

## **Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2023/24**

Meeting held on Monday, 04<sup>th</sup> December 2023, in-person in NH208, at 17:00pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Kacy Chaudhry (Chair); Chidozie Nwaigwe (Student President); Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Solomon Ajala (VP GSBS); Wilfred Obi (VP SCEBE); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Robert Gallacher (RG); Katy Gillespie (KG); David Grimm (DG); Antonio Hegar (AH); Zovi Jenson (ZJ); Afia Kazmi (AK); Rachel Murray (RMU); Sofiat Nafiu (SN); Temple Nwosu (TN); Uchenna Ohanaka (UO); Olalekan Oladele (OO); Azeez Odu-onikosi (AO); Lee Tipping (LT); Desmond Wussah (DW); Maryam Yunis (MY);

**Absent:** Daniel Byron (DB); Fraser Connolly (FC); Maria Habib (MH); Keiran Harley (KH); Kyle Kennedy (KK); John Olarinde (JO); Stacey McFadyen (SM); Raiyan Mehmood (RM); Asmita Meshram (AM); Esraa Saade (ES); Samrat Sarkar (SS); Laiba Tareen (LT); Divine Tshibangu (DT); Gracjan Walaszewski (GW);

**Apologies:** Heather Andrews (HA); Annum Arshad (AA); Jay Blakeway (JB); Cristanos Bonaba Ike (CB); Gordon Edwards (GE); Harry Hooper (HH); Rana Imran (RI); Jorja Jenkins-Urquhart (JJ); Natalie Kiely (NK); Jade MacDonald (JM); Holly MacKinnon (HM); Vitalina Matuseva (VM); Leah Phillips (LP); Zain Qureshi (ZQ); Aleena Saddiq (AS); Ellie Stirrat (ES); Aiebee-Iberedem Tim (AT); Lee-Anne To (LT); Louisa Richardson (LR);

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

### **Observers:**

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 Chair welcomed all members to the second meeting of Student Voice for 2023/24 and asked members to raise their voting card if they wished to speak. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

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

The Chair explained the Mentimeter voting system and requested the approval of its use.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Change to Committee Meeting Rules – Use of Mentimeter.

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.**

The Change to Committee Meeting Rules – Use of Mentimeter was approved.

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

The Chair presented the Representation Officer Appointments for approval as follows:

Student Carers Officer – Stacey McFadyen

Disabled Students Officer – Maria Habib

Caley Court Residents Officer - Azeez Odu-onikosi

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Representation Officer Appointments.

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.**

The Representation Officer Appointments were approved.

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

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

The Student President highlighted the Full Time Officers team objective to mitigate the cost of living crisis for students and confirmed the installations of microwaves, addition of hot water access and the securing of university of funding to open a student pantry in the Students' Association. It was also noted that consultations are ongoing surrounding guidance on the responsible use of AI in the university.

RG asked if guidance on AI has been circulated to all students. The Student President confirmed that consultation had recently taken place at SAGE and that the paper would be presented at University Senate for approval. RG further asked if students that have been penalised for using AI by Senate Disciplinary Committee would be re-assessed retrospectively. The Student President could not comment on irresponsible use of AI in SDC although confirmed that they would bring this to the attention of the university for discussion.

Vice President GSBS highlighted that although free gym membership may not be a reachable objective goal, that they are currently lobbying for subsidised membership rates.

Vice President SHLS highlighted an upcoming alumni networking event open to all students as well as working with the EDI campaigns group to create a yearly calendar of cultural events. SC asked if improving student engagement in SHLS was in terms of students reps or overall student engagement. VP SHLS confirmed that they are working on increasing overall student engagement and collaborating with the school to increase Module Evaluation Questionnaire participation.

Vice President SCEBE highlighted the changes to the Teaching Awards Nomination form to increase completion rates whilst making more user friendly for students.

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

**Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.**

The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

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

The Chair highlighted the Student Voice Officer Reports for approval.

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

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.**

The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

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

The Chair presented the list of new societies seeking affiliation to the Students' Association in the absence of the Societies Council Chair.

Affiliation for Societies:

- GCU Ghana Society
- The Redeemed Christian Society

- Accountancy Society

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

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 1; Abstentions: 2.**

The Sports Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

## 7. Revised Election Rules

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the Revised Election Rules for approval and highlighted the key changes in the paper.

AK asked for clarification on if working from heights and drone use were for advertisement purposes. The DRO confirmed that these are to follow health and safety rules if ladders have been used to promote at height. Drones were added to the paper due to another institution having an issue with drones flying banners on-campus.

ZJ asked why there is to be no campaigning in GCU London library. The DRO confirmed that there is no campaigning in the GCU Glasgow library above level 2 (on quiet floors) and that this rule reflects across both campuses as well as the university asking for no campaigning in the London campus library. RG asked why campaigning is allowed on any level of the library due to campaigners interrupting the flow of study to those using the space. The DRO commented that they have tried to balance what is best for both students and campaigners although will take this feedback for consideration.

DG asked if disciplinary action could be taken on any students that are found to be intimidating voters. It was confirmed that this is correct. It was further commented that changes on the voting platform have been made so that voters are able to change their vote if they have felt intimidated or harassed into voting for a particular candidate.

Vice President SCEBE asked for clarification on the use of resources and personal connections. The DRO confirmed that equal opportunities should be available for all students across the board, for example that Full Time Officers re-running in the election would not be able to use any connections within the university made through their post.

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

**Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.**

The Revised Election Rules were approved.

## 8. External Affiliations

The Chair presented the External Affiliations for approval.

DG asked if other organisations could be presented for affiliation. The Student President noted that other organisations could be raised and assessed whether they could be considered based on any financial implications and alignment with the Students' Association values.

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

**Vote: For: 13; Against: 0; Abstentions: 5.**

The External Affiliations were approved.

## 9. Ideas

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

### **Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Palestine and Israel**

The idea was presented the idea in the absence of the proposer.

Vice President SCEBE commented on the wording of the statement to ensure neutrality as reflected in the title of the idea. It was commented that the statement was a presentation from the presenter and not the basis for approval which is the idea itself. It was further confirmed that this idea is separate from the emergency motion passed at the previous meeting of Student Voice.

The Student President highlighted that the idea proposes for the university to take action as opposed to the Students' Association, it was further noted that the previous motion passed by Student Voice was awaiting a response from the Students' Association Trustee Board. ZJ commented that this proposal is for the university to share pre-created petitions as opposed to a new petition made by the university or students.

An improvement was suggested in addition to lobbying the university to circulate a petition, for the Students' Association to further circulate a ceasefire petition as well.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement in addition to lobbying the university to circulate a petition, for the Students' Association to further circulate a ceasefire petition.

**Vote: For: 9; Against: 6; Abstentions: 2.**

The revised improvement was approved.

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

**Vote: For: 9; Against: 7; Abstentions: 2.**

The Idea was approved.

### **Mandate the Exams Cannot Start Before 10am**

RG presented the idea to Student Voice in the absence of the proposer.

It was noted that many students commute to campus which has meant early starts, limited sleep beforehand and the stress of travel, particularly if there are any disturbances to public transport or roadworks whilst commuting. SC commented that some students may depend on early times as they align with lecture timings that may affect childcare or further commitments. The Student President commented that some students may prefer earlier examinations but commented that they could discuss with the university if lecturers could propose later exam times if a certain number of students highlight their want for this.

An improvement was raised for start time to become 11am.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement to Mandate that Exams Cannot Start Before 11am.

**Vote: For: 6; Against: 7; Abstentions: 5.**

The revised improvement was not approved.

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

**Vote: For: 13; Against: 2; Abstentions: 3.**

The Idea was approved.

### **Fix the WIFI Now!**

AK presented the idea on behalf of the proposer.

It was added that there are many dead spots in the university which seemed to be worse than previous years. Vice President SCEBE commented that discussions with the university are ongoing on this matter and that they are aware of present issues. It was further acknowledged that this had been raised to the Principal directly during the Academic Rep Gathering. The Student President further clarified that this had been raised with the Chief Operating Officer who had asked for any areas within the university that are particularly bad where WIFI boosters may be installed.

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: 2.**

The Idea was approved.

### **Inter Trimester Break**

The idea was presented on behalf of the proposer to Student Voice.

DG commented that some degrees have additional breaks as well as a number of general university holidays throughout the year and doesn't feel the need for additional breaks in study. RG questioned whether a break would extend the number of teaching weeks and could therefore impact exchange programmes or international student visas as well as additional cost of living and accommodation. It was however commented that the break would be welcomed to alleviate heavy coursework periods.

AK stated that an inter trimester break could aid students mental health and would give students time to recover in the middle of their coursework. OO agreed with this sentiment and added that it would also allow time for students to take on additional employment.

Vice President SHLS confirmed that a review of the academic calendar is currently being held by the university with an option including trimester breaks.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

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

**Vote: For: 9; Against: 4; Abstentions: 2.**

The Idea was approved.

### **Music Society for Total Beginners**

The Chair presented the idea on behalf of the proposer.

RG commented that this could benefit students that do not have access to instruments that they wish to learn. SC questioned why this idea has been proposed to Student Voice as a society may be formed with three members at any time, can seek funding from the Students' Association and receive additional advice from the Societies Co-ordinator.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

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

**Vote: For: 4; Against: 5; Abstentions: 4.**

The Idea was not approved.

## **Bidet Showers on Campus**

A statement received from the proposer was presented to Student Voice.

DG asked if water showers are better for the environment than recycled paper in terms of carbon literacy. It was further noted that if implemented, that public information on usage should be communicated. SC commented that these further benefit the use of reusable period products.

Vice President SHLS stated that this idea has been presented to the university executive group previously and that although there may be a difficulty in installing facility-wise, that the idea may be explored as part of the university master plan.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

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

**Vote: For: 10; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0.**

The Idea was approved.

## **Attention Needed; Students Concerned**

The proposed idea was presented to Student Voice.

SC commented that this idea is not a matter for Student Voice and would be better communicated to module leaders, head of departments or class reps. It was noted that this issue had been raised on a school level independently by a SCEBE representative.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

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

**Vote: For: 5; Against: 7; Abstentions: 2.**

The Idea was not approved.

## **10. 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 Elected Positions were highlighted:

- Learning Enhancement Committee (1 position):
- Elections Committee (2 places)

No Student Voice Members ran for the Student Voice Elected Positions.

## **11. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 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 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

**Vote: For: 11; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.**

The Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 were approved.

## **12. Matters Arising from Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

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

There were no questions or comments added.

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

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

**Vote: For: 11; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.**

The Minutes of Student Voice Sub-Committees were approved.

## **14. Audited Accounts**

The Audited Accounts paper was noted.

## **15. AOCB**

It was confirmed that the fourth meeting of Student Voice scheduled for 01<sup>st</sup> April 2024 had been moved to 08<sup>th</sup> April 2024 due to the university being closed.

**The meeting was concluded at 18:45pm.**