

Minutes of the 1st Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2020/21

Meeting held on Monday, 9th November 2020, on Microsoft Teams, at 5.00pm.

Sign In:

Present: Eilidh Fulton (Chair); Jonnie England (Deputy Chair); Susan Docherty (Student President); Tabitha Nyariki (VP SHLS); Zoe Nicholson (VP SCEBE); Adil Rahoo (VP GSBS); Monica Allen (MA); Robert Eadie (RE); Ikeoluwa Odukudu (IO); Ewan Batty (EB); Laura Clark (LC); Muhammad J Ayub (MJA); Nikolay Naydenov (NN); Elizabeth Shaw (ES); Sarina Vlaytchev (SV); Alexander Van de Rose (AR); Mary Welsh (MW); Hannah Einarson (HE); River Gowans (RG); Nicola McMaster (NM); Amanda Kerr (AK); Robert Gallacher (RG); Vincent Water (VW); Bethany Thomson (BT); Douglas Livingston (DL); Kathinka Mumme (KM); Elisabeth Dumortier (ED); Eleanor MacLennan-Patton (EM); Seona Halbert (SH); Bronwyn Doherty (BD); Dylan Duffy (DD); Erika Tonhauser (ET); Stephen Pender (SP); Cara Burkitt (CB); Bethany Stevenson (BS); Daniel Moore (DM); Kirsty Hunter-Heigh (KHH); Yonca Gocer (YG)

Absent: Nabila Khan (NK); Harrison Elue (HNE); Yasmin Sweeney (YS); Serena Piotta (SP); Laiba Tareen (LT); Muhammad Usman Misri (MM); Polina Klimoveca (PK); Chloë Wood (CW); Amer Sultan (AS); Louise Thomson (LT)

Apologies: Abbie Meehan (AM); Zalha Abasi (ZA); Catherine Mackie (CM); Kimberley Brown (KB); Louise Dunn (LD); Georgina Smith (GS); Fiona Reed (FR); Monisa Hussain (MH); Ayesha Tareen (AT); Anupama Nigam (AN); Raisah Khan (Clerk)

In attendance: Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader)

Observers: Danny Gallacher

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. Welcome

The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the first digital meeting of Student Voice for 2020/21. Members were asked to keep their cameras on and microphones off unless they wanted to discuss something or present a paper. The Chair asked members to raise their digital hand if they wanted to speak to help the Chair keep order. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

2. Requests for changes to the Agenda

There were no requests for changes to the agenda by the members.

3. Minutes of Student Voice meeting on 10th February 2020

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 10th February 2020. No questions were raised by members in relation to the minutes. The Chair said that only those present at the previous meeting could vote to approve the minutes of the meeting at Student Voice held on 10th February 2020. **Vote- For: 11; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 10th February 2020 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to provide a verbal update only on items in which there has been development since their paper was written. The Student President explained that most items are ongoing due to the outbreak of Coronavirus resulting in the closure of campus. It was noted these items will be picked up once campus re-opens.

4.1 Referendum on exams before Christmas

This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**

4.2 Phasing Out of Single Use Coffee Cups

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

4.3 Plastic Free Campus

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

4.4 Session on Academic Writing and Expectations Within Courses

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS, VP SHLS & VP SCEBE.**

4.5 Replace/Upgrade of Equipment in ARC

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

4.6 Increase Wildflowers on Campus

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

4.7 Reflection Spaces in Each Building on Campus

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

4.8 More Food Recycling Bins on Campus

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

4.9 Leftover Cafeteria Food into Take Home Meals

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

4.10 Improved Sanitisation on Campus

The Student President explained that due to the outbreak of Coronavirus, GCU has increased access to anti-bac wipes and gel and has increased the number of cleaning staff on campus. The Deputy Chair asked the Student President if the door handles will be changed to brass as requested in the previous Student Voice meeting. The Student President agreed to speak to the Executive Board in regard to this. **Action: Student President.**

5. Student Voice Committees

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote – For: 27; Against: 0; Abstention: 6.** The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

6. Full Time Officer Reports

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to provide a brief verbal update on what they have been working on and any updates to policy areas in their remit.

Student President

- Provided a condensed remit in the written report
- Preparation for ELIR visit
- Work towards We All Stand Together Campaign and Mental Health and Building Communities will be carried forward

VP SCEBE

- Working on delivering the first digital freshers' week
- Helped Vice President SHLS with Show Racism the Red Card by involving sports clubs and societies
- Work towards World Mental Health Day
- Work towards the safe return of sports club activities

VP SHLS

- Working on Black History Month
- Developing ideas for campaigning online

VP GSBS

- Involved in Sustainability Event during freshers' week
- Working on the proposal for Caledonian Court Officer
- Elected as Chair for Glasgow Student Forum
- Involved in subject approval for Economic Policy
- Involved in Equality and Diversity Committee

No questions were asked in relation to the Full Time Officer Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the reports. **Vote – For: 35; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.** The Full Time Officers reports were approved.

7. Student Voice Officer Reports

The Chair asked the Student Voice Officers to introduce themselves and to give a brief verbal update.

Biology & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Attended School Board meeting
- Attended SAGE Committee meeting
- Organised drop-in session for Class Reps on Collaborate Ultra
- Using surveys to get feedback
- Involved in answering Q&A on each module

Ethical & Environmental Officer (MA)

- Organised Netflix Party for freshers' week and will be organising a similar event for the future
- Organised mobility week which has been advertised on the Students' Association website

Disabled Students' Officer

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Attended Equality and Diversity meetings
- Provided an introduction to the Group
- Working with the Vice President GSBS on planning events for Disabled History Month
- Engaged with Birmingham School Guild and collaborated to organise events during Disabled History Month
- Using surveys to get feedback

Civil Engineering & Environmental Management Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Keeping in contact with Class Reps
- Setting up WhatsApp group chats to stay in contact
- Created an introduction video which has been uploaded onto GCU Learn

Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Attended meeting with Class Reps and Programme Leaders
- Set up a Discord Server with Class Reps
- Meeting with Class Reps on how to collate feedback and what is appropriate

Applied Computer Games Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Working closely with Class reps
- Attending Mental Health meeting later in the week

Visual Sciences Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Attended School Board meeting
- Attended SAGE Committee meeting
- Posted an introductory message on GCU Learn
- Will be contacting and scheduling Class Reps meeting

Ethical & Environmental (ED)

- Involved in Mobility Challenge next week
- Having a documentaries watch party

Fashion, Marketing, Tourism & Events Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Attended GSBS School Board meetings
- In contact with Class Reps

- Will be creating groups based on years and modules for all the Class Reps

LGBT+ Officer

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Focusing on awareness days within the LGBT community
- Organised weekly virtual meetings
- Attended meeting with the Student President about collaborations
- First guest speaker scheduled
- Organised events for Trans Day Remembrance on Friday 20th November 2020

Women's Officer

- Created introductory welcome sessions
- Organised virtual movie nights
- Social media posts raising awareness
- Working on appointing a Social Media Manager and a Deputy Social Media Manager

Societies Council Chair

- Working on the Dragons Den application
- Looking at building up funding
- Providing virtual support to societies

Radio Station Manager

- Cannot access the station so working on alternative arrangements
- Making Spotify playlists and live streaming
- Have access to the website
- Attended meeting to discuss organising online events

Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- In contact with Class Reps and will create a WhatsApp group chat

Computing Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- In contact with Class Reps and will create a WhatsApp group chat

Care Experience Students' Officer

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Signed up for the Student Leaders Programme
- Researching changes that can be made to online teaching and presentations including tools that can be used
- Attended meeting with Class Reps on how to work together

Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- In contact with Class Reps
- Dealing with a module for 3rd year

Sports Council Chair

- Recruiting last member of Sports Council which will be the Fundraising and Outreach Convenor
- Introduced council members on social media
- Working with the Vice President SCEBE on getting the sports clubs and council involved in Show Racism the Red Card Campaign
- Encouraging sports clubs to do online events
- Created Sub Committee for events

Media & Journalism Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Will be contacting Class Reps
- Organising introductory meetings

Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer

- Working with the Wellbeing staff on the Student Minds Mental Health Charter
- Involved in the working group for organising the virtual visit for the Student Minds Mental Health Charter
- Organised 1st social event
- Will pay a particular focus on improving and supporting the mental health of students over the following year

Occupational Therapy, Human Nutrition & Dietetics Department Rep

- Attended appropriate training sessions
- Contacted department leads and provided information for induction
- Attended introduction meeting with department leads and staff
- Attended meeting with the Vice President of the Societies and Elaine Penman, Dietetics in reference to the Common Good Awards student participation
- Codeveloper on the student representative forum for the department due to previous participation in ELISR
- Will contact the Class Reps and organise introductory meeting

No questions were asked in relation to the Student Voice Officer Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the reports. **Vote – For: 32; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Student Voice Officer reports were approved.

8. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation

The Societies Council Chair and Sports Council Chair presented the list of new clubs and societies which have affiliated to the Students' Association. This list included:

- Nordic Society
- Indian Society
- NPH
- GCU Consultancy Society
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Society
- GCU Minecraft Society

No questions were asked and the Chair called for a vote to approve the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation. **Vote: For: 31; Against: 1; Abstention: 2.** The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

9. GCU Senate Student Members Composition

The Student President presented the GCU Senate Student Members Composition paper which proposed three different approaches to allocating Senate places to ensure a diverse student representation. The Student President provided a brief explanation on what GCU Senate is and how this relates to overall planning, co-ordination, development and supervision of the academic part of the University. It was noted that the student members on Senate has been increased from 5 members to 6. The Student President explained the three different proposals which were open to discussion by the Student Voice members. It was further noted that the proposals cannot be changed and need to be voted on.

VW commented on the importance and significance of having a member from the Liberation and Representation Group. Further from this, he explained that Open Places give more students the option to participate. KM also noted how difficult it has previously been to fill a Post-graduate (PGT or PGR). The Deputy Chair also addressed some concerns raised with proposal 3 over representation from International Students. It was confirmed that an International Student could take the place of a Member of Representation Group.

The Chair called for a vote to approve either Proposal 1, Proposal 2 or Proposal 3. **Vote: Proposal 1: 4; Proposal 2: 3; Proposal 3: 28; Abstention: 0.** The Proposal 3 for GCU Senate Student Members Composition was approved.

10. Elections

The Vice Chair asked the Student Voice members who should be eligible to vote in the Student Voice Elections; whether it should be all registered members of Student Voice or if it should only be Student Voice members who are present at this meeting. It was noted that if all members of Student Voice are eligible to vote then the election can take place the following day. However, if only members present at the meeting are eligible then it would take 2-3 days for a new voting group to be set up on the digital platform.

The Vice Chair called for a vote to approve whether all registered student voice members can vote or if only student voice members present at this meeting can vote. **Vote: all registered Student Voice members can vote: 17; only Student Voice members at this meeting can vote: 15; Abstention: 2.** All registered Student Voice members can vote in the election was approved.

The Student Voice Team Leader went through the list of positions for 2020/21. It was noted these are usually voted in the 4th meeting of Student Voice but this had to be cancelled for 2019/20 due to the outbreak of Coronavirus and so will be taking place in this meeting instead. The Student Voice Team Leader explained that an emergency election was held for the 2 Senate member positions to ensure student representation as Senate meets out with term time.

10.1. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 3 positions of Senate which will then be put into the voting platform. It was noted that all members are eligible for the Open Place position. The following members nominated themselves:

Representation Group

- Kathinka Mumme
- Ikeoluwa Odukudu

- Vincent Waters
- Monica Allen
- Robert Gallacher

Liberation Group

- Daniel Moore
- River Gowans

Open Place

- Adil Rahoo
- Elizabeth Shaw
- Bethany Stevenson
- Stephen Pender
- Kathinka Mumme
- Daniel Moore
- Vincent Waters
- River Gowans
- Monica Allen
- Robert Gallacher

10.2. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 2 positions of Senate Disciplinary Committee which will then be put into the voting platform. The following members nominated themselves:

- Eleanor MacLennan-Patton
- Nicola McMaster
- Stephen Pender
- Cara Burkitt

10.3. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 3 positions of Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee Rep positions (1X UG; 1X PGT; 1X PGR) which will then be put into the voting platform. The following members nominated themselves:

Undergraduate:

- Robert Gallacher
- Dylan Duff
- Daniel Moore
- Yonca Gocer
- Stephen Pender

Postgraduate Taught:

- Monica Allen

The Vice Chair congratulated Monica Allen on becoming the PGT Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee Rep.

Postgraduate Research:

There are no PGR Reps Student Voice members.

10.4. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the Honorary Degrees Committee.

- Douglas Livingston

The Vice Chair congratulated Douglas Livingston on becoming a Rep for the Honorary Degrees Committee.

10.5. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 2 positions of the Equality and Diversity Committee which will then be put into the voting platform. It was noted that Liberation and Representation Officers are already on the Committee.

- Elizabeth Shaw
- Yonca Gocer

The Vice Chair congratulated Elizabeth Shaw and Yonca Gocer on becoming members of the Equality and Diversity Committee.

10.6. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 5 positions of Elections Committee which will then be put into the voting platform. It was noted that if you are part of the Elections Committee, you cannot run for Full Time Officer Elections or be involved in candidates campaigning team. The following members nominated themselves:

- Elizabeth Shaw
- Daniel Moore
- Seona Halbert
- Eleanor MacLennan-Patton
- Vincent Waters
- Dylan Duff

The Student Voice Team Leader explained that a link will be sent to registered Student Voice members where voting will be open for 24 hours. The Student Voice Team Leader asked the nominees to send a short candidate statement and an optional picture by **Tuesday 10th November 2020 by 11am. Action: Student Voice Nominees.**

11. Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives

The Student President presented a paper on the Full Time Officer Team Objectives highlighting the outcomes; action required, timescale, success measures and progress. Each Full Time Officer then spoke about their own Individual Objectives highlighting the outcomes; action required, timescale, success measures and progress. The Vice Chair asked the Vice President GSBS if he could pursue the removal of no GMO foods in the canteen alongside some of his work towards student meal preferences. The Vice President GSBS agreed to work on this alongside his Individual Objectives. Some members raised concerns over the Vice President GSBS Individual Objectives 1 & 4 especially in relation to the health and safety hazards involved in using microwaves on campus. The Vice President GSBS reassured members that the Individual Objectives were chosen after recognising their importance and significance to students.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officers Team Objectives. **Vote: For: 31; Against: 2; Abstention: 0.** The Full Time Officers Team Objectives were approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Student President Individual Objectives. **Vote: For: 30; Against: 2; Abstention: 2.** The Student President Individual Objectives were approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Vice President GSBS Individual Objectives. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 14; Abstention: 3.** The Vice President GSBS Individual Objectives were approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Vice President SHLS Individual Objectives. **Vote: For: 28; Against: 3; Abstention: 3.** The Vice President SHLS Individual Objectives were approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Vice President SCEBE Individual Objectives. **Vote: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The Vice President SCEBE Individual Objectives were approved.

12. Extension of the Meeting

The Chair explained that due to time constraints for the meeting, there are still items to be discussed by Student Voice and requested members if the meeting could be extended to 7.30pm. The Chair reassured that any items not discussed in this meeting will be carried forward to the next meeting.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the proposal of extending the meeting to 7.30pm. **Vote: For: 13; Against: 14; Abstention: 3.** The proposal of extending the meeting to 7.30pm was rejected.

The Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance and engagement in the first virtual Student Voice meeting and invited members to stay on the session for an informal chat if they wished to do so.

The meeting was concluded at 7.08pm.