chair x 1, Ordinary Members x 5*

- No member stood for Chair or Deputy Chair, these positions will be carried to the next meeting.

- Ordinary Member – proposed: Emma Wilson, seconded by: Heather Armstrong  
*Emma Wilson is duly elected*
- There were no further proposals for Ordinary Member, these positions will be carried to the next meeting.

#### **5. Any Other Competent Business**

Fraser Ellis informs members that he is Graduating and therefore standing down as Convener of the Post-Graduate Society. The group are now looking for a new convener and increase its presence on each campus, requests that SAUWS promote the group. This is agreed, promotion will take place on SAUWS Social Media profiles and on the Societies section of the SAUWS website.

President thanks members for attending and participating in the first meeting of Student Voice.

There being no further business Chair thanks members for their involvement and declares the meeting closed. Informs members the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

*Start: 1.35pm*

*Finish: 2.30pm*