



Ethical and Environmental Committee

2/11/16, 2pm in NH209 (Students' Association)

Minutes

Apologies: Sian Bamping (SB), Raven Hingley (RH)

Present: Kayleigh van Dongen (Ethical and Environmental Officer),
Jodie Waite (VP GSBS)

In Attendance: Aimee Cuthbert (Clerk)

Absent: n/a

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Approved

3. Updates from last meeting

ACTION	PROGRESS
E+E Officer to send Love Food Save Money resources to NUS Scotland VP Communities	To be actioned – will speak to Chief Executive to check this is allowed
Clerk to invite suggested parties to GISU Legacy Planning Meeting	Completed
E+E Officer and VP SHLS to create presentation for Legacy Meeting	Completed
Clerk to feedback to Chief Executive on Strategic Plan Discussions	Completed
VP SHLS to discuss clothes swap shop with Fashion Society in new role as VP GSBS	To be actioned – must investigate if society still exists and meet with them to discuss a collaborative event
E+E Officer to liaise with Student President about social justice event	Completed – more public event as externally hosted so nothing came of it.

	Information will be passed on if repeated
Clerk to examine workbook so plan of action can be created at next committee	To be actioned – changes to workbook means has just been released. Will be discussed further at point 5

4. Green Impact Student Unions Update and Action Plan

The Ethical and Environmental Officer updated the committee that an informal meeting had taken place recently to look at the new workbook and criteria and that at this stage Excellent is out of reach but that Good would be the target this year with the aim to get Very Good in future.

The Clerk then circulated the action plan for the group to look at, explaining it was a live document and would be regularly updated.

VP GSBS mentioned at this point that sustainability was included in the new Strategic Plan and should be in the communications around the new plan.

The Clerk added that it was also a target in the KPI's for the organisation as well as the strategic plan, showing its priority within the organisation.

VP GSBS commented that the new criteria was disheartening and challenging to achieve some levels so would be interesting to see what other Student Associations do in regards to this new challenge.

The E+E Officer agreed and stated that the recycled paper campaign (point 5b) would be the biggest project due to the current issues in the university.

VP GSBS suggested that SU003 (ROLLING All fridges, freezers and ice-making machines within the union are positioned away from direct heat sources, are in well ventilated areas and are well-maintained.) should be held off until January due to the changes in catering provision across campus.

There was some confusion about the criteria around an exploratory meeting so further information would be required.

ACTION – Clerk to find criteria and update committee

The Clerk then mentioned that the current action plan would be adapted to fit in with SU006 (The union has a **SMART action plan** on sustainability, and has published it. It should include both operational sustainability and campaigning and influencing.) then published

ACTION – Clerk to update action plan and publish on website

The E+E Officer then enquired if the NUS Sustainability Skills Survey was published yet in relation to KN002 (The union has proactively promoted the annual national **NUS sustainability skills survey**, taking place Nov-Dec 2016, amongst its students, and contributed a good number of respondents.) The Clerk confirmed it was yet to be published and that it would be promoted as soon as it opened.

The E+E Officer then remarked that they were happy with the action plan and should refer to it throughout the year.

5. Campaigns for the year ahead

a. Shorter Showers

The E+E Officer updated that this campaign – to encourage Caledonian Court residents to have shorter showers, run in partnership with GCU – was now live online and being publicised.

VP GSBS remarked this was a good campaign but was unsure what the competition was. The Clerk clarified that residents had to collect postcards in groups and that the groups who got all 8 postcards first would receive vouchers. It was also remarked that this campaign could be included in the Green Impact criteria. VP GSBS said they would share this campaign on social media

ACTION – VP GSBS to publicise Shorter Showers Campaign on social media

b. Recycled Paper

The E+E Officer updated that group that students were not pleased with the new recycled paper the university had introduced and that there had been numerous emails complaining around the papers appearance for assignments, dissertations and CVs.

Although the three main academic schools had confirmed the new paper was suitable for submission, there should be a campaign outlining benefits of the paper but also the university services available for students to use with various activities.

This campaign is already in the action plan underneath the Campaigns section but the campaign needed to be fleshed out more. The Clerk suggested looking towards the aims and objectives closely as recycled paper had already been implemented. It was then decided that the aim should be around changing attitudes towards it as this seems to be a prominent issue around students.

In terms of ideas around the campaign, it was suggested that questions could be asked in the survey linking to KN001 (The union has carried out

relevant **primary research** amongst its students to inform its sustainability work, and has published the findings.) and that this should be done ASAP
ACTION – E+E Officer and Clerk to create survey for E+E Committee to discuss

The E+E Officer then decided it was best to look at each criteria in the campaigns section to flesh out the campaign more. In terms of the importance of the issue, it was decided that students did know the benefits of recycled paper but that current students needed to get on board with the idea and be happy to use the paper now provided. This would not necessarily be an issue for future students as it seems final year students have the biggest issues with the paper.

In terms of the aims and objectives, the overall aim would be to change attitudes so students would be happy to use recycled paper in future. The survey would be the first objective and the rest can be decided at a later date.

At this point VP GSBS updated the committee that communications in GSBS had gone out about the recycled paper to all students, particularly reminding Marketing and Communications students that sustainability is a big part of their programme as these are the students who have complained the most about the paper. Some of the complaints had focused around concerns for the paper being accepted for assessment and this could possibly be part of an objective for the campaign. VP GSBS said she will work on communications with SHLS and SEBE

ACTION – VP GSBS to work on communications around recycled paper with SHLS and SEBE

VP GSBS also made the point that paper submission takes place as well as online submission which can be an issue for students to have to travel in just to hand in an assignment and that there should just be paperless/online submission.

E+E Officer agreed stating students would love paperless but that there could be issues in specific courses (eg Forensic Investigation) as paper submissions are relevant to the later career.

VP GSBS agreed this could be an issue but it would look good to get into the PVC Academic's digital idea. E+E Officer said that it could be difficult to change staff attitudes but this could also be something to work on.

ACTION – E+E Officer + VP GSBS with support of Clerk to create action plan for campaign

At this point it was decided that the rest of the outcomes could be worked on at a later date. VP GSBS liked the idea of focusing on less campaigns as they would ultimately lead to more impact.

c. Any other ideas

No other ideas were discussed at this time as it was felt that the two campaigns mentioned previously would be enough for the group to focus on.

6. AOCB

Clerk mentioned that the Communications and Media Co-ordinator had been in touch stating that the current Ethical and Environmental logo was in breach of brand guidelines and that the group had to either alter the logo and remove the GCU Students' Association logo or come up with a new one.

VP GSBS said she found this confusing as this was a group not a society so was unclear if the same rules applied. She then queried if a student could create the logo.

ACTION – Clerk to check if a student can design a group logo.

The E+E Officer said that she liked the current logo but it looks a bit plain but said she would look into it.

ACTION – E+E Officer to liaise with Communications and Media Co-ordinator about branding

7. Date of next meeting - tbc