

Minutes of the 4th Caledonian Student Voice of session 2016/17

Meeting held on Monday, 20 March 2017, in NH208, at 5.00pm.

1. Sign In:

Present:

Philip Coupe (PC, Chair); Lauren Ramage (SP); Chris Daisley (VP SEBE); Jodie Waite (VP GSBS); Kevin Campbell (VP SHLS); Neil Alexander (NA); Romina Arefin (RA); Chikezirim Azubuikwe (CA); Jeff Barclay (JB); Charlie Beaumont (CB); Linda Cupples (LC); Emma Duncan (ED); Jonnie England (JE); Tamar Everson (TE); David Hendry (DH); Kanayo Ikeh (KI); Tom Jarvis (TJ); Maja Jorgensen (MJ); Calum McCormack (CMcC); Brendan Owen (BO); Amir Shafiq (AS); Callum Smith (CS); Rachel Simpson (RS); Adam Stewart (AS); Kayleigh van Dongen (KVD);

Absent: Jen Broadhurst (JB); Alistair Moulds (AM); Niall Christie (NC); Caroline Fleeting (CF); Aushna Ikhlaiq (AI); Nicola Kennedy (NK); Gil McComb (GMcC); Katherine McGinness (KMCG); Robyn Moffat-Wall (RMW); Alistair Moulds (AM); Sophie Nicholls (SN); Bolutife Oyemomi (BO); Tanya Ziyenge (TZ).

Apologies: Scott Buchanan (SB); Lisa Graham (LG); Abhishek Mandal (AM).

In attendance: Kevin Ward (Student Voice Team Leader); Kathryn Collins (Clerk), Vonnie Sandlan (NUS Scotland President).

Members who were absent without apologies have received an automatic caution from Student Voice. Any member who receives two cautions will automatically face a vote of no confidence at which members of Student Voice may decide to remove them from their position.

1. Welcome

1.1 The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair (Philip Coupe) welcomed all members to the 4th and last meeting of Student Voice for 2016 – 2017. Members were asked to ensure they had signed in and taken a voting card to use when speaking. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

2.1 The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice session, held on 13 February 2017.

2.2 The Clerk was asked to confirm the result of the vote for the approval of the minutes of the previous Student Voice Committees, point 4 (page 3). The result was noted as (F:12 A:9 Ab:0) but a member commented that they had abstained from the vote. The Clerk said she would check her notes and the voting results from the previous meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Full Time Officer Elections

The Student Voice Team Leader congratulated the new Full Time Officer team and let members know that information on the results and the new Full Time Officer team was on the website.

3.2 **The EDIT Policy**

The Editor said that the EDIT policy will be deferred until the next meeting of Student Voice. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Magazine Editor.**

3.3 **Glasgow Student Forum Minutes**

The VP School for Health and Life Sciences responded that the Glasgow Student Forum does not take minutes. This matter is resolved.

3.4 **Freshers Terms of Reference**

The VP SEBE said that the Freshers Terms of Reference will come back to Student Voice at a later date. This matter is ongoing. In the meantime, an email will be sent out to all Student Voice members to get their feedback on the Terms of Reference. **Action: VP SEBE.**

3.5 **GCU Branded Clothing**

The above item will be brought back to the next Student Voice for discussion. This matter is ongoing. A Full Time Officer has yet to be confirmed as the lead on merchandise. The VP SEBE was given the mandate for next year to contact Raging Bull and to look into the marketing and communications for branded clothing. **Action: VP SEBE.**

3.6 **Students' Association Advertisement Boards**

The VP GSBS said that she had looked into the advertisement boards and that they had not been used by any external companies in years. An Allen key is required to open the advertisement board and this is being looked into. The advertisement board can be used by societies and sports clubs. The VP GSBS will get clarification if this applies to individual staff and students. **Action: VP GSBS.**

3.7 The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice session, held on 13 February 2017. The Chair asked all members to take a vote to decide whether to approve the previous minutes. **(F: 17 A: 0 Ab: 4).** The previous Student Voice minutes from 13 February 2017 were approved.

4. **Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

4.1 The Full Time Officers were asked the reasoning behind having Neil Alexander involved in the Full Time Officer Review. The VP SHLS answered that the reasoning was that Neil Alexander was one of the first Full Time Officers under the new Full Time Officer model. Members agreed that it was good to have a previous Full Time Officer involved.

4.2 The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice Committees. The Chair asked all members to take a vote to decide whether to approve the previous minutes. **(F: 17 A:0 Ab:4).** The previous minutes of Student Voice Committees were approved.

5. **Minutes of Trustee Board**

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous meetings of the Trustee Board. No questions were raised by members in relation to the minutes. Some members were not sure who the Trustee Board consisted of and what their remit fully was. The Chair gave an explanation on who sits on the Trustee Board and what they do. Members were shown a link to where further details are on the website in relation to the Trustee Board.

6. Reports

6.1 The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to provide a brief verbal summary of their reports including any updates on items in which there has been developments since the report was written.

6.2 VP SHLS

- Involved in Elections Week from 6 – 10 March 2017.
- Finalising work on Peer Support System which will be around the end of the trimester in time for September.
- The Partnership Agreement has been completed and waiting approval from University Executive Board.
- Attending Sparqs event on Thursday in Edinburgh.
- Supported Council to introduce new Societies funding model.
- Carrying out two pilots of paid student reviewers.
- Working with the Trade Unions on the Post-Brexit Charter and having students represented across Scotland.
- Met with the DVC Academic to discuss Strategic Investment Bids.
- Sat on the panel for Volunteering Awards at Strathclyde University.

6.3 VP GSBS

- Involved in the tendering process for the new catering company on campus. Cordia finish in April 2017. No further update at this time.
- Nightline statistics are up with an increase from this time last year.
- Attending NUS Scotland conference on Friday, 24 March, in Dundee, as running for NUS VP Education.
- Attended the Class Rep Gathering.
- Attended the Ashoka U Conference in Miami.
- Attended the Corporate Parenting Steering Group.
- The 'Click it to submit it' campaign is still ongoing. The campaign is to show support of moving over to online submissions and to raise awareness of reducing the use of paper on campus.
- On Thursday, from 12.30 – 2.00pm, at the Scottish Parliament, the Campus Trade Unions are having a protest in relation to GCU New York. The Campus Trade Unions will pay for any travel if any students wish to attend.
- The VP GSBS thanked all those that took part in the Full Time Office Elections 2017-18 and congratulated the incoming Full Time Officer team.

6.4 VP SEBE

- Completed conducting four student-led programme reviews within the school.
- The Buddy Scheme is still ongoing.
- Launched the "Smooth Sailing Stormy Seas" campaign with £50.00 Amazon vouchers as a prize for taking part in the survey.
- New text notification system is to be piloted to 4th years across the school in September.
- Have been working with staff within the school to help promote the National Student Survey.
- Exploring having an 'End of Year Ball'.
- Ensuring the recommendations following the Research Student Employment Review is implemented.
- The new PGR Wellbeing Flyers have been distributed.

- In relation to Wi-Fi in Caley Court, IT is going to arrange via a student to get access to Caley Court to look into this issue. With the WI-FI, it is just a matter of finding the time and a student who is available at Caley Court before June.

6.5 **Student President**

- A Sports Strategy for GCU Sports Clubs has been created and approved by Sports Council.
- The GCU London Student Experience survey was launched.
- Attended the annual Class Rep Gathering.
- Health and Wellbeing Campaign took place on the awareness of stress and anxiety.
- Attended the 'One Day without Us' campaign with the other Full Time Officers to show solidarity with EU-nationals and migrants from around the world who are living, working and studying in the UK.
- Attended the Sports Council AGM and they have elected next year's Sports Council.
- Sports Council have changed their funding model for 2017-18.
- So far 320 tickets have been sold for the Sports Ball.
- Glasgow Taxis Cup was on 15th March. Lots of positive feedback was received. Well done to all involved.
- Confirmation has been received that an Allister Boyd Plaque should be put up on campus before the end of Trimester 2.
- The Wellbeing Fayre takes place on Thursday, 23 March 2017.

The Chair invited members to take a vote to decide whether to approve all the reports. **(F: 19 A:0 Ab:3)**. The reports were approved.

7. **Student Voice Elections**

Elections took place for the following positions and the names are listed below in bold.

- Chair of Student Voice - **Jonnie England**
- Deputy Chair of Student Voice - **Vacant**
- Senate Disciplinary Committee Student Representatives (3 places) – **Brendan Owen, Maja Jorgensen and Callum Smith.**
- Representatives on University Senate x 3 (**International – Maja Jorgensen**), **Research – Vacant**), (**Open place – Jonnie England**).
- Representative on Learning & Teaching Subcommittee – **Brendan Owen.**
- Representative on Honorary Degrees Committee – **Jonnie England.**
- Freshers Committee (2 places) – **Tom Jarvis and Callum Smith.**
- Communications Steering Group (2 places) – **Neil Alexander and Callum Smith.**

8. **Affiliations**

Student Voice is required to ratify all newly affiliated societies and sports clubs. Unless otherwise specified, all such affiliations have already been approved by the Societies Council or Sports Council as appropriate.

At this meeting Ice Hockey was submitted for ratification.

The Chair called a vote to approve Ice Hockey. **(F: 22 A:0 Ab:2)**. Ice Hockey was approved.

9. Governance Review

9.1 Following an independent external review of the governance of the Students' Association, there are two recommendations that the Trustee Board has approved which are in turn being presented to Student Voice:

- When Student Trustees are appointed their term will be for up to two years (providing that they remain a student for this period of time).
- When an External Trustee is appointed as Vice Chair of the Trustee Board then their current term limit will be restarted i.e. they will serve a further full three years in that term.

9.2 The Student President gave an overview of the Governance Review Recommendations paper and clarified in detail the above two recommendations and the length of term in office.

9.3 After lengthy discussions the Chair called for a vote to approve the above two recommendations. Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass. **(F: 10 A:5 Ab:9)**. The two recommendations were not approved.

9.4 A member then asked if the two recommendations could be voted on individually instead. No other members objected to the second vote. The Chair called for a second vote to approve the above two recommendations individually. Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

- When Student Trustees are appointed their term will be for up to two years (providing that they remain a student for this period of time). **(F: 17 A:3 Ab:5)**. The recommendation passed and was approved.
- When an External Trustee is appointed as Vice Chair of the Trustee Board then their current term limit will be restarted i.e. they will serve a further full three years in that term. **(F: 9 A:6 Ab:10)**. The recommendation did not receive a two thirds majority and so was not approved.

10. Updated Life Membership Policy

The VP GSBS discussed the Honorary Membership and Life Membership Review paper and explained that one of the Full Time Officers team objectives 2016-17 was to review the Honorary Life Membership and Life Membership schemes. The VP GSBS highlighted the proposed changes for both Honorary and Life Memberships which include limiting the Honorary Life Memberships to six annually (4 students and 2 externals); in addition to the six Honorary Memberships outlined it was also proposed that the winners of the Student of the Year, Lyndsay Leadership and Allister Boyd, Ross Bailey and Alex Goodman award; and Trustees on the Students' Association Trustee Board will automatically become Honorary Members for their services to GCU Students' Association. For the Life Memberships, the current list of activities available will be increased to include being offered relevant opportunities to get involved, particularly as guest speakers within the Student Leaders Programme, and attend a Big Ball or Sports Ball. Pricing for Life Members will increase from £10.00 to £15.00, within three years of graduation. After three years the price will be £30.00. The model of the fee increase is to encourage students to become students to become Life Members soon after graduating. The fee will still be temporarily waived of proof of unemployment. The money received from the membership payments will go towards the frames for the certificates and what money is left will go back into the Students' Association commercial money.

At this point in the meeting (6.30pm), the Chair called a motion to extend the guillotine and for the meeting to go on until 7pm. A clear majority voted to approve the extension of the meeting.

The Chair called a vote to approve the Updated Life Membership Policy (**F: 20 A:2 Ab:2**). The updated Life Membership Policy was approved.

At this point in the meeting (6.35pm), the Chair stepped down and the Deputy Chair took over.

11. Updated Societies Policy

Philip Coupe (PC) discussed the updated version of the Societies Policy which the Societies Council submitted for approval. PC talked through the updated document highlighting some key changes and amendments which included the league table and every society having a one-to-one meeting with a Students' Association staff member. The societies funding and the Societies Funding League is the main source of funding for societies each year. The Chair called a vote to approve the updated Societies Policy (**F: 19 A:0 Ab:6**). The updated Societies Policy was approved.

At this point in the meeting (6.45pm), the Deputy Chair stepped down and the Chair took over.

12. Updated Sports Clubs Policy

The Student President discussed an updated version of the Sports Clubs Policy document which was submitted by the Sports Council. The Student President talked through the changes and removal of some text from the Policy. A typing mistake was noticed in point 5.2 (page 3), in relation to the balance of money that a club has. The Student President will amend this. The Chair called a vote to approve the Updated Sports Clubs Policy (**F: 19 A:0 Ab:5**). The updated Sports Clubs Policy was approved.

13. Sports Strategy 2017-2020

The Student President presented the Sports Club Strategy 2017-2020. The Strategy has already been approved by the Sports Council and Student Voice is not required to vote on this. The Student President talked through the Strategy pointing out the vision and the five aims along with the actions and measures. The Student President highlighted that the key output was to have more participation and to make the sports clubs inclusive for all. The VP GSBS congratulated the Student President on the Sports Strategy and said it was a very well done. The Student President received a round of applause from all the members.

At this point in the meeting (6.59pm), the Chair called a motion to extend the guillotine. A clear majority voted to approve the extension of the meeting past 7pm.

14. Ideas

14.1 Catering Changeover (Tamar Everson)

This Idea had already been discussed previously (see point 6.3) so no further discussion took place.

14.2 Create a liberation group around mental health (Jonnie England)

This idea is to create a new Liberation Group centred around people with mental health disorders/conditions and creating an environment where they can come together to discuss how this affects their student experience and come up with actionable ideas to help them get the most out of their student experience. Discussions then focussed on what NUS currently do in relation to liberation groups and their national model which all unions follow and what is the

best way forward for the group. **(F: 11 A:1 Ab:11)**. Student Voice voted to mandate the FTOs to look into creating a support group for students with mental health issues similar to Liberation Groups.

At this point in the meeting (7.05pm), the Chair had to leave the meeting and the Deputy Chair took over for the remainder of the meeting.

14.3 Mandate the Students' Association to hold a survey to explore the nursing subjects (Brendan Owen)

Many concerns have been continuously raised about certain aspects of the different nursing sources, and it is proposed that the Student Voice mandate the Officer Teams and Students' Association (as well as others which would form an action group) over the next four years as a minimum to follow the nurses as they start first year to leaving at the end of their course. This survey would be used as an exploratory tool so as to identify when concerns occur and be able determine if they are ever resolved and if not then give insight into when they start and the nature of the concerns raised so as to better understand how these concerns can be rectified.

Members asked why the survey would only be for nursing and it was clarified that it was all forms of nursing that would be covered. Members felt that it was a massive amount of work for the Students' Association to deal with and why could the staff within the school not do this. Members were informed that the same issues within nursing are raised year after year and that issues can fall by the wayside within the school and things get affected by budget cuts whereas with a mandate the Full Time Officers can carry this through. The Deputy Chair called a vote to mandate for the Students' Association to hold a survey to explore the nursing subjects. **(F: 15 A:1 Ab:4)**. A mandate was approved for the Students' Association to hold a survey to explore the nursing subjects. **Action: Full Time Officers.**

15. Honorary Life Memberships

The following Honorary Life Memberships Nominations have been received:-

- Adam Stewart
- Calum McCormack
- Charlie Beaumont
- Chris Daisley
- David Hendry
- Godswill Azubike
- Kayleigh Van Dongen
- Lisa Graham
- Bailie Dr Nina Baker (external)
- Philip Coupe
- Rachel Ann Simpson
- Rachel Kerr
- Tamar Everson
- Linda Cupples

There were no objections from members on the list of nominations for Honorary Life Membership. The Deputy Chair called for a vote to approve all the nominations listed. **F: 18 A:0 Ab:1)**. All the nominations listed were approved.

16. **Campaigns**

The Students' Association is a campaigning organisation and is currently running several campaigns. The following campaigns are currently taking place:

- Smooth Sailing or Stormy Seas? (VP SEBE)
- Students' Association Teaching Awards (VP SHLS)

The member leading each campaign was invited to promote their campaign to the members.

17. **Any Other Business**

17.1 **NUS In/Out Referendum - Forcing the SA to Justify the Cost (Tom Jarvis)**

[Within The EDIT's latest article, regarding the cost of NUS, people are questioning the large annual sum of money sent to an organisation that most students aren't aware of. Considering the threat of further cuts to societies, sports, and media, as well as the threat of GCU Students' Association staff employment, the tens of thousands of pounds sent off to NUS each year looks like a very significant cost to justify.

By holding a referendum, the Student's Association will have to actually explain what NUS does, something which even heavily involved Students' Association volunteers don't know. It will hopefully also inspire NUS itself to be more visible as an entity across GCU, certainly since we are paying so much.

Regardless of the outcome, students will finally know what NUS is.

Whether it's worth it? Let's hope the SA does some good explaining, not just to the student voice voters, but to the general population of students.]

Tom Jarvis discussed his Idea above on the NUS In/Out Referendum that he had submitted giving some background to it.

The NUS President for Scotland, Vonnie Sandlan, was invited by the VP GSBS to Student Voice and responded to the Idea submission by informing members what NUS is, which is the National Union of Students; what value for money NUS gives to GCU Students' Association; along with some statistics and what work NUS has been involved in with the GCU Students' Association. The NUS President for Scotland said that NUS can come on to the campus anytime if the Students' Association wished. The NUS President for Scotland encouraged all members to follow NUS on social media.

The NUS President for Scotland was asked by Neil Alexander (NA) to provide some statistics on the purchase of NUS cards and the NUS President for Scotland responded that she had the details and would email the information to the Student President, Lauren Ramage. The Deputy Chair called for a vote for GCU Students' Association to hold a NUS In/Out Referendum. **F: 2 A:16 Ab:3**). The NUS In/Out Referendum was not approved.

The Deputy Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance.

The meeting was concluded at 7.34 pm.