

Minutes of the 4th Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2020/21

Meeting held on Monday, 22nd March 2021, 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); Ayesha Tareen (AT); Ewan Batty (EB); Bethany Thomson (BT); Kimberley Brown (KB); Hannah Einarson (HE); Nicola McMaster (NM); River Gowans (RG); Monisa Hussain (MH); Amanda Kerr (AK); Daneyal Mirza (DMZ); Anupama Nigam (AN); Stephen Pender (SP); Fiona Reed (FR); Robert Gallacher (RTG); Alexander Van de Rose (AVR); Elizabeth Shaw (ES); Georgina Smith (GS); Abigail Stone (AS); Laiba Tareen (LT); Bethany Stevenson (BS); Sarina Vlaytchev (SV); Vincent Waters (VW); Douglas Livingston (DL); Eleanor MacLennan-Patton (EM); Muhammad Usman Misri (MM); Kathinka Mumme (KM)

Absent: Nabila Khan (NK); Ikeoluwa Odukudu (IO); Harrison Elue (HNE); Laura Clark (LC); Muhammad J Ayub (MJA); Yonca Gocer (YG); Nikolay Naydenov (NN); Catherine Mackie (CM); Louise Thomson (LST); Anthony Rodrick (AR); Abbie Meehan (AM); Elisabeth Dumortier (ED); Kirsty Heigh (KH); Seona Halbert (SH); Bronwyn Doherty (BD); Dylan Duffy (DD); Erika Tonhauser (ET); Polina Klimoveca (PK); Chloë Wood (CW); Amer Sultan (ASN); Daniel Moore (DM)

Apologies: Zalha Abasi (ZA); Mary Welsh (MW); Yasmin Sweeney (YS); Connor Davidson (CD); Louise Dunn (LD); Cara Burkitt (CB)

In attendance: Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Raisah Khan (Clerk)

Observers: Danny Gallacher; Ian Kerr; Priscilla Otuagoma

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 started at 5.00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the last 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. Minutes of Student Voice meeting on 8th February 2021

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 8th February 2021. 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 8th February 2021. **Vote- For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 8th February 2021 were approved.

3. Student Voice Committees

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote – For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

4. 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.

VP SHLS

- Working on creating an easy reporting resource for students to report racism incidents. This work is close to being completed.
- Attended meeting with Officers from other Universities to discuss good practices on tackling racism on campus. The Vice President SHLS praised the progress made by GCU on tackling racism on campus.
- Continuing to work with SHLS to improve the digital literacy of students. This is intended to be completed before the end of the academic year.
- Continuing to increase the knowledge and engagement students have in entrepreneurial and social innovation activities. Some of these opportunities were shared at the Ask the Officer online event with the Research Innovation Officer.
- Has continued to engage with students regardless of the ongoing challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

VP GSBS

- As the Chair of Glasgow Students Forum (GSF), the Vice President GSBS has lobbied the Scottish Government for various reasons and has been successful.
- Working with the GSF on creating a city wide newsletter which includes engagement opportunities and events for students happening across the city.
- Continuing to identify barriers for international students at GCU such as problems with funding and fees. Successfully lobbied the government to include international students in hardship funds resulting in the government providing the Winter COVID Fund which is available to international students.
- Attended frequent meetings with the International Student Officer to ensure contact and communication on any issues raised by international students so these can be addressed.
- Work towards HEAR is ongoing.
- Organised a meeting with the Head of Estates to discuss microwaves on campus.

VP SCEBE

- Organised a successful virtual Glasgow Taxis Cup event which was promoted and engaged with lots of GCU students.
- Hosted 3 SCEBE listening events which provided students a place to anonymously feedback on their student learning experience. The suggested feedback and improvements were passed onto the ADLTQ and PLs/MLs.
- Continued work on further training opportunities to develop Sports Club Committee members and will handover work to the Sports Lead for 2021/22.
- Continuing to support student mental health by encouraging students to get involved in the Students' Association community through Sports Clubs, Societies and Groups. Led the Feel Fab Feb 2021 Programme.
- Continuing to promote NUS Racism equality training to Sports and Societies.

Student President

- Attended the initial meeting with the Students' Association for Strategy 2025. Contributed to the SWOT and PESTLE analysis. Ensured how the SDG's could be embedded into the Students' Association

and how the Strategy could align with GCU Strategy 2030. Communicated PESTLE and SWOT analysis to Executives at GCU, Strategy & Planning and the GCU governors for feedback.

- Carried forward 'We All Stand Together Campaign' from the previous year. Attended meeting with Vice President SHLS on how to produce an Inclusion legacy video using Santander funding. The video is intended to be completed before the end of the academic term. However, the Vice President SHLS has agreed to continue this work in case there are any delays.
- The draft funding bid has been written for Mind Your Mate. It is intended to be submitted before the end of April 2021.
- Supporting student mental health by promoting how students can get involved in the GCU and Students' Association community.
- Worked with the Vice President SHLS on tackling racism on campus which will be continued by the Vice President SHLS as the returning Full Time Officer.
- Continued the work on the SDG Campaign, specifically the education of SDG's. The Liberation and Representation groups were asked to be involved through communication sent in the WhatsApp group chat.

The Vice Chair asked why the Vice President GSBS report does not include updates on work carried out towards the Team Objectives. The Vice President GSBS raised some concerns over communication between the Full Time Officers which has prevented him from including updates. The Student President confirmed to Student Voice that updates on work carried out towards the Team Objectives is communicated in the Executive Committee meetings and the individual Full Time Officers are actioned to carry out work towards the Team Objectives.

MA asked the Vice President GSBS if the Ethical & Environmental Committee can be included into the Full Time Officer remits 2021/22 to help the Officers facilitate the work of the Ethical & Environmental Committee in the lead up to COP26. The Vice President GSBS reassured that the Full Time Officers will facilitate their work.

The Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the Full Time Officer reports. **Vote – For: 19; Against: 7; Abstention: 5.** The Full Time Officers reports were approved.

5. Student Voice Officer Reports

The Chair asked the Student Voice Officers only to provide a verbal update on any items in which there has been development since the report was written. It was noted that there were no further updates since the reports were written.

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: 30; Against: 1; Abstention: 0.** The Student Voice Officer reports were approved.

6. Elections

The Vice Chair called for nominations for the Student Voice Elected Positions 2021/22. In the case of multiple candidates, members were asked to give a short speech to Student Voice to give some background on themselves and to say why members should vote for them. These names will be put into the voting platform. **Action: Student Voice Team Leader.**

6.1. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the positions of Chair of Student Voice. The following members nominated themselves:

- Vincent Waters

The Vice Chair congratulated Vincent Waters on becoming the Chair of Student Voice 2021/22.

6.2. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the positions of Vice Chair of Student Voice. The following members nominated themselves:

- Jonnie England
- Monica Allen

6.3. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 5 positions of Senate Student Representative. It was noted that all members are eligible for the Open Place position. The following members nominated themselves:

Liberation

- River Gowans

The Vice Chair congratulated River Gowans on becoming a Senate Student Representative 2021/22.

Representation

- Laiba Tareen
- Georgina Smith
- Robert Gallacher

Open Place

- Vincent Waters
- Tabitha Nyariki
- Jonnie England
- Alexander Van de Rose
- Laiba Tareen

6.4. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 3 positions of Senate Disciplinary Committee Student Representative. The following members nominated themselves:

- River Gowans
- Douglas Livingston
- Alexander Van de Rose
- Robert Gallacher

6.5. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 3 positions of Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee Representatives (1X UG; 1X PGT; 1X PGR). The following members nominated themselves:

Undergraduate:

- River Gowans
- Robert Gallacher

Postgraduate Taught:

- Monica Allen

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

Postgraduate Research:

No nominations were received. This position will be carried forward to the next Student Voice meeting.

- 6.6. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the Honorary Degrees Committee. The following members nominated themselves:

- Douglas Livingston

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

- 6.7. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 5 positions of Elections Committee. 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:

- Jonnie England
- Douglas Livingston

The 3 remaining positions will be carried forward to the next Student Voice meeting.

- 6.8. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 2 positions of Fresher's Committee. The following members nominated themselves:

- Robert Gallacher
- River Gowans

The Vice Chair congratulated Robert Gallacher and River Gowans on becoming members of the Freshers' Committee.

- 6.9. The Vice Chair called for nominations for the 2 positions of Ethnic and Diversity Committee. The following members nominated themselves:

- Susan Docherty
- Jonnie England

The Student Voice members congratulated Jonnie England and Susan Docherty on becoming members of the Ethnic and Diversity Committee.

The Student Voice Team Leader explained that a voting link will be sent to registered Student Voice members. Voting will open on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 12noon and will remain open for 24 hours. The results will be announced following this. **Action: Student Voice Team Leader.**

7. 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:

- Debating Society
- Mindfulness Society
- Events Society
- Built Environment Society
- Tennis Club

No questions were asked and the Chair called for a vote to approve the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation. **Vote- For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

8. Honorary Life Members

The Student President explained that the following shortlisting was agreed through a majority vote at the Executive Committee held on 22nd March 2021.

Student	External
Bethany Thomson	Nicola Andrew, Head of Academic Quality and Prof. of Learning & Teaching
Kweku Bram-Larbi	Valerie Webster, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Student Experience
Kathinka Mumme	
Serena Piotta	

The Vice President GSBS raised concerns over reasons for the nominations and wanted to ensure that any student can be nominated regardless of their relationship with the Full Time Officers. The Student President explained to Student Voice that the Honorary Life Memberships are awarded for good reasons which have been provided in the paper for each nominee. These are also considered and approved by the Executive Committee before being taken to Student Voice for ratification. The Student Voice members agreed that they were satisfied with the process for shortlisting the nominations for the Honorary Life Membership.

The Chair called for Student Voice to ratify the shortlisted nominations for Honorary Life Members. **Vote- For: 15; Against: 9; Abstentions: 5.** The Honorary Life Members shortlist was approved.

9. Revisions to Societies Policy

The Societies Council Chair presented to Student Voice the proposed revisions to the Societies Policy. The Societies Policy has been updated to reflect changes to section 11.0- Societies funding. This includes the introduction of a new funding initiative for high membership in addition to an updated funding league criteria and weighting. The Societies Council Chair explained that the Societies Funding League is the main source of funding for Societies each year. At the end of Trimester 2, each society is scored in the different categories and in the order of weighting.

No questions were asked in relation to the paper and the Chair called for a vote to approve the Revisions to Societies Policy. **Vote: For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Revisions to Societies Policy were approved.

10. Request to Move Strategy 2025 up the Agenda

The Chair proposed moving agenda item 11 – Developing Strategic Plan 2025, to be discussed before agenda item 10 - Ideas.

The Chair called for a vote to move agenda item 11 – Developing Strategic Plan 2025, to be discussed before agenda item 10 - Ideas. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 1; Abstentions: 3.** Agenda item 11 – Developing Strategic Plan 2025, was moved before agenda item 10 - Ideas.

11. Developing Strategic Plan 2025

The Student President presented an update on the development of the Strategic Plan 2025. The Trustee Board agreed in December 2019 that the next strategic plan will run from the academic year 2021/22 to 2024/25. Rather than seeking external research on the strategic plan, internal and external surveys and research will be utilised. A SWOT and PESTLE Analysis has been developed and

presented to the Trustee Board on 22nd February 2021. The key strategic themes and enablers were highlighted to Student Voice and the Student President asked for feedback on these.

The Vice Chair highlighted that the block grant provided by the University to the Students' Association has remained the same for 3 years and this should be considered when accessing financial sustainability for the future. The Student President reassured that financial sustainability will be considered and the plan will constantly be reviewed to keep up to date with changes in circumstances. There were no further comments by the members.

The Student President confirmed that Student Voice and Student Voice Sub Committee members will be invited to a separate online meeting to discuss the redefined strategic themes and objectives and Vision, Mission and Values. GCU students will also be consulted on the development of the strategic plan through an online padlet and the annual student survey.

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 7.15pm.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the proposal of extending the meeting to 7.15pm. **Vote - For: 19; Against: 7; Abstention: 0.** The proposal of extending the meeting to 7.15pm was approved.

13. Ideas

Student Voice was asked to discuss and decide whether to approve the Ideas

13.1. A GCU Official Facebook page for students to buy and sell course books

'I and a lecturer were discussing textbooks and we realised the only good places to buy were usually Amazon or Facebook marketplaces. We think it would be a good idea to have a GCU official Facebook page that allowed students to sell and buy core textbooks. It could help build connections, give both sellers and buyers better prices and profits, and could be reassuring for students to buy books of each other than someone unknown.

I know GCU has a bookshop on campus but sometimes books are so expensive so this may be a good addition for some students and I don't think it would require much upkeep once the page was made.'

The proposer explained her Idea and the importance of having an official GCU Facebook page for students to buy and sell course books for the purposes of safety and uniformity. Further from this, the page should be promoted so students know where to go.

There were no concerns raised against the Idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea for a GCU Official Facebook page for students to buy and sell course books. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0.** The Idea for a GCU Official Facebook page for students to buy and sell course books was approved. It was agreed by Student Voice that this would be assigned to the Full Time Officer 2021/22 who has communications in their remit. **Action: Full Time Officers.**

13.1. Move lockers to library

'Move all lockers to library so they can be accessed by students who spend their weekends studying in the library.'

The proposer was not able to attend the meeting but sent an email explaining his Idea which was shared with Student Voice: 'My idea was proposed because sometimes I used to leave textbooks in my locker but I would be unable to access them in the library on weekends which isn't ideal when you desperately need them.'

VW and MA raised concerns over the lack of space in the library to accommodate moving over 400 lockers from other areas of GCU to the library facilities. RTG also highlighted that access to lockers in the library could result in noise and distraction for students using library facilities. Student Voice suggested an improvement to have some lockers on the ground floor of the library which will cause limited distractions as the ground floor is not a quiet study space.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 15; Against: 6; Abstentions: 2.** The improvement was approved. The Chair called for a vote for the Idea with an improvement to have some lockers on the ground floor of the library. **Vote: For: 18; Against: 6; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SHLS agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President SHLS.**

14. Teaching Awards

Student Voice noted the deadline for the Teaching Awards nominations.

15. Star Awards including Student, Representative, Society and Lib/Rep Group of the Year

Student Voice noted the deadline for the Star Awards nominations.

16. Student Trustee

Student Voice noted the deadline for applications for the Student Trustee recruitment.

17. A.O.C.B

17.1. AN raised concerns over recent discussions in relation to the death of Sarah Everard. She asked members to raise awareness of inequality and encourage men to take accountability. Student Voice agreed these issues were important and thanked AN for raising these.

17.2. It was noted that it was the last Student Voice for the Student Voice Chair, the Student President and Vice President SCEBE. Student Voice thanked them for their work over the year.

The Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance and engagement at the Student Voice meetings 2020/21. Members were advised to get in contact with the Students' Association if they wanted to raise anything about the Student Voice meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 7.19pm.