

Minutes of the 4th Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2018/19

Meeting held on Monday, 25th March 2019, in NH208, at 5.00pm.

Sign In:

Present: Rachel Simpson (Student President); Yetunde Ogedengbe (VP SHLS); Eilidh Fulton (VP SCEBE); Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS); Ramzy Abou-Zeid (RA); Nahida Akter (NA); Monica Allen (MA); Rachael Brown (RB); Tara Campbell (TC); Neill Clark (NC); Craig Davidson (CD); Susan Docherty (SD); Michael Docherty (MD); Jennifer Donnelly (JD); Jonnie England (JE); Molly Ferguson (MF); Adam Fraser (AF); Monica Hussain (MH); Sandra Kubasik (SK); Rebeka Luzaityte (RL); Maria Nagy (MN); Aliisa Pulkkinen (AP); James Shaw (JS); Vincent Waters (VW);

Absent: Racheal (Ayoposi) Olayinka (RO); Sarah Cullen (SC); Emma Dunnet (ED); Kim (John) Flores (KF); Naomi Hollis (NH); Waqa Javed (WJ); Issah Jimoh (IJ); Maria Jorgensen (MJ); Fraser Knight (FK); Catherine Koranchie (CK); Sarah Mackie (SM); Michael Marshall (MM); Konstantinos Ouzounoglou (KO); Brendan Owen (BO); Ella Peters (EP); Bernadette Prickett (BP); Caitlin Reid (CR); Sophie Robinson (SR); Conor Tobin (CT); Yeelon Yeoh (YY);

Apologies: Hannah Brown (HB); Albert Angel (AA); Rebecca Fernie (RF); Helen Johnstone (HJ); Annelysse Jorgensen (AJ); Lauren MacLean (LM); Dimitrios Maroulis (DM); Declan McGallagly (DMcG); Heather Son (HS); Kirsten Stewart (KS);

In attendance: Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Kathryn Collins (Clerk), Liam McCabe, NUS Scotland.

Observers: Scarlett Hooper (Students' Association Co-ordinator), Christopher Brown (CB).

Members who were absent without apologies have received an automatic caution from Student Voice. Any member who receives two cautions will automatically face a vote of no confidence at which members of Student Voice may decide to remove them from their position.

1. Welcome

1.1 The meeting started at 5.04pm. The Deputy Chair (Maria Nagy) stepped in as Chair due to the absence of Hanna Brown. The Chair welcomed all members to the fourth meeting of Student Voice for 2018/19. Members were asked to ensure they had signed in and taken a voting card to use when speaking. The Chair said that Observers are welcome to the meeting but they are not eligible to vote. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

1.2 The Chair said that agenda item 10 - Officer Accountability (Motion of No Confidence Review) will be moved and take place after item 2 - NUS Turnaround.

2. NUS Turnaround

Liam McCabe, National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland President, thanked members for the invitation to attend Student Voice and said that he would be discussing the NUS Turnaround and the benefits of being affiliated with NUS. The NUS Scotland President gave some background regarding the financial difficulty that the NUS Group is facing with a £3 million deficit and what measures are in place to address this deficit with speed and efficiency. The NUS Scotland President said that they are largely resolving the matter and there will be sacrifices operationally and voluntary redundancy meaning that NUS will become smaller as a whole. The NUS Scotland President said that NUS represents 7 million students then went on to explain the benefits of being a member of NUS. Some examples of the core benefits include: legal advice; national

campaigning; research; practical support for officers and for staff; and development opportunities. As a collective student organisation, NUS Scotland represents around 10% of the population which gives them strength to make change at the national level which could not be done by individual Unions/Associations alone.

The Chair thanked the NUS Scotland President for attending Student Voice. The NUS Scotland President stayed for the remainder of the Student Voice meeting.

3. **Officer Accountability (Motion of No Confidence Review)**

The Student President presented the Officer Accountability (Motion of No Confidence Review) paper to Student Voice members and invited the Chief Executive to help present the paper. The Chief Executive gave some background to the Officer Accountability (Motion of No Confidence Review) paper including the iterations of the paper/key issues within the paper being discussed at previous student voices. Further, CE explained that in the consultation phase, the University proposed a scenario where they believe a successful Vote of No Confidence should not take precedent over an election. The Chief Executive said that in relation to the response from the University with the proposed scenario, a steer from Student Voice members was required and that members had to decide whether to include the clause from the University within the Schedule and that Student Voice will then be asked to approve the proposed Schedule. Student Voice discussed the Officer Accountability (Motion of No Confidence Review) and felt that the clause should be kept but the language reworded. The Chair called for a vote to include the University clause within the Schedule and for the clause to be reworded to keep the language consistent with the Schedule. **Vote: For: 11; Against: 5; Abstentions: 5.** The Officer Accountability (Motion of No Confidence Review) paper was approved to include the University clause. The Chair called for vote for the whole motion to be included within the Bye-Laws. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2.** The whole motion will be included in the Bye-Laws. The next steps are for the Schedule to be taken Trustee Board and University Court in June 2019.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 5.55pm.

4. **Previous Minutes**

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 11th February 2019. JE noted that spelling of Kalina Dixon's first name was incorrect. The Clerk will amend the spelling. **Action: Clerk.** 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 of the Caledonian Student Voice held on Monday, 11th February 2019. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 11th February 2019 were approved.

5. **Matters Arising**

5.1 **Bright White Recycled Paper**

The VP GSBS said that he spoke with the University about introducing bright white paper however the University are not keen on stocking this type of paper due to the green impact and that the campus is an eco-campus. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS**

5.2 **Referendum on exams before Christmas**

The Student President asked Student Voice if they wished the Full Time Officers to take this Idea forward. The Student President said she had previously asked for volunteers at Student Voice on 11th February 2019 to help with the referendum and no volunteers stepped forward. The Student President was asked to send out an email to Student Voice members for their thoughts on a referendum on exams before Christmas. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**

- 5.3 **Benefits of affiliation of NUS**
The Student President invited the NUS Scotland President to speak at the next Student Voice meeting on 25th March 2019. This matter is resolved.
- 5.4 **Enhancing the current Mindfulness provisions**
The Student President is attending meeting with key partners in the University and working on developing a proposal to the University with the potential of creating a mindfulness module. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**
- 5.5 **Signposting of vegan and gluten free options in all campus cafeterias**
The VP SCEBE said that BaxterStorey had agreed and actioned the signposting of vegan and gluten free options on campus. This matter is resolved.
- 5.6 **University Energy Saving Practices**
The Student President said that GCU IT Services confirmed that screens are turned on every morning at 7am and are turned off at 10pm by a central server in the University. All the screens are energy efficient. This matter is resolved.
- 5.7 **Access to hot water to be available for free**
The VP SCEBE and the VP SHLS confirmed that hot water is available for free from GCU catering outlets if own cup is provided or £0.20 if cup is provided. Hot water would be reduced from £1.20 to £0.20 in vending machines. This matter is resolved.
- 5.8 **Energy Drinks**
The VP SCEBE has still to confirm with BaxterStorey that no other institutions sell energy drinks. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**
- 5.9 **Increase the provision of daytime lockers around campus**
The Student President said that GCU Library have been contacted with an Idea proposal. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**
- 5.10 **Dedicated GCU drop-in sessions for students about volunteering opportunities**
The VP SHLS said dedicated drop-in sessions already exist. The VP SHLS met with Careers Service and drafted content about volunteering and work experience. This will be included in next Students' Association email. This matter is resolved.
- 5.11 **Raise awareness about the current campaign for hot water on campus**
The Vice President SCEBE will draft a blog about reduced fee/free hot water. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**
- 5.12 **Microwaves on campus**
No ideas on microwaves have been submitted to this meeting. Student Voice should discuss whether there is a time limit to this proposal or how it could be overturned by a future meeting. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student Voice Team Leader.**
- 5.13 **Replace plastic cutlery with a more sustainable cutlery**
The VP SCEBE discussed with BaxterStorey who will look at an option of having wooden take-way cutlery. GCU London now offers a sustainable cutlery option. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**
- 5.14 **Phase out single use coffee cups in catering outlets**
The Vice President GSBS has raised with BaxterStorey and awaiting response. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

5.15 **Ensure AppsAnywhere available anywhere**

The VP SCEBE obtained clarification from the GCU website. This matter is resolved.

6. **Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all the Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote: For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The previous minutes of all the Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

Sports council provided a verbal update including significant wins in the Glasgow Taxi Cup, the upcoming sports ball and ties for sports member available from next year.

Radio Caley provided a verbal update including the drafting of the watershed policy and the elections for committee positions.

7. **Elections**

Elections took place for the following positions and the results are below:

- Chair of Student Voice: Maria Nagy
- Student Voice Returning Officer: Jonnie England
- Freshers Committee: Monica Allen and Monisah Hussain
- Equality and Diversity Committee: Monisah Hussain and Craig Davidson
- Senate Disciplinary Committee: Racheal Brown, Molly Ferguson and Jonnie England
- Senate: Sandra Kubasik (International), Neill Clark (PGR)
- Learning and Teaching Sub Committee: Craig Davidson (UG)
- Honorary Degrees Committee: Jonnie England.

For the University Senate (Open place), there was three members that put their names forward – Jonnie England; Craig Davidson and Monica Allen. Each member was asked to give a two- minute speech to Student Voice to give some background on themselves and to say why members should vote for them. The Student Voice Team Leader said the results will be announced the next day. **Action: Student Voice Team Leader.** The DRO for Student Voice, Maria Nagy, and the SVTL counted the ballots on Tuesday 26th March 2019. Jonnie England was duly elected to the Senate (open place).

8. **Affiliations**

The following societies and sports clubs were ratified by Student Voice.

All affiliations listed below had already been approved by the Societies Council and the Sports Council as appropriate.

- National Union of Ghana Students Society
- GCU Check Mate Society
- GCU Socialist Students Society
- Professional Doctorate Society

The Chair asked all members to take a vote to approve all ratifications. **Vote: For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention:0.**

9. **Full Time Officer Reports**

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to provide a brief verbal summary highlighting any key points of their submitted written reports including any updates on items in which there has been developments since the report was written.

The VP SCEBE was asked about the Roof Garden opening launch and when filming for the video would be. The VP SCEBE responded that filming for the Roof Garden launch is scheduled for Friday, 29th March 2019. MA and MD said that they were both available for filming. The VP SCEBE said she would contact both MA and MD via email to schedule a filming time slot. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

The VP SHLS noted a typing mistake in her report and where it states "Attended SHLS listening event with Associate Dean-LTQ for year 4 podiatry students" - the text should read year 4 psychology students and not podiatry students. **Action: VP SHLS.**

The Chair invited members to take a vote to approve the VP SHLS report noting the amendment to be made. **Vote: For: 19 Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The VP SHLS report was approved.

The Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the Full Time Officers reports. **Vote: For: 16 Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** All the Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

10. **Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Student Voice Officers who had not already submitted a written report were invited by the Chair to provide a brief verbal update.

No questions were raised from the reports or an item from the reports discussed. The Chair invited members to take a vote to decide whether to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Student Voice Officers Reports were approved.

International Students officer provided a verbal report including to recording and promotion of the international women's day video and an upcoming international student's ceilidh.

THE EDIT editor provided a verbal report including the election of a new committee. THE EDIT are welcoming four new members to the committee and still have an open spot for Head of Social Media. If anyone is interested in the position, speak to editor.

11. **Academic Representative Review**

The Student President presented the Academic Representative Review paper saying that during the Academic Term 2018/19, the Full Time Officer Team undertook a high-level review of the academic representation structure as a team objective. Outcomes from this review, combined with a change in the structures of the Academic Schools during the Summer, in 2018, and consultation with key partners, informed modifications to the academic representation structures.

In response to these changes, at the beginning of the academic term in 2018/19, GCU Students' Association proposed to review and evaluate the new academic representation model again in the 18/19 FTO Team Objectives. The Student President said the paper outlines the context, implementation and evaluation for the academic representation models, and their impact on the student experience and voice. Consultation was undertaken throughout the 2017/18 Academic year prior to the restructure, and the resulting data has been compared with data collated following the restructure to compare the impact of the previous and current models. Following positive student feedback regarding the 2018/19 Models for UG Departmental and PGT Representation, it is recommended that these models continue into the 19/20 Academic Year and beyond. After exploring the PGR Student experience and feedback, the Student President said

that the Full Time Officers are recommending a change in the representation model moving forward to a school based structure and asked for Student Voice to discuss the Review paper.

- Undergraduate Departmental Representatives x 22
- Postgraduate Taught Representatives x 3 (and GCU London Officer)
- Postgraduate Research Representatives x 7 (includes x1 GCU London)

There were no questions asked regarding the Academic Representative Review and Student Voice said that they were satisfied with two Postgraduate Research (PGR) leads per academic school. Student Voice said they were happy for the Student President to take the Academic Representative Review paper to the Academic Policy and Practice Committee (APPC).

12. Honorary Life Members

The Student President said that the following shortlist was agreed at Executive Committee held on 18th March 2019.

Honorary Life Members Shortlist:

Students	External
Hannah Brown	James Moohan
Michael Docherty	Ruth Whittaker
Racheal (Ayoposi) Olayinka	
Caitlin Reid	

No questions were asked from Student Voice. The Chair called for Student Voice to ratify the shortlisted nominations for Honorary Life Members. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Honorary Life Members shortlist was approved.

At this point the Chair proposed moving agenda item 14 – Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) to be discussed prior to agenda item 13 - Ideas. The Chair called for a vote to move agenda item 14 – Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) to be discussed prior to agenda item 13. Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.

13. Enhancement Led Institutional Review

The Student President presented the Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) paper saying the paper provides information on ELIR and opportunities for students to be involved in the ELIR process. Further, Student President reported that for the upcoming Enhancement Led Institutional Review in 2019 -20, the institution carries out a holistic evaluation of its strategy, policy and practice in relation to quality assurance and enhancement. Through a process of self-evaluation, a Reflective Analysis (RA) document will be produced to showcase achievements in relation to the student learning experience and identify priority areas for development and/or enhancement. The RA is used to identify themes for discussion with GCU staff and students during the review visits. The Student President highlighted the Key Review Dates and the schedule of activity with which is open to all students to attend. All of the dates are listed in the Enhancement Led Institutional Review paper. For further information, the Student President added that for more information on the ELIR Review to speak to any of the Full Time Officers.

At this point (6.55pm) the Chair called a motion to extend the guillotine by a further 20 minutes and for the meeting to finish at 7.15pm. The Chair called for a vote and asked members if they wished to vote to extending the meeting. Vote: For: 17; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0.

14. Ideas

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

14.1 Graduation Costs (Megan Hinds)

“As of today, Strathclyde University has announced that they are abolishing their graduation fees for all students, and Glasgow university announced this last year as well. So I am inquiring what is Glasgow Caledonian doing about this topic? £50 is a large sum of money on top of the £40 fee for the gown as well, and even if you don't go to the ceremony you still have to pay that fee to get your certificate is outrageous. I think it would be a fantastic idea for the student association to take this fee on and get the university to abolish the fee ASAP. It does not look good for the university, the fact that their fellow universities have already taken this step and they have not.”

Student Voice discussed Graduation Costs and members agreed that the costs were too high and that the costs should be scrapped completely and the graduation ceremonies remains at the Royal Concert Hall. JE asked the Student President for a breakdown of the costs for the graduation ceremonies including venue hire. **Action: Student President.** The Student President encouraged Student Voice to vote via the Glasgow Graduation Fees article on the Students' Association website which asks what option students would prefer in relation to the venue for their graduation. The Chair called for any improvements to the Idea. The first improvement was to take into consideration when lobbying the university for abolishment of graduation fees the outcome of the online vote via the Glasgow Graduation Fees article on the Students' Association website which asks what option students would prefer in relation to the venue for their graduation. The Student President encouraged Student Voice to participate in this online vote. There was then a second improvement to the Idea to include GCU London in the campaign and to evaluate the abolishment of graduation costs at GCU London. The Chair called for a vote to consider the two improvements. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Chair called for a vote for Idea with two improvements, to consider the results of the vote on the preferred venue and to evaluate the abolishment of graduation costs at GCU London. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The idea was approved. As incoming Student President, the VP SCEBE will take forward this Idea. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

14.2 Plant-based Canteen Drive (Rory Harte)

“This idea is to create an open discussion about the environmental impact animal products sold from the canteen. What steps can be taken to promote a plant-based diet within the canteen.”

Due to lack of time and telephone technical issues, as the proposer was joining the meeting via telephone, the Idea for Plant based Canteen Drive was not discussed The Chair called for a vote to move the Idea for Plant-based Canteen Drive to the next Student Voice. **Vote: For: 9; Against: 4; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea for Plant-based Canteen Drive was moved to the next meeting of Student Voice. **Action: Clerk.**

15. Update on the NUS Scotland Conference

The Student President gave a brief update on the NUS Scotland Conference saying that all four Full Time Officers attended as well as Monica Allen and Jonnie England. Liam McCabe was re-elected as the NUS Scotland President. Jonnie England was elected to NUS Scotland Procedures Committee for the next two years. Congratulations to JE on this election win was offered.

16. Full Time Officers and Departmental Reps Remuneration

Student Voice noted the Full Time Officers and Departmental Reps Remuneration.

17. Student Trustee Recruitment

Student Voice noted the Student Trustee Recruitment application deadline.

18. **Teaching Awards Nominations Deadline**

Student Voice noted the Teaching Awards nominations deadline.

19. **Star Awards Nominations and Events**

Student Voice noted the Start Awards nominations deadline.

20. **Any Other Business**

20.1 The Student President informed Student Voice that the Scottish Funding Council are carrying out a consultation on 12th April 2019, from 2-3pm, within the Britannia Building, and require students to take part. The Student President said if any members wish to be involved then to contact her by email for further information.

20.2 It was noted that it was the last Student Voice for the Student President and the VP SHLS and Student Voice thanked them both for their time in office and gave them a round of applause.

The Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance and reminded members that Student Voice members are invited for one free drink in Re:Union Bar & Grill and a chance to network with other members.

The meeting was concluded at 7.15pm.