

## **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); Jaikie 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.**