

Minutes of the 2nd Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2021/22

Meeting held on Monday, 6th December 2021, on Microsoft Teams, at 5.00pm.

Sign In:

Present: Vincent Waters (Chair); Jonnie England (ViceChair); Adil Rahoo (Student President); Olivia Hall (VP SCEBE); Priscilla Otuagoma (VP GSBS); Tabitha Nyariki (VP SHLS); River Gowans (RG); Sohaib Saleem (SS); Jessica Greig (JG); Joshua Foster (JF); Jodie Murdoch (JM); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Natalie Timoshkina (NT); Christiana Opoku Afriyie (CO); Maryam Chishti (MC); Katie Moffat (KM); Louise Dunn (LD); Karolina Syrek (KS); Abbie Houston (AH); Abdul Rafiq (AR); Liam Brown (LB); Julius Cesar Alejandre (JC); Maeve Curtin (MAC); Sadida Hasan (SH); Laiba Tareen (LT); Bhavanishanker Sharma (BS); Rachel Gibson (RG); Tun Nadia Aminuddin (TN); Zainab Ali (ZA); Raiyen Mehmood (RM); Afia Kazmi (AK); Vamsi Chaitanya Suriseti (VC); Hamza Saleem (HS);

Absent: Stefan Fisher (SF); Erin Rooney (ER); Natalie Lindsay (NL); Georgia Smith (GS); Mubeen Mahmood (MM); Zorena Shanks (ZS); Angelika Magiera (AM); Rachael Hutchison (RH); Syed Ali Hasan (SA); Reece Manson (REM); Rida Munir (RMU); Nicola McMaster (NM); Robert Gallacher (RGA); Kamalpreet Badi (KB)

Apologies: Catherine Mackie (CM); Kenneth Heap (KH); Ghulam Sidique (GUS); Monica Day (MD); Helen Bolland (HB); Charles Gribben (CG); Cols Young (CY); Kelly Dwyer (KD); Rebecca Lawlor (RL); Hailee Wilson (HW); Zeinab Farhat (ZF); Michaela Ditrichova (MID); Douglas Livingston (DL); David Grimm (DG)

In attendance: Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader), Raisah Khan (Clerk), Jennie Webster (Head of Faith Societies)

Observers: David Carse, Ian Kerr, Danny Gallacher

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 second digital meeting of Student Voice for 2021/22. 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.

The Chair explained that the next Student Voice meeting is intended to be a hybrid meeting taking place in person and online.

2. Revised The EDIT Policy Document

The Editor in Chief presented the proposed changes to the revised The EDIT Policy Document. The proposed changes include additional guidance around copyright laws, particularly around photography. Also, the paper proposed a change in section name. Fashion will become Fashion & Beauty, along with a change to Fashion Editor to become Fashion & Beauty Editor. The Communications & Media Coordinator changed to Societies Coordinator. The Vice Chair suggested

creating a catalogue of copyright free pictures which could be used for future content. The Editor in Chief agreed to take this forward.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the revised The EDIT Policy Document. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The revised The EDIT Policy Document was approved.

3. Revised Radio Caley Policy Document

The Radio Station Manager presented the proposed changes to the revised Radio Caley Policy Document. The Head of Fundraising role will be removed as the position has not been filled within the last few years. The responsibilities will be shared between the Radio Station Manager and Head of Events instead. JC raised concerns over the implications of removing this role and how the extra responsibilities will be managed. The Radio Station Manager assured Student Voice that the work load will be shared amongst the team and the responsibilities will be taken care of properly. Due to the ongoing restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Radio Station has only recently gained access to the station room and will focus on its development.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the revised Radio Caley Policy. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 3; Abstention: 3.** The revised Radio Caley Policy Document was approved.

4. Motion on Block Grant Increase

The Vice Chair presented the Motion on a Block Grant Increase. The Vice Chair explained that the Block Grant is University funding for the Students' Association. It is the main source of income and hence determines what the Students' Association can undertake for the benefits of students. The Block Grant has failed to increase (and in fact decreased) in 5 years. The motion called for Full Time Officers to negotiate a block grant increase to at least the Scottish average per student (as calculated by NUS) in the next fiscal year and to negotiate at least an inflation meeting increase subsequently for the next five years. The Student President highlighted that whilst the Block Grant has not increased in recent years, the figures presented did not take into account other funding from the University or 'in-kind' support. He highlighted that in the recent audited accounts provided to Student Voice that the University had provided additional funding of c£6,400 to install a Dual Mode Room and £16,000 as a replacement for BaxterStorey Sponsorship for the Re:Union Bar & Grill within the academic year 2021/22. The Student President explained it was difficult to undertake a like for like comparison against other associations or unions as some were charged back costs such as for building leases and utility costs etc. To a point raised about whether the Students' Association would ask for either an increase or a decrease to the Block Grant, the Student President clarified through the chat function that he was proposing a more flexible approach to negotiations with the University, rather than asking for a proposed decrease to the Block Grant. He highlighted he was keen to establish an annual budget negotiation process between the Students' Association and University.

The Chair instructed members to stop using the chat function on Microsoft Teams for the rest of the meeting due to the poor conduct of some individuals.

The Student President proposed an amendment 'A budget request is sent to the University proposing the amount for a Block Grant'.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the amendment. **Vote: For: 11; Against: 0; Abstentions: 6.** The amendment was approved.

JC proposed an amendment 'This motion is calling for Full Time Officers to have a budget consultation with the student body and negotiate a budget proposal based on the consultation.'

The Chair called for a vote to approve the amendment. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 3; Abstentions: 4.** The amendment was approved.

The Chair called for a vote for the Motion on Block Grant Increase with both amendments. **Vote: For: 18; Against: 5; Abstentions: 4.** The Motion on Block Grant Increase was approved.

The Chair highlighted that the 2 amendments conflicted with each other and asked the Full Time Officers to consider this at the Executive Committee on how these will work in practice and to feed this back to Student Voice. **Action: Full Time Officers.**

5. Revised Elections Rules

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the revised Election Rules 2021-22. The Election Rules are reviewed yearly incorporating learning from the previous year and feedback from candidates and other stakeholders. The Election Rules work in conjunction with Schedule 4 (Elections) to the Constitution and the Code of Practice relating to the operation of the Students' Association. Some of the proposed changes include an update to GDPR rules to include Group Messaging Services, introduction of a copyright rule, introduction of a Student Media rule on fair and balanced coverage and introduction of a 'Period of Sensitivity'. It was also highlighted that there is no specific COVID rule but candidates will be required to follow Scottish and GCU guidance on COVID safety.

The Chair called for a vote to approved the revised Election Rules 2021-22. **Vote: For: 22; Against: 1; Abstentions: 3.** The revised Election Rules 2021-22 were approved.

6. By-Law changes from Equality and Diversity Committee

The Vice President GSBS presented the proposed revisions to the By-Laws as proposed by the Equality and Diversity Committee. These proposals followed a review of the Liberation/Representation Groups during the academic year 2020/21. The proposed changes include the change of name from Liberation or Representation Groups to become a Liberation or Representation Network, to change the name from Equality and Diversity Committee to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and for the new Caledonian Court Officer to become a member of this Committee. The Vice President GSBS explained the rationale for these changes.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the proposals outlined within the paper. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2.** The By-Law changes as outlined within the paper were approved.

7. Ideas

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

7.1. Raise awareness of the needs of disabled students

'Using the campus parking over the summer as a blue badge holder, I was shocked to see how many students/staff who are non-blue badge holders abuse the parking spaces. On one day, I had to park elsewhere as there was no blue badge parking available, it was all taken by non-badge holders. When I talked to someone who had just parked up they told me that they were allowed to park in these bays as it was the summer break. Sadly, disability doesn't take a summer break, and as such the university needs to raise awareness of how important these spaces are and get tough on those who abuse them. Just because it's out of term time, is not an excuse.

I'm asking if Student Disability can run a media campaign about the needs of disabled students on campus and also for estates only to allow cars onto campus that show their blue badge at the barrier before it is raised.'

The Vice Chair highlighted that this Idea fits in well with the individual objective of the Student President. There were no further questions from Student Voice.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea to run a campaign on the needs of disabled students on campus and that users of disabled parking spaces must show their Blue Badge on the dashboard of the car..

Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 5. The Idea was approved. The Student President agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Student President.**

7.2. GCU Website

'The GCU website is extremely cumbersome to use and often links are out of date. Personally, I find it very difficult to navigate and/or find relevant information. I know from speaking with various other people that they also have a difficult time using the website. I think the GCU website needs to be more coherent and up to date with modern sites.'

Student Voice agreed that there are issues with navigating the GCU website and this Idea will make it easier to use for both current and new students. The Vice President SHLS informed Student Voice that the GCU website is currently being reviewed but this Idea could push for it to become more user friendly.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea of GCU Website. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 4; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President GSBS agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

7.3. Flu Boosters

'I think that healthcare students, especially those with placements in hospitals and in the community, should be offered flu vaccines each year. All NHS and social care staff, and other key workers for local authorities are offered this. We are on the front line as much as many of them, and it is a struggle for many students to find the money to pay for this.'

The Chair explained that according to current guidance, anyone working for the NHS in a patient facing role will be given their flu vaccinations on the NHS. Students on placements are included in this.

KS suggested an improvement to extend flu vaccinations to everyone in SHLS regardless of placement.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 15; Against: 9; Abstentions: 2.** The improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea with an improvement to extend flu vaccinations to everyone in SHLS regardless of placement. **Vote: For: 15; Against: 7; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SHLS agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President SHLS.**

7.4. Library Hours

'As a person who studies best at odd hours I find it frustrating that our library's opening hours are so short compared to other universities. I would like to see an extension of these hours (7am-12am) and would suggest 24hrs during exam periods.'

The Vice President SCEBE explained that due to the COVID restrictions, this may not be possible to achieve in this academic year but can be achieved for future years. It was clarified that the Library is normally 24 hours during the exam periods.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea for extended Library Hours. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 4; Abstentions: 3.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SCEBE agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

7.5. More green space to wit walk and chill between lectures

'Wherever possible, it would be great to create more green spaces on the campus, for example, make the library terrace more appealing by adding more plants and benches.

There is nowhere nice to walk around GCU really, not unless you go all the way to Glasgow Green. Creating more paths with benches, planting some trees and plants at the campus would create more walking and private spaces for a quick recharge before the next lecture.

Not to mention designated napping areas for those of us who need it after lunch!

The Vice President SHLS explained there are many green spaces on/near campus but these are not advertised well to students such as The Library Rooftop Garden and Hidden Garden. Student Voice agreed it would be better to utilise the green spaces that currently exist by having better access and equipment such as benches and umbrellas.

Student Voice members suggested an improvement to improve the green spaces instead of increasing them.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1.** The improvement was approved.

JC suggested an improvement to have better access to spaces, better equipment and better promotion.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2.** The improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea with both of the improvements. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved. The Ethical & Environmental Officer agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Ethical & Environmental Officer.**

7.6. Students to take a compulsory 'understanding sexual consent' test in their first year

'A small way to educate young adults on the importance of consent and what it means. Easy, inexpensive and in line with the values of the university - potentially will help with a very serious issue.'

Student Voice members raised concerns over how feasible and appropriate it would be to have a compulsory test on sexual consent for students.

ZA suggested an improvement to change compulsory test to an optional workshop which students can complete.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 3; Abstentions: 3.** The improvement was approved.

The Vice President SCEBE suggested having an optional online module on GCU Learn (not workshop).

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 5; Abstentions: 2.**
The improvement was approved.

AK suggested a further improvement to have educational content on respect for women.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 7; Abstentions: 4.**
The improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea with all of the improvements. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 3; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SCEBE agreed to take forward this Idea.
Action: Vice President SCEBE.

8. Elections

The Chair called for nominations for the remaining Student Voice Elected Positions 2021/22.

8.1. Elections Committee

Student Voice noted that the remaining position for the Equality and Diversity Committee has been filled by the Vice Chair.

The Vice Chair called for nominations for the positions of 3 x Elections Committee Student Representatives.

- Hamza Saleem
- Rachel Gibson
- Zainab Ali

The Vice Chair congratulated Hamza Saleem, Rachel Gibson and Zainab Ali for becoming members of the Elections Committee.

9. Full Time Officer Reports

The Chair invited the Student Voice members to ask the Full Time Officers questions about their written reports.

The Vice Chair asked the Vice President SCEBE why there has been no progress on the individual objective on investigating the need for a social support network for students who have graduated. The Vice President SCEBE explained that the first 2 objectives have required a lot of work in Trimester A but assured that work towards this individual objective will begin before Christmas and continue into Trimester B.

There were no further questions asked in relation to the Full Time Officer Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the reports. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.**
The Full Time Officers Reports were approved.

10. Student Voice Officer Reports

The Chair invited the Student Voice members to ask Student Voice Officers questions about their written reports.

No questions were asked in relation to the Student Voice Officer Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to approve the report. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.** The Student Voice Officer Reports was approved.

11. 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 by 15 minutes.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the proposal of extending the meeting by 15 minutes. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 9; Abstention: 0.** The proposal of extending the meeting was approved.

12. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation

The Chair presented the list of new clubs and societies seeking affiliation to the Students' Association. This list included:

- PENZA Glasgow
- GCU Mooting Society

The Chair welcomed the Head of Faith Societies, Jennie Webster, from the Societies Council who was invited to answer questions regarding the PENZA Glasgow Society affiliation as this societies affiliation had not been approved at the previous Student Voice meeting. There were various concerns raised by members about the affiliation of the PENZA Glasgow Society. The main concern was that their aims are too similar to that of the Christian Union. Other factors raised by members as an objection to its affiliation is that the society is affiliated to a national body (ie The Church of Pentecost UK) and that within the Pentecostal religion that marriage within this religion can only be between a biological man and women as defined at birth and the implications for trans student members. The Chair clarified that other societies are affiliated to national bodies and that this was permissible within the Students' Association. However, it was highlighted that their national affiliation could be better explained in their affiliation proposal. CO explained that the Pentecostal Church had different doctrines and beliefs to other Christian faiths and was particularly popular with various ethnic minorities. It was noted on the issue of marriage by only biological man and woman may be pertinent more widely to other faiths and therefore directly or indirectly for other faith based societies. The Chair suggested the GCU logo is removed from the national PENZA website until the society have been approved for affiliation.

There were no questions on the GCU Mooting Society.

The Chair invited members to vote for each Club and Society separately.

The Chair called for a vote to approve GCU Mooting Society. **Vote: For: 16; Against: 4; Abstention: 4.** The GCU Mooting Society was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve PENZA Glasgow Society. **Vote: For: 8; Against: 14; Abstention: 1.** The PENZA Glasgow Society was not approved.

[Clerk's notes: At the Trustee Board meeting on Monday 13th December 2021, the Trustees considered a paper on the decision of Student Voice not to affiliate the PENZA Glasgow Society. Following a lengthy discussion, the Trustee Board agreed to allow the society to continue to operate as a Starter Society. A paper will be presented on behalf of the Trustee Board to the next meeting of Student Voice to explain the rationale behind this decision and to request reconsideration of affiliation of PENZA Glasgow as a society.]

13. Strategic Plan 2025- Key Performance Indicator (KPI)

The Student President provided an update on the development of the Strategic Plan 2025. The revised Mission, Vision and Values, Strategic Themes and Objectives have been approved by the Trustee Board. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets are currently being finalised. The final KPIs are being presented to the Trustee Board on 13th December 2021 for approval. The Big Actions, Communications and Impact KPIs are still being developed. There were no questions asked by Student Voice members.

14. Minutes of Student Voice meeting on 25th October 2021

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 25th October 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 25th October 2021. **Vote: For: 18; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 25th October 2021 were approved.

15. Matters Arising from meeting on 25th October 2021

The Chair asked the members if there were any questions about the matters arising. No questions were asked in relation to matters arising.

16. Student Voice Committees

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

17. Revised Elections Timetable 2021-22

Student Voice noted the revised Elections Timetable 2021-22.

18. A.O.C.B

18.1 Student Voice Meeting 21.02.22

The next Student Voice meeting will be taking place on Monday 21st February 2022. It was hoped that this would be a hybrid meeting where members could choose to attend in person or online. Details will be confirmed by the Clerk.

The Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance and engagement at the second Student Voice meeting 2021/22.

The meeting was concluded at 7.15pm.