

## **Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2022/23**

Meeting held on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022, in-person in NH208, at 17:00pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Karolina Syrek (Chair); Robert Gallacher (ViceChair); Laiba Tareen (Student President); Chukwuma Egbujor (VP GSBS); John Mavileth (VP SCEBE); Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Hammad Amer (HA); Kanwal Chaudhry (KC); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Eben Crichton (EC); Lewechi Emeana (LE); River Gowans (RGO); David Grimm (DG); Zoe Ingram (ZI); Pranali Khatri (PK); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Jessica Michael-Odobi (JM); Aspen Milledge (AM); Chidozie Nwaigwe (CN); Chris Opoku (CO); Bolaji Oyewo (BO); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Anoop Pk (AP); Louisa Richardson (LR); Miranda Romero Torres (MT); Priyaben Solanki (PSO); Eilidh Stewart (ES); Daniel Williams (DW)

**Absent:** Hafsa Abu Baker (HAB); Victoria Aderoju (VA); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Sheryl Cunningham (SCU); Emma-Clare Darby (ED); Rachel-Louise Gibson (RG); Louise Hannah (LH); Alireza Mahdian-Amroabadi (AM); Carly McCallum (CM); Jayalakshmy Mololath (JMO); Jodie Murdoch (JMU); Aliyah Noel (AN); Sreejith Suresh (SS)

**Apologies:** Tarik Basbugoglu (TB); Ryan Brown (RB); Annamae Burrows (AB); Derthinn Bushell (DB); Stacey Cornish (SCO); Stefan Fisher (SF); Joshua Foster (JF); Daniele Giustini (DG); Joel Jacob (JJ); Liam Luporini (LL); Felix Oluwatobi Olowokere (FO); Jaik Robertson (JR); Peter Scheibenhoffer (PS); Gordon Edwards (GE)

**In attendance:** Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader), Philip Morton (Clerk),

**Observers:** Daniel Dunn (DD); Danny Gallacher (DG)

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

### **1. Chair Announcements**

The meeting commenced at 17:00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the first meeting of Student Voice for 2022/23.

Members were made aware that this meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking and would be deleted once the minutes had been collated and approved at the next Student Voice meeting. The Chair asked members to raise their voting card if they wished to speak. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

Observers were reminded that whilst they may ask the chair to speak they may not vote

### **2. Change to Committee Meeting Rules – use of Mentimeter**

The Chair proposed a change to committee meeting rules to allow for the use of Mentimeter, an online voting platform, instead of raised hands as the meeting rules outline. It was asked if all members had access to a mobile device and use of the platform was explained. This change would be for Student Voice meetings for the duration of Academic Year 2022/23.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Change to Committee Meeting Rules.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The Change to Committee Meeting Rules was approved.

### **3. Representation Officer Appointments**

The Chair explained that as part of the redrafting of the Elections Schedule in 2021-22, a new process was introduced for Representation Networks and other Student Voice Officer roles that do not have an Officer after a nomination/voting period and a by-election nomination period.

A co-opted Officer must be voted on at the earliest meeting of Student Voice to confirm their office and as such, co-opted Officers proposed were brought forward to this meeting. Elections and by-elections for Representation Officers were held in the Representation Networks at the end of Trimester 2 of the last academic year. After this time, four positions were vacant. Throughout the summer, the Students' Association continued to try to recruit Officers for these positions.

The Executive Committee has co-opted the following students for these positions:

- Student Carers Officer – Stacey Cornish
- Disabled Students Officer – Chidozie Nwaigwe
- Mature and Part-Time Students Officer – Hammad Amer
- Women's Officer – Louisa Richardson

The Chair called for a vote on the Representation Officer Appointments.

**Vote: For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Representation Officer Appointments were approved.

### **4. Fit to Sit**

The Student President presented the Fit to Sit Policy for discussion, introduced by GCU for the academic year 2022/23 to replace the previous Mitigating Circumstances (MITS) process.

It was confirmed that any student undertaking exams can declare unfit to do so in exceptional circumstances with a submission to be made five days prior to an exam or two days afterwards.

The Student President highlighted that the Executive Committee campaigned in University Senate for submissions to be available five days prior and five days post exam although this was not successful. The campaigning of this change will continue as the Fit to Sit policy is reviewed and evaluated throughout the academic year.

It was clarified that we were able to win the Extenuating Circumstances clause in the policy allowing for a second re-sit attempt available under extreme circumstances. DG commented that there needs to be better communication to University staff as there has already been incidents in which students have been told that they will have two attempts to re-sit through Fit to Sit when they are only due one. The Student President further added that they are working with the University communications team to ensure information is passed to both staff and students on how Fit to Sit works and how and when it may be used.

It was further asked how Fit to Sit applications would be counted in the event of a withdrawal for reasons outside of a student's control. The Student President confirmed that the policy will be reviewed after this academic year for any changes necessary and that the Full Time Officer team are dedicated to rectify any issues with the policy in favour of student needs.

### **5. Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives**

The Full Time Officer team presented their team and individual objectives for the academic year 2022/23 and invited the Student Voice members to ask any questions.

DW asked Vice President GSBS, in relation to a GCU App and digital student card, if there would be restricted login details for students that wish to be data conscious. Vice President GSBS replied that the initial discussions on integration and implementation are still underway although every means of safety and ease of use for students whilst retaining strict data protection is being considered.

DG commented that the Wi-Fi in the University can be temperamental and slow which may need to be assessed. It must also be considered that not every student may have a mobile device or data for internet use. Security issues were further raised on network use.

It was further acknowledged from Vice President GSBS that policy is still to be drafted and that the use of a physical card option as well as digital is to be consulted to ensure the best interests of students who do not have access to a mobile device. Vice President SCEBE commented that the implementation of digital student cards would be an excellent addition to our green impact campaign to reduce plastic on campus.

DG commented that Vice President SHLS's objective on raising travel allowance for SHLS students on placement is an extremely positive initiative and will allow for students not to be paying as much out of their own pocket in-line with other sectors. The Vice Chair asked if these travel scholarships would only be available to select students on placements or if it would be available to other groups and SC asked if this travel allowance would also be available for international students. Vice President SHLS confirmed that, as this is a SHLS school based objective, currently this would be for those students on placement, they also noted that they are campaigning for this across the board for all students on placement whether home or international.

The Chair called for a vote on the Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives.

**Vote: For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives were approved.

## 6. Societies Policy Changes

Vice President SHLS presented the Societies Policy Changes on behalf of the Society Council Chair who were unavailable for the meeting.

The policy was to be made clearer by refining the Societies council positions and clarifying their roles. It was noted that the Chair would remain the same (defined in schedule 2 of the Students' Association constitution). The new titles proposed were:

- Change of Head of Memberships to Head of New Societies
- Head of Communications to stay the same
- Head of Logistics change to Head of Events
- Combine Head of Academic, Cultural and Faith, and Hobbies, Politics and Social Societies to create 2 Society Liaison's
- Introduce a Head of Fundraising
- Introduce Vice Chair as an additional committee role taken on by an existing council member

The clarification on each of these roles may be found in the Society Policy Changes cover sheet and paper.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Societies Policy Changes.

**Vote: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Societies Policy Changes were approved.

## 7. Ideas

The Chair noted that each Idea needed a vote for approval. Due to time constraints, only the top four Ideas (based on number of votes submitted through the website) would be discussed at the meeting.

- Free Gym Memberships for all GCU Students

A statement sent in by the proposer was read aloud to Student Voice outlining their idea for free gym memberships for all GCU students. The rationale behind this idea is to make the gym accessible to benefit physical and mental health, and to alleviate financial concerns during the cost of living crisis in which students may not be able to afford a gym membership or rely on travel to gyms outside of the university.

RGO commented that, as minuted from the previous meeting of Student Voice, this topic had been discussed previously and Student Voice amended the idea to become a social prescription available on a case-by-case basis through wellbeing services. DG added that in terms of the cost of living crisis, that other factors need to be considered such as, if every student was to receive a free gym pass, how will the university pay for this, how will the ARC generate income and which resources will lose funding due to this subsidy? It was further commented that there would be students that could benefit from this service due to low income but there are other students that can afford the gym membership and would use the facilities regardless of whether it was free or not.

The Vice Chair mentioned that a previously attended college offered free gym memberships on a social prescription as well as members of Student Voice and Class Reps as gratitude for their university commitment. DW asked that rather than provide a free membership to every student, if students could qualify for a membership based on a cost of living threshold for fairness in the ability to use the service.

The Vice Chair proposed an improvement that free gym memberships should not be available to all students but to extend the current standing policy (which says that the Students' Association stance is that it be offered free to students under a social prescribing model from the Wellbeing centre or Advice Centre) to Student Voice members, Class Reps and other roles that directly benefit GCU. DG and CN added the improvement that free gym memberships should be provided to those who have applied for a discretionary fund due to this being an income based assessment.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for free gym memberships for those who have applied for a discretionary fund as well as Student Voice members and Class Reps.

**Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1.** The revised improvement was approved.

HA added an improvement for international students to be applicable for free gym memberships due to higher fees for studying at GCU.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for free gym memberships for international students.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 1; Abstentions: 5.** The revised improvement was approved.

The full idea proposed with revised improvements is for free gym memberships to be made available to those that have applied for a discretionary fund, Student Voice members, Class Reps and international students.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

- Access to Microwaves and Kettles in Student Common Areas

A statement sent in by the proposer was read aloud to Student Voice outlining their idea for access to microwaves and kettles in student common areas. The rationale behind this idea is to help aid students during the cost of living crisis who may not be spending as much time in their accommodation due to rise in financial costs. It was commented that there was a microwave previously installed in the Students' Association which was removed due to misuse. It was suggested that this was due to inappropriate placement and lack of maintenance, instead proposing that these be installed in the canteen areas of the George Moore building and several other areas on campus to provide the ability to heat up food as providing hot water, providing a positive impact on health and finances.

Vice President SHLS agreed with this idea for student common areas and an appropriate position in the Students' Association.

RGO commented that this is their fourth year in Student Voice and that this idea has been proposed with no implementation due to health and safety conflicts although the availability of kettles would be great. CN added that microwaves could also pose a fire risk but kettles would be a positive addition particularly during winter months. DW further noted that although microwaves are a great idea, there is a large potential for misuse. As well as this, people may microwave food in different ways, meaning that contamination is unavoidable, making these unsafe and dangerous for use by students with allergies.

The Vice Chair proposed an improvement to separate microwaves and kettles as two separate ideas. It was also added that it would likely be safer and more fitting to implement hot water taps as opposed to kettles in common areas.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for hot water taps to be installed in student common areas.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 3; Abstentions: 2.** The revised improvement was approved.

It was further added that the microwave idea should be improved to be available in catering areas where staff could heat up student's food on their behalf.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for microwaves to be installed in catering areas on campus for staff to heat up meals for students.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 4; Abstentions: 2.** The revised improvement was approved.

The full proposal with revised improvements is for this idea to be split into two ideas; for hot water taps to be installed in student common areas and for microwaves to be available in catering areas on campus, used by staff to heat up student meals.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 24; Against: 3; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

- Remove Calories from Menus

ES championed this idea on the proposer's behalf. It was commented that calories on menus can be disastrous to those with eating and food disorders and that if someone would like to view calories, this should be provided on request but not shown as standard.

AMI clarified that there is an issue with as it is UK law calorie information needs to be provided but could perhaps be a separate menu. DG commented that although this may be UK law, that there are workarounds such as the previously mentioned idea of a second menu. ES further added that calories have been added on menus in other establishments in an almost unreadable size or font. LE added

that from another angle, people monitoring calories for specific dietary and health needs should have the option to request a menu with this information as opposed to simply making it unreadable.

It was added that the standard menu could omit calories whereas a QR code menu could be available with the information or a separate calorie menu available on request.

It was asked if the UK law allows for a hidden display of calories, such as it only being available on request. The Chair explained that there is no specification on how this must be provided.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for two separate menus, the standard menu to omit calorie information and the second menu to be available on request as well as a QR code that can provide this information.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 5; Abstentions: 2.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 6; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

- 24hour Library Access before Dissertation Submission

DG championed this idea on the proposer's behalf. It was commented that in fourth year you need to be on placement on many courses as well as finding time to study out-with 'normal' study hours. It was further pointed out that some students may not have the ability to study in their accommodation or need somewhere warm to go which can benefit overall mental health.

RGO asked in relation to this being specific to dissertation submissions, that dissertations are due all year round depending on course, so would 24hour access be all year round or is this specific to the primary deadlines of the student majority. CN added that this should be all year round as some students find working at nights better for them as well as these services being provided elsewhere.

KC proposed the improvement that the library should have 24hour access from Monday – Friday throughout the year as well as an increase in opening hours at the weekend for those wishing to study in the evenings.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for 24hour access to the library Monday to Friday as well as increasing the opening hours on Saturday and Sunday to 10pm all year round.

**Vote: For: 27; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

## 8. Elections Rules

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the proposed amendments to the Students' Association election rules based on feedback from candidates and stakeholders, learning from previous years and what the overall sector is doing.

Staff related rules (as opposed to candidate) were removed from the elections rules and added to the elections schedule. References to GCU Covid-19 health and safety guidance were also removed.

The biggest change highlighted was the reduction in candidate expenses from £60 to £50 and for the removal of the £30 non-reimbursed expense.

DG asked for clarification on the non-reimbursed expense. The Deputy Returning Officer replied that this is an extra expense where a candidate can use up to £30 of their own money that they do not receive back. It was further noted that due to the rising cost of living that this is not fair across all candidates as some will not be able to afford an additional spend.

AMI asked why there is a reduction in general candidate expenses. The Deputy Returning Officer commented that the Students' Association are reducing paper use to promote environmental sustainability and that the bulk of expenses often gets used for flyer printing that don't always get used. Further to using the budget more environmentally wisely, it was acknowledged that there has been budget cuts in elections as a whole as well having an increased number of candidates. It was noted that we would need to cut the candidate budget or cut the budget on promoting the vote and elections overall which we established from last year to be a point of focus for this academic year.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Election Rules.

**Vote: For: 22; Against: 4; Abstention: 0.** The Election Rules were approved.

## **9. Full Time Officer Reports**

The Student President invited Student Voice members to ask the Full Time Officers questions about their written reports.

There were no questions or comments raised to the Student President, VP SCEBE, VP SHLS or VP GSBS regarding their reports submitted.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

## **10. Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Chair asked if any Student Officers wish to present a verbal report or update to Student Voice members.

There were no reports, updates, questions or comments raised in relation to the Student Voice Officers Reports.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 1; Abstention: 6.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

## **11. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation**

Due to the Societies Chair being unable to attend the meeting, Vice President SHLS presented the list of new clubs and societies seeking affiliation to the Students' Association. This list included:

- Astronomy Society
- Motorsports Society
- GISA Society
- Risk and Finance Society
- Art Society
- Believers' LoveWorld Society

DG asked for clarification on what Believers' LoveWorld society was. Vice President SHLS confirmed that this is a faith-based society. The Chair added that their objectives are to build a happier world with love, inspire students, help young people find and understand Jesus and to spread the love of God.

RGO acknowledged the Societies Chair's note on the cover sheet with concerns about outside community group involvement with the setting up of the society and questioned whether this would be a student-led group. The staff member in the meeting confirmed that to become a society, they must have ten students involved and signed up to ensure for it to be student-led.

The Chair called for a vote to approve all of the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 1; Abstention: 5.** The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

## 12. External Affiliations

The Student President listed the current list of external affiliations that need approved annually for the Students' Association to remain affiliated as;

- National Union of Students (NUS)
- British Universities and College Sports (BUCS)
- Scottish Student Sport (SSS)
- National Nightline Association (NNA)
- Advice UK

BO asked in terms of the affiliation fees, if this is what the Students' Association pay to be affiliated or if this is paid to us. It was confirmed that this is the fee that the Students' Association pay to affiliate. DG added an explanation that NUS links us to all other affiliated universities, campaigns and opportunities as well as allowing us to seek their support with our own campaigns and issues. It was explained by a Nightline committee member that this fee is used for electricity, phone bills etc. to keep the service alive for use.

The Chair called for a vote to approve all of the External Affiliations.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstention: 3.** The External Affiliations were approved.

## 13. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The Chair invited members who were present at the last meeting of Student Voice to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**Vote: For: 5; Against: 1; Abstention: 0.** The Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved.

## 14. Elections

The Vice Chair presented the Student Voice Elected Positions needing filled for 2022/23. It was noted that anyone wishing to volunteer should ensure that they are available for the meetings their position holds as we need active representations but do not wish it to impact studies. Members who are or have been involved with each committee were asked to speak about the role.

The Student President gave an overview of representing the student body at Senate. It was commented that Senate discuss then decide on policy passing meaning that the elected student will have an active role in policy consultation. The Chair added that it is important for students to raise their voice and speak up as it is here where decisions that may directly affect students are made.



DG informed Student Voice on the Senate Disciplinary Committee and how they have the power to grant students exam re-sits, overturn appeals and also suspend studies. It was noted that the Senate Disciplinary Committee ethos is in favour of what is best for students although every presented case is different.

RGO spoke on the Learning Enhancement Subcommittee, how the elected student would work with staff at all levels of the university to discuss student issues, the enhancement of learning and the impacts this may have on students. These are active consultations before being raised at senate. The Chair added that if there are issues affecting all students, that this is the exact place to raise and discuss the matters.

DG described the Honorary Degrees Committee and the discussions held on possible nominations for honorary degrees.

RGO explained the role within the Equality and Diversity Committee and the commitment to developing equality and diversity policy and campaigning matters relating to Equality and Diversity.

The following Student Voice Members ran for each Student Voice Elected Position:

- Senate Student Representative (4 positions):  
Aspen Milledge, Hammad Amer, Chidozie Nwaigwe, Bolaji Oyewo, Kanwal Chaudhry
- Senate Disciplinary Committee Student Representative (3 positions):  
Aspen Milledge, River Gowans, Jessica Michael-Odobi, Robert Gallacher
- Learning Enhancement Subcommittee Student Representative (1 Undergraduate, 1 Postgraduate and 1 Open position):  
Kanwal Chaudhry (Undergraduate), Jessica Michael-Odobi (Postgraduate)  
**These positions were duly elected.**

- Honorary Degrees Committee (1 position):  
Kanwal Chaudhry  
**This position was duly elected.**

- Equality and Diversity Committee Open Place (2 positions):  
River Gowans, Jessica Michael-Odobi, Lewechi Emeana

Before progressing with candidate contesting, the Chair asked for approval to raise the meeting time guillotine by 30 minutes.

The Chair called for a vote to raise the meeting time guillotine by 30 minutes.

**Vote: For: 9; Against: 13; Abstentions: 0.** The raising of the meeting time guillotine by 30 minutes was not approved.

BO acknowledged the understanding that Senate is the highest decision making body within the university and wishes to champion students and their perspectives.

CN commented that they have previously been part of Senate in another university as well as involvement in assisting many students on campus. They would like to join Senate to give the best help possible in supporting and developing students.

AMI acknowledged their application for two positions. As a Department Rep, they have had extensive experience dealing with student feedback and would like to continue this at Senate level. As they

work with Nightline, they would like to join the Senate Disciplinary Committee to help others seek a second chance and show compassion for those in need.

HA noted that they are a mature, part-time student who would like to be involved in Senate to know how university decisions are made and contribute to policy discussions.

KC stated that they are currently a Department Rep for biomedical science as well as previous being a class rep. With this experience, they are very familiar with the level of university meetings and would like to make further positive change by being involved in these meetings.

RGO has had many years of Student Voice experience as well as previously being the LGBT+ Officer and being involved previously with the Senate Disciplinary Committee. They feel that their previous experience would be beneficial.

JM expressed how they would like to stand up for those that may not be able to express themselves as they know what it is like to not have someone to speak up and provide support.

LE wants to bring their previous experience to the Equality and Diversity Committee to ensure that all students' interests are protected.

The Vice Chair would like to continue their place in the Senate Disciplinary Committee having previous experience in the role.

Due to the meeting ending as the extended guillotine did not pass, voting on these positions will occur through the use of an online voting platform with voting opening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 10am and closing on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm. Notification of results will be supplied by email.

The Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance and engagement at the first Student Voice meeting of 2022/23.

**The meeting was concluded at 19:00pm.**

## **Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2022/23**

Meeting held on Monday, 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in-person in NH208, at 17:00pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Robert Gallacher (ViceChair); Laiba Tareen (Student President); Chukwuma Egbujor (VP GSBS) John Mavileth (VP SCEBE); Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Ryan Brown (RB); Derthinn Bushell (DB); Kanwal Chaudhry (KC); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Gordon Edwards (GE); River Gowans (RGO); David Grimm (DG); Pranali Khatri (PK); Liam Loporini (LL); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Jessica Michael-Odobi (JM); Aspen Milledge (AMI); Aliyah Noel (AN); Gino Obaseki (GO); Taiwo Olaleye (TO); Louisa Richardson (LR); Miranda Romero Torres (MT); Peter Scheibenhoffer (PS); Eilidh Stewart (ES); Daniel Williams (DW)

**Absent:** Hafsa Abu Baker (HAB); Victoria Aderaju (VA); Tarik Basbugoglu (TB); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Annamae Burrows (AB); Daniele Giustini (DG); Zoe Ingram (ZI); Alireza Mahdian-Amroabadi (AM); Carly McCallum (CM); Jodie Murdoch (JMU); Chidozie Nwaigwe (CN); Christian Nwazuloke (CNW); Felix Oluwatobi Olowokere (FO); Chris Opoku (CO); Bolaji Oyewo (BO); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Anoop Pk (AP); Ahmer Riaz (AR); Jaik Robertson (JR); Priyaben Solanki (PSO); Sreejith Suresh (SS);

**Apologies:** Hammad Amer (HA); Stacey Cornish (SCO); Eben Crichton (EC); Sheryl Cunningham (SCU); Emma-Clare Darby (ED); Lewechi Emeana (LE); Stefan Fisher (SF); Joshua Foster (JF); Rachel-Louise Gibson (RG); Louise Hannah (LH); Joel Jacob (JJ); Jayalakshmy Mololath (JMO); Karolina Syrek (Chair)

**In attendance:** Paul Queen (Director of Finance, GCU), Fiona Campbell (VP for People and Student Wellbeing, GCU), Douglas Chalmers (UCU), Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader), Philip Morton (Clerk),

**Observers:** Anthony Ojukwu (AU), Aryan Srivastava (AS), Laura Yapp (LY)

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

### **1. Chair Announcements**

The Vice Chair took over the duties of Chair in their absence.

The meeting commenced at 17:00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the second meeting of Student Voice for 2022/23.

Members were made aware that this meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking and would be deleted once the minutes had been collated and approved at the next Student Voice meeting. The Chair asked members to raise their voting card if they wished to speak. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

Observers were reminded not to place a vote throughout this meeting.

### **2. GCU Divestment**

The Director of Finance gave an introduction to GCU Divestment and commented on the student ran campaign which highlighted potential issues surrounding the universities investment portfolio. It was acknowledged that the Director of Finance had met with the campaigning student to provide

additional information on these investments as well as a background to why and how this is being rectified for the future.

It was commented that GCU does not have direct investment in fossil fuel companies etc. Information had previously been made available on the university website on protected investments but did not include specifics on the investment portfolio. There is to be further information uploaded to the website for transparency, this has not yet available due to online technical issues.

It was raised that these discussions are less on the direct investments that the institution holds, but rather the indirect investments placed through banks or other financial institutions where the university does not own the equity. Due to this, it is harder to monitor indirect portfolios and it there is no policy on what these indirect investments could or could not include. The work happening now, is to find a solution to get to the position of increased visibility and how risks can be mitigated. It was further commented that there was a meeting scheduled with the financial advisors the day after the meeting of Student Voice to establish how the university can invest in portfolios with reduced risk and include more sustainable and clean investments. It was acknowledged that the university must ensure a return on investments although they are attempting to work to a tight timescale to be in a much more transparent and improved position over the next six months.

ES raised concern on how these indirect investments were able to fly under the radar, taking a student member to raise them. The Director of Finance commented that direct investment used to be held in government bonds but with changes in the financial market, these did not have a strong rate of return meaning there needed to be a move to indirect equity although the previous policy processes has not kept up to date with this. It was further commented that the university want an investment policy that is in line with the university values.

DG asked if transparency surrounding investments could be improved. It was noted that as a student body, it would be beneficial to know what the university invests in, which may prompt more students to become politically involved. The Director of Finance commented that if there needs to be a response to freedom of information requests, then there is no difference to making this publicly available with the possibility of being updated annually.

### **3. GCU Strike Action**

The VP for People and Student Wellbeing gave an overview of salary negotiations, the process of action and where we currently stand. The 2022 negotiations that resulted in a 7% increase to the lowest salaried staff members, with a minimum of 3% award, was commented on but it was acknowledged that circumstances have changed and the mechanisms of negotiation are being investigated to see if raise awards may be opened earlier this year. It is expected that there will be two open pay rounds in 2023, in February and August. It was further made clear that salary changes need to be handled on a national level with UCEA. It was acknowledged that learning and teaching will be disrupted from industrial action although the university are doing as much as possible to mitigate this.

DG asked in relation to the two subsequent pay rises next year, if this will match the current rate of inflation of around 11-12% as anything less than this would result in a real-term pay cut. VP for People and Student Wellbeing answered that this will remain unknown until negotiations are confirmed.

TO commented that there is a cost of living crisis that is affecting everyone, further asking if there will be incentives, particularly for international students, to aid those suffering during these unprecedented times. VP for People and Student Wellbeing answered that it is not always clear cut on how to manage incentives. In terms of the free breakfast for students and staff, it is a great incentive that the university are still dealing with in terms of implementation when it comes to staffing, supply, queues etc. A number of other incentives that the university are currently

considering (but not confirmed) were highlighted, including; microwaves on campus for student use, increasing hardship funding both in the Students' Association and Student Life and low cost lunch initiatives. It was further commented that support for predominantly international students when it comes to accommodation is a huge issue right now that is being tackled through a number of routes.

#### **4. Full Time Officer Reports**

The Full Time Officers presented their reports and invited Student Voice members to ask any questions.

LL asked the Student President if the video and information regarding Fit to Sit will be available before Trimester B as it is currently scheduled in the plans for next meeting when some students would like information on this before assessments in trimester A. The Student President confirmed that it is recognised that students may not be entirely familiar with the policy, that there is a video being made with the university communications team shortly as well as a Students' Association video currently being worked on, the latter will be released before the end of Trimester A.

VP GSBS was asked, in relation to their catering remit and ongoing plans for the introduction of African food dishes to the Re:Union menu, if this was an everyday item or a theme day as there are students from other nationalities that may wish to have their countries food included as new menu items. VP GSBS commented that they are discussing several catering options including international offerings on the menu. As it stands, student response is to be gathered and evaluated and it is an aim to ensure that there are options that suit everyone.

DG asked VP SCEBE how students may come forward with ideas for U-hatch. VP SCEBE signposted to the head of advanced gaming and welcomed students from all schools to come forward with any ideas in relation to this. It was further acknowledged that collaboration and funding is being sought from Barclays.

VP SHLS highlighted the think positive mental health partnership agreement as well as the work with the GCU Wellbeing team and student response to mental health programmes they wish to see implemented.

DG asked if there was an update on the rise to 45p travel allowance for SHLS placement students. VP SHLS confirmed that this was presented to the Executive Board who were not aware that the current allowance is 25p per mile and will look to move forward on this. It was further confirmed that an update would be sought before the next meeting with the Executive Board.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

#### **5. Student Voice Officer Reports**

Student Voice members were asked if there were any questions in relations to the Student Voice Officer Reports. There were no questions.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 3; Abstentions: 3.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

#### **6. Censure: Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer**

The Student President presented the censure on behalf of the Chair due to their absence.

The motion of censure on the current mental health and wellbeing officer was raised to seek a vote of no confidence so that the position can be filled with an active officer. This is due to a lack of participation in any Student Voice or EDI committee this year, nor have they sent their apologies or written report on the work undertaken in their role. This has left students without a MHWO at a critical time of re-adjusting to on-campus teaching and the cost of living crisis.

It was further commented that this has caused reputational damage for the role and the request is for a new officer who is more active to take this position.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Censure: Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer.

**Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3.** The Censure: Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer was approved.

## **7. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation**

Vice President SHLS presented the list of new sports clubs seeking affiliation to the Students' Association in the absence of the Sports Council Chair.

The following are affiliations for starter societies. Some were affiliated last year but missed the registration period so need to be affiliated again:

- Pensa
- Racing Society
- Forensic Society
- Research in Psychedelic Medicine
- Fashion Society (GCU London)
- Book Society

Affiliation for sports clubs:

- Women's Rugby Club
- Mountaineering Club
- Men's Gaelic Football Club
- Cricket Club

SC asked for clarity on what the PENSA society was. The Societies Council Chair confirmed that this is a faith based group on campus which had prior affiliation and is looking to affiliate again.

DG commented on the affiliation of the Women's Rugby Club and Men's Gaelic Football Club and if there is an inclusivity policy for them to include transgender and non-binary members. VP SCEBE answered that they understood clubs were inclusive under the equality policy.

DB asked what psychedelic medicine entailed. The Societies Council Chair confirmed that this is a course based society focussing on a specific element of a module in which speakers are invited to discuss the research of psychedelic medicine.

AS raised the point that there is already a Fashion Society in Glasgow and if there will be duplicity between the two societies. The Society Council Chair confirmed that they had initially objected to the society on this basis although after conversations, it was established that this was for a London only event with no connection to the Glasgow society. VP GSBS asked if this meant that any society could have both a Glasgow and London branch. The Society Council Chair commented that if possible, there should only be one society, if they were to focus on their two separate areas without subsidising funding from the other society, then this would be evaluated on a case by case nature. VP SHLS asked why we cannot have the same society on different campuses, and commented that

the London campus is for post-graduate students, are we trying to stop them from starting societies or having their own branch? The Societies Council Chair commented that they did not expect any other London societies to come forward although if this was solely for London based activities, that this would be allowed.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation.

**Vote: For: 15; Against: 6; Abstentions: 3.** The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

## **8. UCU, EIS and Unison Strikes**

Trade Union representatives were welcomed to provide statements on strikes on GCU.

Unfortunately, the EIS representative was unable to attend due to time constraints but the UCU representative discussed industrial action with Student Voice.

The representative of UCU highlighted the financial income received by universities in the UK last year and the surplus increase in the sector. It was acknowledged that staff are being asked to teach and support students on a much greater level than before with the vast increase in students on campus and those seeking face time with staff. A paper was highlighted in which GCU was presented as the third bottom university in Scotland in terms of the number of students to each member of staff (student:staff ratio). The £12 million surplus earlier this year as well as the money spent on GCU New York were highlighted as areas that have been previously raised that could facilitate staff pay rises within GCU.

It was commented that when trade unions strike, that staff do not get paid for the days off they take for this action and that they have insisted for this loss in wages to be invested in student hardship funding as it is their belief that the interests of the university should fundamentally be its students and staff.

It was acknowledged that there was another meeting on a UK level for negotiations on this issue although it is believed that these would not be entertained by the trade unions. Further to this, it was commented that there is not a want to strike, it is a need before deteriorating student experiences are felt. It was further noted that students can contact the current principal and the next principal when they enter their term to put pressure on UCEA (University and Colleges Employer Association) to further negotiate as students have the loudest voice.

VP GSBS commented that the Students' Association is in support of the strike actions and asked what the next plan of action could be. The UCU representative commented that UCU members are currently working short of a strike with the possibility of an assessment-marking boycott. It was acknowledged that this boycott would be disruptive and is not taken lightly. ES added that they are currently setting up a student solidarity strike group.

The UCU representative further commented that the free breakfast for students and staff is a great initiative and should continue for students, but the fact that staff are included shows the need for greater pay. As well as the issues regarding pay, stress, poor mental health and burnout are becoming real issues faced for staff doing more work for little return.

DW commented that online petitions can show a real number of people showing support to add pressure. The UCU representative commented that a petition of solidarity created by students would show the voice of those students reacting to the current conditions.

## **9. Motion: Strikes at GCU**

The Student President presented the Full Time Officer policy position on ongoing industrial action and seeking approval from Student Voice as a motion to become the policy of the Students' Association.

It was commented that the Full Time Officer's recognise the impact on learning, teaching and wider student experience but are mindful of the work done by every member of staff. It was further stated that this is not just at a local level, NUS have also fully supported strike action.

DG asked for clarification on if this was a vote on the policy stance or a vote for Student Voice to take further action. The Student President confirmed that this vote is to approve the Full Time Officers position on strike action to become Students' Association policy.

AMI asked how students can further support the strikes. The Student President commented that students can email the principal showing support and asking for further negotiations, on strike days students can ask staff on the picket line questions, read their leaflets and learn more on their reasons for striking. It was further added that the responsibility of missed learning and teaching lies with the university and not the staff on strike.

RB asked if Full Time Officers would be in support of a student led protest in solidarity of the strike actions. The Student President confirmed that they would support students showing solidarity with these actions.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion: Strikes at GCU.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 3; Abstention: 0.** The Motion: Strikes at GCU was approved.

## **10. Revised Sports Policy**

VP SCEBE presented the Revised Sports Policy due to the Sports Council Chair not being in attendance.

It was noted that the following changes had been made to the sports policy:

- Updated sports awards rules
- Amendment to the requirement to have a safety code of practice; as this is covered by each club's risk assessment
- Advisory notification for a swim test for water based sports

AMI asked if by eliminating the code of practice, could this allow for harassment and hazing to occur, and if so, why would this be eliminated. VP SCEBE understood these concerns but was unsure on the details of the policy change and asked for this to be directed to the Sports Council Chair at the next meeting of Student Voice.

The Chair called a motion for this paper to be deferred to the next meeting of Student Voice in order for the Sports Council Chair to answer questions prior to a vote for approval.

## **11. Motion: Repeal Yearly Approval of Affiliated Societies**

The Societies Council Chair presented their motion to Repeal Yearly Approval of Affiliated Societies which was proposed at Student Voice 4, 2021/22 without adequate consultation on the impact this would have on the Societies Council. It was commented that if implemented, this motion renders the Society Council redundant as well as arguably being a breach of non-discriminative policies. Further to this, it would consume a vast amount of Student Voice's time. It was added that this policy only seeks to regulate societies, not sports clubs or student media.



VP SHLS added that it is logical to approve this repeal, as there should be no difference between the regulations of sports, societies and student media.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion: Repeal Yearly Approval of Affiliated Societies.

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 8; Abstention: 2.** The Motion: Repeal Yearly Approval of Affiliated Societies was approved.

## 12. Ideas

The Chair noted that due to time constraints, only the top three ideas (based on the number of votes submitted on the Students' Association website) would be presented for approval.

### **GCU End Investment in Top Polluters & Reinvest in Climate and Social Justice Solutions**

LY confirmed that they have had discussions with the Director of Finance and that the university are making positive steps although there are still issues to highlight. It was conveyed that GCU do not have any direct investments which means there is no transparency where their money is being invested by Rathbone Investment Management. It was commented that GCU must ensure that indirect investments are being regulated and in-line with the universities ethical and environmental policies and commitment to the common good as opposed to allowing for investment in fossil fuels, the alcohol and tobacco industry and the armaments sector. It was further commented that the university finance department must be held accountable and there must be a change in policy that regulates both direct and indirect investments.

There were no questions or improvements to the above idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the idea: GCU End Investment in Top Polluters & Reinvest in Climate and Social Justice Solutions.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 6; Abstention: 1.** The idea: GCU End Investment in Top Polluters & Reinvest in Climate and Social Justice Solutions was approved. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

### **Investing in the GCU Campus**

Due to the proposer not being present, AMI gave an overview of the idea and improvements that could be made to the GCU campus.

SC commented that the list of improvements outlined should be shortened and prioritised, as there were a number of proposals included within a single idea. JM commented that this is a broad idea, that perhaps the top three proposals should be highlighted for prioritising and specifying the main areas of improvement. SC added that this should be submitted as separate ideas which could be responded to at the next meeting of Student Voice.

RG asked for clarification on the mentioning of the Students' Association as they were under the impression that this was a previous matter for Full Time Officers. The Chair confirmed that this was for renaming the Re:Union Bar & Grill and not strictly for updating the facilities within the Students' Association.

DG commented that to accomplish even the top improvements outlined would come at a large financial expense. It was acknowledged that if we are currently supporting strikes, complaining that staff are not being paid enough and the current cost of living crisis, is investing in the buildings on campus a top financial priority when it still functions well. It was commented that they do agree with the idea and that the university does need invested in, but that investing in our staff is more important.

The Chair acknowledged that this idea contains a lengthy number of proposals and will be delayed to the next meeting of Student Voice to allow the proposer to prioritise their proposal.

### **Improving Wifi within the Library**

AMI proposed their idea for improving the wifi within the library. It was commented that particularly during the cost of living crisis, many students may not have reliable wifi at home and rely on this lifeline within the university. As well as this, with the university currently delivering a hybrid approach to learning, it is essential that good wifi facilities are provided for those studying on-campus. It was added that some students have had to upgrade their data plans on their phones to use as hot spots or buy personal hot spots when it should be the universities duty to provide a service that is fit for purpose and benefits all students who wish to use it.

RB proposed an improvement for the idea to be extended to the whole university campus as students study in various buildings and not just the library.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for Improved Wi-Fi Across all of the GCU Campus.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

## **13. Elections**

The Chair presented the Student Voice Elected Positions needing filled for 2022/23. It was noted that anyone wishing to volunteer should ensure that they are available for the meetings their position holds as to not impact studies.

The following Student Voice Members ran for each Student Voice Elected Position:

- Senate Student Representative (1 position):

Aryan Srivastava

**This position was duly elected.**

- Elections Committee (5 positions):

Kanwal Chaudhry, David Grimm

**These positions were duly elected.**

## **14. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The Chair invited members who were present at the last meeting of Student Voice to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.** The Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were approved.

The Chair called for a vote to raise the meeting time guillotine by 15 minutes.

**Vote: For: 7; Against: 15; Abstentions: 1.** The raising of the meeting time guillotine by 15 minutes was not approved.

#### **15. Matters Arising from Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask the Full Time Officers any questions regarding the Matters Arising. There were no questions asked.

#### **16. Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask any questions regarding the Minutes of Student Voice Committees. There were no questions asked.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Committees.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 2; Abstention: 2.** The Minutes of Student Voice Committees were approved.

#### **17. National Student Survey Q26 Report**

Due to time constraints, there was no discussion on this agenda item.

#### **18. NUS Conference Delegation Nominations Closing**

The Chair noted that the closing date for NUS conference delegations is Friday 09<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon.

#### **19. AOCB**

There was no other business to be discussed.

**The meeting was concluded at 19:00pm.**

## **Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2022/23**

Meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, in-person in NH208, at 17:00pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Karolina Syrek (Chair); Laiba Tareen (Student President); Chukwuma Egbujor (VP GSBS); John Mavileth (VP SCEBE); Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Hammad Amer (HA); Loveth Ayetoba (LA); Ryan Brown (RB); Kanwal Chaudhry (KC); Eben Crichton (EC); Lewechi Emeana (LE); Rachel-Louise Gibson (RG); Katy Gillespie (KG); Daniele Giustini (DG); David Grimm (DGR); Zoe Ingram (ZI); Pranali Khatri (PK); Zubaida Kiran (ZK); Aspen Milledge (AMI); Felix Oluwatobi Olowokere (FO); Bolaji Oyewo (BO); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Anoop Pk (AP); Ahmer Riaz (AR); Louisa Richardson (LR); Miranda Romero Torres (MT); Pulaporn Sreewichian (PSR); Aryan Srivastava (AS); Smit Trivedi (ST); Daniel Williams (DW); Swati Yadav (SY)

**Absent:** Derthinn Bushell (DB); Sheryl Cunningham (SCU); Emma-Clare Darby (ED); Stefan Fisher (SF); Laura Fitzsimmons (LF); Louise Hannah (LH); Antonio Hegar (AH); Joel Jacob (JJ); Alireza Mahdian-Amroabadi (AM); Jessica Michael-Odobi (JM); Jayalakshmy Mololath (JMO); Aliyah Noel (AN); Christian Nwazuloke (CNW); Taiwo Olaleye (TO)

**Apologies:** Noemi Buracchi (NB); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Gordon Edwards (GE); Joshua Foster (JF); River Gowans (RGO); Liam Loporini (LL); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Chidozie Nwaigwe (CN); Gino Obaseki (GO); Chris Opoku (CO); Jaik Robertson (JR); Peter Scheibenhoffer (PS); Priyaben Solanki (PSO); Eilidh Stewart (ES);

**In attendance:** Alistair Robertson (PVC Learning & Teaching); Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Philip Morton (Clerk),

**Observers:** Duncan Robertson (DR)

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

### **1. Chair Announcements**

The meeting commenced at 17:00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the third meeting of Student Voice for 2022/23.

The Chair asked members to raise their voting card if they wished to speak. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

Observers were reminded not to place a vote throughout this meeting.

### **2. Draft Student Partnership Agreement**

The Student President presented the Draft Student Partnership Agreement and gave a brief overview and how the university and Students' Association have worked collaboratively to revise this document. It was further noted that consultation and feedback has taken place with both staff and students to create the agreement. The Executive Committee recently reviewed the language used in the document to ensure it read in a 'student friendly' manner but did not make further amendments that changed the content of the document.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching reiterated that significant consultation and engagement with staff and students. It was further confirmed that this paper would be raised at Senate and the Students' Association Trustee Board before approval will be sought from University Court. It was commented that a website is being created for the Student Partnership Agreement that will include case studies, videos and further content to show examples of this partnership in action.

DG asked how student input would be conveyed on the website and how long it will take for this process to begin. Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching stated that student input would be fairly open and are open minded to what students' would like to be included under the four key principles of the agreement. It was further confirmed that if the Student Partnership Agreement is approved at University Court in April, that examples of content could be supplied after this with the launch of the agreement beginning in the next academic year of 2023/24.

### **3. Full Time Officer Reports**

Vice President SHLS highlighted ongoing discussions with the university to help with the cost of living crisis for students with the planned introduction of a community pantry.

The Student President confirmed that discretionary and childcare funding for students in financial crisis is available for international students. This is not yet communicated on the university website but international students are currently eligible to apply and information will be updated.

Vice President SCEBE signposted a careers drop-in organised with the careers team that is available for all students to attend as well as their work with the university on Carbon Literacy Training being made available for all staff and students. It was further noted that the university are working on extending the free breakfast initiative to help with the cost of living crisis for the rest of trimester B.

BO acknowledged the introduction of the new 'find my class rep' programme and praised this piece of work.

Vice President GSBS commented that at the previous Student Voice meeting, it was asked if menu revisions could cater for halal meat. It was confirmed that in relation to the proposed African food menu that halal options would be available.

In relation to the GCU app development, Vice President GSBS is creating a survey for students' to fill out on features they would like added to the app. It was commented that they are attempting to create a hub of information and data that can be accessed from one place such as timetables, library services, scholarships and more.

AS asked if GSBS have plans for more career information services such as SCEBE and SHLS has. Vice President GSBS commented that this will be discussed further with the Dean of GSBS for how to promote more opportunities.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

### **4. Student Voice Officer Reports**

Student Voice Officers were asked if they would like to present a verbal report.

AS introduced themselves as the new International Officer. They commented that they are focussing on an intercultural event with support from the Full Time Officer team as well as seeking to introduce free tea and coffee sessions for students to take a break from studies during stressful assignment periods.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 23; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

## **5. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation**

Vice President SHLS presented the list of new societies seeking affiliation to the Students' Association in the absence of the Societies Council Chair and provided a brief overview of each.

Affiliation for Societies:

- CaledoMUN
- Student Solidarity Society
- Dietetics Society

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1.** The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

## **6. Motion: Close GCU New York**

DGR presented their motion to close GCU New York. It was commented that GCU are currently struggling with the number of lecturers to students and that investment is needed. Although exact numbers cannot be obtained, it is said that it costs roughly £20 million per year to operate GCU New York for the 100 students that attend. Whilst staff are currently striking for better wages and working conditions as well as students struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis, it was proposed that the money currently used for GCU New York would be better invested to alleviate these issues.

BO asked where the figures used in the proposal were sourced. DGR commented that GCU have not been transparent on the financials of GCU New York and that the figures obtained were from newspaper articles. It was further stated that GCU should show transparency with these financial figures. AMI noted that they have attempted to obtain more information on GCU New York but were unable to.

PSR asked if there are reputational risks involved and how this could move forward. DGR replied that reputation has already declined with staff and resources not living up to standard and students struggling with their university experience. It was added that this is a proposal to be taken forward to make sure the university know that the Student Voice are unhappy with this current status.

AR asked if the sentiment of alumni has been considered. DGR acknowledged that this is an area that has not been considered. KC commented that if the university was to close, that this would not happen instantly, that there would be time for staff and alumni to complete studies and find other opportunities or employment.

There were no members wishing to speak against this motion.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion: Close GCU New York.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 5; Abstentions: 5.** The Motion: Close GCU New York was approved.

## **7. Revised Societies Policy**

Vice President SHLS presented the Revised Societies Policy in the absence of the Societies Chair to be approved.

Vice President SCEBE asked why two similar societies can form in Glasgow and London. Vice President SHLS answered that the London Campus is made up of postgraduate students who are studying for one or two years and may want their own society to join. It was further commented that London students may not have the means or expenses to travel from London to Glasgow on a regular basis for events, meetings etc. The Student President added that students would like for more engagement on the London campus both with the Students' Association and for their own personal belonging.

AR asked if there is a full time student officer currently in London that can aid this engagement. Vice President SHLS confirmed that there is a London Officer in-place for the interest of students studying on that campus and the events they may hold. The Student President further commented that there are academic representatives in London as well as the Student President liaising with the London Officer under their policy remit area to aid with engagement, awareness and information.

BO questioned the need for returning societies that miss deadline to go through the starter society process again. The Chair commented that this is a means for the society to communicate with the Societies Council that they are still an active society so that inactive societies that students may be trying to contact are not automatically re-affiliated.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Societies Policy.

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 8; Abstentions: 4.** The Revised Societies Policy was approved.

## **8. Motion: Memorial**

DGR proposed the Motion: Memorial, for a bench to be placed with a plaque or a tree to be planted in honour of the recent passing of a GCU student as well as recognising all students that the university has lost. It was commented that the planting of a tree or addition of a bench also ties into the GCU environmental and sustainability policy.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion: Memorial.

**Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Motion: Memorial was approved.

## **9. Ideas**

The Chair presented ideas (based on the number of votes submitted on the Students' Association website) for approval.

### **Investing in the GCU Campus**

A statement from the proposer was read by the Student Voice Team Leader conveying their idea for the development of a GCU campus investment strategy to refurbish certain parts of GCU over both long and short-term investments.

Vice President SHLS commented on the timeliness of this idea as the university is currently looking at refurbishment and updating areas such as the Annie Lennox building.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 1; Abstentions: 3.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President.**

### **Access to Specialist Labs during Weekends**

Due to the proposer not being present, Vice President SCEBE spoke for the proposed idea.

It was confirmed that specialist labs and equipment should be made available to students that need them and that they would not require a lecturer in attendance.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 16; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

#### **Free Bowl of Soup and a Roll on Production of a Student Card**

The Student Voice Team Leader read the idea on the proposers behalf.

LE mentioned that free breakfast for staff and students may be continuing, and if so, if this solves the issue presented here. The Chair commented that the extension applies to breakfast which finishes at 11am but does not give access to a hot meal for those who may not be on campus by this time or those who stay late. DG raised that if a soup was to be supplied, would this change daily as dietary requirements and personal taste may result in students missing out on a free meal. Vice President SHLS acknowledged the universities request for further feedback on ways to help students during the cost of living crisis and proposed that investment spent on initiatives such as free bus travel may be beneficial.

The Student Voice Team Leader confirmed that this idea was submitted prior to the Free Breakfast for Staff and Students initiative being announced.

LE proposed the improvement that that due to the free breakfast intuitive ongoing, that this change to a free meal being available to all students and staff during opening hours on production of a student card.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement a free meal to be available to all students and staff during opening hours on production of a student card.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

#### **Take Down Triggering Posters for 'Erase the Grey' Campaign**

Due to the proposer not being in attendance, Vice President SHLS spoke on behalf of this idea. It was acknowledged that during a university meeting, that there had been correspondence from both staff and students to remove the campaign materials due to triggering wording. It was noted that the campaign also provides workshops, counselling services, resources and more as well as the posters. DG commented that they have spoken to students who do not agree with the signage and are in favour of this idea.

DGR acknowledged that some people may be triggered by the wording in the campaign but that others have found the campaign to be positive in raising awareness and bringing to attention matters and behaviours which are not regularly spoken about as well as providing support to students. It was noted that the campaign could use tweaking and that more communication could be presented on why the campaign is ongoing and on additional resources provided. LR agreed that that more information should be presented on what else the campaign provides in terms of services, workshops, talks, events etc. DGR commented that the campaign has had a positive effect on women who have not realised that situations they may be in are abusive. LA further commented that the campaign could run for a shorter length with more awareness on confidential support and how students may seek this.



DGR proposed the improvement that the campaign should be re-evaluated with further consultation with students with an emphasis on minimising triggering and where support can be sought.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for a re-evaluation of the Erase the Grey Campaign

**Vote: For: 15; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement to raise more awareness of the support available for students through all of the GCU schools.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 9; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President**

### **Accepting Cash Payments**

The proposer was not available for presenting this idea.

ST commented that often when international students arrive in the UK, that they do not have a bank card, and only have cash until this can be setup. For this reason, they are unable to buy food, water etc. within the university due to them not accepting card payments. RB added that cash payment should be allowed for accessibility to all students.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President.**

### **Lack of Plant Based Milk**

As the proposer was unavailable to present the idea, the Chair commented that people with dietary requirements should have the option for plant based milk on campus at all times to accommodate their needs.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea.

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 9; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

## **10. Elections**

The Chair presented the Student Voice Elected Positions needing filled for 2022/23. It was noted that anyone wishing to volunteer should ensure that they are available for the meetings their position holds as to not impact studies.

The following Student Voice Members ran for each Student Voice Elected Position:

- Vice Chair of Student Voice (1 position):  
Ahmer Riaz

**This position was duly elected.**

- Senate Rep (1 position):  
Aryan Srivastava

**This position was duly elected.**

- Student Disciplinary Committee (2 positions):  
Pranali Khatri and Lewechi Emeana

**These positions were duly elected.**

- Elections Committee (3 positions):  
Smit Trivedi, Loveth Ayetoba and Pranali Khatri  
**These positions were duly elected.**

#### **11. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The Chair invited members who were present at the last meeting of Student Voice to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022.  
**Vote: For: 11; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were approved.

#### **12. Matters Arising from Meeting on 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask the Full Time Officers any questions regarding the Matters Arising. There were no questions asked.

#### **13. Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask any questions regarding the Minutes of Student Voice Committees. There were no questions asked.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Committees.

**Vote: For: 12; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Minutes of Student Voice Committees were approved.

#### **14. National Student Survey Q26 Report**

Vice President SCEBE highlighted the National Student Survey, in particular question 26 regarding Students' Association.

DGR asked if fourth years with an extension of an extra year are able to complete this survey. Vice President SCEBE confirmed that the survey can be completed on receipt of the email.

#### **15. Full Time Officer Nominations**

The Chair noted that the closing date for Full Time Officer Nominations is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon.

#### **16. Honorary Memberships Nominations**

The Chair noted that the closing date for Honorary Memberships Nominations is Monday 06<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon.

#### **17. AOCB**

There was no other business to be discussed.

**The meeting was concluded at 18:35pm.**

## **Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2022/23**

Meeting held on Monday, 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2023, in-person in NH208, at 17:00pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Karolina Syrek (Chair); Laiba Tareen (Student President); Chukwuma Egbujor (VP GSBS); John Mavileth (VP SCEBE); Kanwal Chaudhry (KC); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Eben Crichton (EC); Gordon Edwards (GE); Lewechi Emeana (LE); Daniele Giustini (DG); River Gowans (RGO); David Grimm (DGR); Antonio Hegar (AH); Zoe Ingram (ZI); Pranali Khatri (PK); Zubaida Kiran (ZK); Chidozie Nwaigwe (CN); Ahmer Riaz (AR); Louisa Richardson (LR); Peter Scheibenhoffer (PS); Aryan Srivastava (AS); Eilidh Stewart (ES); Smit Trivedi (ST)

**Absent:** Hammad Amer (HA); Loveth Ayetoba (LA); Derthinn Bushell (DB); Stefan Fisher (SF); Laura Fitzsimmons (LF); Katy Gillespie (KG); Joel Jacob (JJ); Jessica Michael-Odobi (JM); Gino Obaseki (GO); Taiwo Olaleye (TO); Felix Oluwatobi Olowokere (FO); Anoop Pk (AP); Jaik Robertson (JR); Pulaporn Sreewichian (PSR); Daniel Williams (DW)

**Apologies:** Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Ryan Brown (RB); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Joshua Foster (JF); Rachel-Louise Gibson (RG); Liam Loporini (LL); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Aspen Milledge (AMI); Chris Opoku (CO); Bolaji Oyewo (BO); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Miranda Romero Torres (MT); Priyaben Solanki (PSO); Swati Yadav (SY)

**In attendance:** Alistair Robertson (PVC Learning & Teaching); Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Philip Morton (Clerk)

**Observers:** Solomon Ajala (SA); Wilfred Obi (WO)

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

### **1. Chair Announcements**

The meeting commenced at 17:00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the fourth meeting of Student Voice for 2022/23.

The Chair asked members to raise their voting card if they wished to speak. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

Observers were reminded not to place a vote throughout this meeting.

### **2. Student Partnership Agreement**

Following a series of student and staff consultation sessions in Tri B 2021/22 and Tri A 2022/23, a refreshed SPA has been prepared. Some refinements have been made to the language and tone of the document following feedback from University Executive Group, APPC and the Students' Association Executive Committee, but this has not affected the content or meaning.

There have been no further changes to the SPA since the Student Voice discussion on 20th February 2023. The SPA is now presented to the Student Voice for approval before being presented to University Executive Group, Trustee Board and University Court for approval.

There were no further questions on this item.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Student Partnership Agreement.

**Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Student Partnership Agreement was approved.

### **3. Full Time Officer Reports**

The Full Time Officers presented their reports and asked if there were any questions.

RGO asked if there would still be a video on Fit to Sit submissions prior to the next exam period. The Student President explained that further communications on Fit to Sit would be supplied. DGR asked for confirmation for international students applying for hardship funding. AR commented that they were denied hardship funding and that the finance team had advised that this is not available for international students. The Student President confirmed that the funding team should directly assist with this as the website has not yet been updated with current information for international students applying for hardship funding. The Student President further stated that they would seek further updates as this had been confirmed as open to international students.

DGR requested an update on microwaves in the university. The Student President confirmed that this has been discussed, that microwaves are on hold as new regulations are coming into effect and that hot water taps will be implemented. DGR further asked Vice President SCEBE on an update for the memorial in which it was confirmed that this will be brought to the university to discuss possible options.

DGR asked Vice President GSBS if support was being provided for international students in terms of visa issues if they are in need of an assessment extension. It was confirmed that this issue had been resolved in terms of Post Study Work Visas as assessment dates have moved forward for the next academic year with an interim solution currently in place for 2022/23 students.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

### **4. Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Chair reflected that there was an expectation for Student Voice Officers to submit written reports.

SC asked if there could be clearer communications for officers submitting reports in the future. The Chair confirmed that discussions will be held over the summer months as to how communications with Student Voice members could be improved.

DGR and AS provided short verbal reports and expressed that they could submit a written report after the meeting if necessary.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

### **5. Censure: No Confidence: Vice-Chair/PGT SHLS Rep**

The Chair raised a motion of No Confidence on Amher Riaz, SHLS PGT Rep and Vice Chair of Student Voice with both the Chair and AR provided statements on the matter as outlined in the paper provided.

It was confirmed that there would be no discussion or questions on this matter and that there must be a two-thirds majority vote for this item to be approved.

The vote for this item was taken by hand count due to a contention on the number of voters using the mentimeter online platform.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Censure: No Confidence: Vice Chair/PGT SHLS Rep.

**Vote: For: 11; Against: 6; Abstentions: 6.** The Censure: No Confidence: Vice Chair/PGT SHLS Rep was not approved as it required 2/3 majority to approve.

## **6. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation**

As both the Societies Chair and Vice President SHLS were absent from this meeting, the Chair presented the list of new societies seeking affiliation to the Students' Association and provided a brief overview of each.

Affiliation for Societies:

- Pakistan Society
- Podiatry Society
- Asian Society
- Malayali Society
- WiCyS
- Enactus
- Ldn Rec Football
- Mentor Society
- IGBO Cultural Association

AS asked as to why there are societies being accepted for cultural groups when this could be a sub-group of overarching countrywide societies, for example, the Indian Society could include the Malayali Society. DGR commented that some people may feel as though they wish to remain separate from a larger society.

It was noted from the Chair that although societies are often voted as one larger package for approval, that any that pose greater debate could be approved with a separate vote.

CN commented that approving smaller categories of groups would invite more to be setup in the future, further noting that there should be an acceptance on whether sub-country societies are necessary. KC commented that they have no problem with separate societies and that if there is a need or desire for them to exist, then they can. AR commented that this is not a debate on the societies individually, but an overall discussion on the necessity of sub-group societies.

It was decided that the Malayali Society would be taken as a separate vote.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the remaining Malayali Society.

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 8; Abstentions: 5.** The Malayali Society was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the remaining Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation.

**Vote: For: 21; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1.** The remaining Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

## **7. Honorary Life Members**

The Student President presented the list of nominations for an Honorary Life Membership.

GCU Students

- David Grimm
- Jessica Michael-Odobi
- Aryan Srivastava
- Louisa Richardson

Non-Students

- Emma Duffy
- Bhavanshinkar Sharma

KC asked how Student Voice members were asked to submit nominations. It was confirmed that this information was given for noting at the last meeting of Student Voice as well as promoted on the Students' Association website.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Honorary Life Members.

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 6; Abstentions: 5.** The Honorary Life Members were approved.

## **8. Revised Sports Policy**

The Sports Council Chair presented the Revised Sports Policy Paper.

It was further commented that no major changes had been made to the policy, rather the wording for policy had been tightened.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Sports Policy.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 1; Abstention: 3.** The Revised Sports Policy was approved.

## **9. Revised Sports Constitution Template**

The Sports Council Chair presented the Revised Sports Club Constitution Template paper. policy references.

It was confirmed that the format for this had been simplified from two documents to one as well as the tightening of wording.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Sports Club Constitution Template.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Revised Sports Club Constitution Template was approved.

## **10. Revised Societies Constitution Template**

The Societies Council Chair presented the Revised Societies Constitution Template paper.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Societies Constitution Template.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Revised Societies Constitution Template was approved.

## **11. Ideas**

The Chair presented ideas (based on the number of votes submitted on the Students' Association website) for approval.

**More Plugs that Work**

LR presented the idea and commented that there is a lack of working plugs within the library, study floors and campus life. It was confirmed that the idea is not for additional plug points but for all broken points to be fixed.

KC added that often students need to leave laptops to charge in areas that they cannot sit and study. DGR further added that many floor plug access points have been drilled or locked and the ones that are open need cleaned.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 18; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

### **Divergent Study Spaces**

DGR outlined this idea on behalf of the proposer and reiterated that the library can be restrictive to those who do not study in a conventional manner. Changes to study areas to incorporate more floor space, sofa's etc. were examples of how space could be further utilised. The Chair commented that many struggle to work in the library for a number of reasons for example; being too loud, quiet, uncomfortable chairs and accessibility needs for those who do not study in a conventional fashion.

SC further commented that some people need different seating or study needs that the environment could adapt for. It was noted that some people may use the library as they do not have space at home or a quiet area to study which shouldn't mean that they do not have a comfortable place that they can use as they wish.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 16; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

### **Attendance**

GE presented their idea and commented that in the event of a forgotten student ID card, that lecturers are unable to update their register system manually meaning that the student will be marked absent. It was requested that a review of this system take place.

SC commented that they have emailed lecturers on such occurrences who have manually changed attendance records. The Chair commented that there may not be guidance or communications across departments on this. DGR added that standardised guidance across schools would be beneficial for this, particularly when attendance can effect funding.

CN noted that the GCU app that Vice President GSBS is working on will help alleviate this problem as well as issues of students scanning friends cards to seem like they are in attendance. DGR raised that not every student has a smart phone or may not wish for a digital student ID card, meaning the university would have to provide an alternative or plastic card for accessibility reasons. The Chair responded that in an ideal world, that there would be multiple ways to control attendance, giving students a choice for what works best for them.

RGO proposed an improvement for a review on how attendance is dealt with within the university and for more flexibility to be granted.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for a review of the attendance policy with consultation from students.



**Vote: For: 16; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.  
**Vote: For: 14; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President SHLS.**

### **Sale of Energy Drinks on Campus**

CN presented their idea for the sale of energy drinks on campus to allow students access to a product they would like without having to leave campus. It was noted that if coffee is available to purchase on campus, that energy drinks should be. SC commented that although good to promote healthy lifestyles with eating/drinking, that there should be respect for students' autonomy and freedom of choice.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 13; Against: 6; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

### **Implement CCTV Cameras on All Floors of the Library**

SC presented the idea on behalf of the proposer. It was commented that there are several areas within the library that are not covered by CCTV cameras. It was further noted that the library is accessible to the public and that CCTV covering all areas of the library will create a safer environment, particularly in evenings.

KC enquired if there could be access card monitoring at the entrance of the library to allow for only GCU students to enter. The Chair noted that the library is a public building for anyone to enter.

GE commented that as well as CCTV, that security could increase patrols of the area for added protection to allow for a safer feeling during later hours.

SC asked if there could be an improvement to have female only spaces in the library in evening times. RGO commented that there could be EDI issues surrounding this. The Chair further noted that this could be a separate ideas for more inclusive safer spaces within the library.

The improvement for additional security patrols in the library during evenings and late hours was proposed.

The Chair called for a vote to approve for additional security patrols in the library during evenings and late hours.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President.**

### **Self Catering Facilities**

The Chair outlined the proposal on behalf of the proposer. There were no further comments.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea.

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

### **Main Restaurant Dining Spaces**

PS outlined their proposed idea. It was commented that many students use food areas for socialising or study, limiting space for those wishing to sit and eat.

DGR proposed an improvement for additional eating spaces or a café to be inserting into the Campus Life Lounge. It was acknowledged that many students studying may forget to eat, particularly if they have found a study space that they do not want to lose.

The Chair called for a vote to approve to increase foot outlets on campus, particularly in Campus Life.  
**Vote: For: 14; Against: 3; Abstentions: 1.** The revised improvement was approved.

RGO noted that people use eating areas as there is no space to study in the library and proposed that there should be more spaces on campus that students can study and eat.

The Chair called for a vote to approve to increase the number of spaces available to eat whilst studying.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

## 12. Elections

The Chair presented the Student Voice Elected Positions needing filled for 2023/24. It was noted that anyone wishing to volunteer should ensure that they are available for the meetings their position holds as to not impact studies.

The following Student Voice Members ran for each Student Voice Elected Position:

- Chair of Student Voice (1 position):  
Kanwal Chaudhry, Laiba Tareen, John Mavileth
- Vice Chair of Student Voice (1 position):  
David Grimm, Kanwal Chaudhry, John Mavileth
- Senate Student Representative (3x open place, 1x member of liberation group, 1x member of representation group):  
David Grimm, John Mavileth, Laiba Tareen, Aryan Srivastava, Louisa Richardson, Pranali Khatri, Sofia Congradyova
- Senate Disciplinary Committee (5 positions):  
Gordon Edwards, David Grimm, Aryan Srivastava, Pranali Khatri, Zubaida Kiran  
**These positions were duly elected.**
- Learning Enhancement Sub-Committee Rep (1x UC, 1x PG, 1x open positions):  
UG - Sofia Congradyova  
PG – Zubaida Kiran, John Mavileth, Aryan Srivastava
- Honorary Degrees Committee (1 position):  
Kanwal Chaudhry  
**This position was duly elected.**
- Freshers Committee (2 positions):  
Aryan Srivastava, Pranali Khatri, John Mavileth
- Equality and Diversity Committee (2 positions):  
Sofia Congradyova, John Mavileth

**These positions were duly elected.**

The positions not duly elected will have separate online elections take place after this meeting of Student Voice.

*Clerk's note - Outcome of elections:*

*Student Voice Chair 2023/24: KC (Kanwal) Chaudhry*

*Student Voice Vice Chair 2023/24: David Grimm*

*Senate 2023/24: Sofia Congradyova, David Grimm, John Mavileth, Aryan Srivastava and Louisa Richardson*

### **13. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The Chair invited members who were present at the last meeting of Student Voice to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 0; Abstention: 3.** The Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved.

### **14. Matters Arising from Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask the Full Time Officers any questions regarding the Matters Arising.

RGO asked if the Full Time Officer with catering as their policy area (Vice President GSBS) could speak with Baxterstorey in regards to allergens as there have been dishes in the Re:Union Bar & Grill that are marked as vegan which contain dairy products.

DGR asked in terms of the Faith and Belief Centre, how students can gain access for prayer when the doors are locked. It was confirmed that students can have their cards updated from security with access for use of the facilities.

### **15. Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask any questions regarding the Minutes of Student Voice Committees. There were no questions asked.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Committees.

**Vote: For: 13; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Minutes of Student Voice Committees were approved.

### **16. AOCB**

There was no other business to be discussed.

**The meeting was concluded at 19:00pm.**

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2022/23**

Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, online on MsTeams, at 15:30pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Laiba Tareen (Student President); Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Chukwuma Egbujor (VP GSBS); John Mavileth (VP SCEBE); Hammad Amer (HA); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Kanwal Chaudhry (KC); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Lewechi Emeana (LE); David Grimm (DGR); Antonio Hegar (AH); Zoe Ingram (ZI); Pranali Khatri (PK); Liam Loporini (LL); Chidozie Nwaigwe (CN); Gino Obaseki (GO); Taiwo Olaleye (TO); Felix Oluwatobi Olowokere (FO); Bolaji Oyewo (BO); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Anoop Pk (AP); Louisa Richardson (LR); Jaik Robertson (JR); Peter Scheibenhoffer (PS); Priyaben Solanki (PSO); Aryan Srivastava (AS); Smit Trivedi (ST); Swati Yadav (SY)

**Absent:** Karolina Syrek (Chair); Loveth Ayetoba (LA); Ryan Brown (RB); Derthinn Bushell (DB); Eben Crichton (EC); Stefan Fisher (SF); Laura Fitzsimmons (LF); Joshua Foster (JF); Rachel-Louise Gibson (RG); Katy Gillespie (KG); River Gowans (RGO); Joel Jacob (JJ); Zubaida Kiran (ZK); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Jessica Michael-Odobi (JM); Aspen Milledge (AMI); Chris Opoku (CO); Pulaporn Sreewichian (PSR); Eilidh Stewart (ES); Daniel Williams (DW)

**Apologies:** Gordon Edwards (GE); Daniele Giustini (DG); Ahmer Riaz (AR); Miranda Romero Torres (MT)

**In attendance:** Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Philip Morton (Clerk)

### **1. Chair Announcements**

Due to The Chair not being in attendance, Kanwal Chaudhry was selected to chair the meeting on their behalf due to their position of Chair of Student Voice for the academic year of 2023/24.

It was noted that there were no observers in this meeting and that anonymous voting would take place over Mentimeter with all members in attendance confirmed as eligible to vote.

### **2. Motion of Censure: Ahmer Riaz, Vice Chair of Student Voice and SHLS PGT Rep**

The Student President raised a motion of No Confidence on Ahmer Riaz, SHLS PGT Rep and Vice Chair of Student Voice.

In the absence of AR, the Student Voice Team Leader read the statement provided.

It was confirmed that there would be no discussion or questions on this matter and that there must be a two-thirds majority vote for this item to be approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion of Censure: Ahmer Riaz, Vice Chair of Student Voice and SHLS PGT Rep.

**Vote: For: 19; Against: 8; Abstentions: 1.**

The Motion of Censure: Ahmer Riaz, Vice Chair of Student Voice and SHLS PGT Rep was approved.

**The meeting was concluded at 16:05pm.**