

## **Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2021/22**

Meeting held on Monday, 04<sup>th</sup> April 2022, in-person in CEE15&16 and on Microsoft Teams, at 5.20pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Vincent Waters (Chair); Jonnie England (ViceChair); Adil Rahoo (Student President); Olivia Hall (VP SCEBE); Tabitha Nyariki (VP SHLS); Tarik Basbugoglu (TB); Annamae Burrows (AB); Vamsi Chaitanya Suriseti (VS); Michaela Ditrichova (MD); Joshua Foster (JF); Robert Gallagher (ROG); Rachel Gibson (RAG); River Gowans (RIG); David Grimm (DG); Afia Kazmi (AK); Jodie Murdoch (JM); Abdul Rafiq (AR); Sohaib Saleem (SS); Bhavanishanker Sharma (BS)

**Absent:** Tun Nadia Aminuddin (TA); Helen Bolland (HB); Stefan Fisher (SF); Syed Ali Hassan (SAH); Kenneth Heap (KH); Rachael Hutchison (RH); Rebecca Lawlor (RL); Natalie Lindsay (NL); Douglas Livingston (DL); Reece Manson (RM); Nicola McMaster (NM); Raiyen Mehmood (RM); Katie Moffat (KM); Michaela O'Hara (KO); Christiana Opoku Afriyie (CA); Hamza Saleem (HS); Zorena Shanks (ZS); Ghulam Sidique (GS); Georgina Smith (GS); Sreejith Suresh (SRS); Karolina Syrek (KS); Natalia Timoshkina (NT); Oliver Wright (OW)

**Apologies:** Priscilla Otuagoma (VP GSBS); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Zainab Farhat (ZF); Catherine Mackie (CM); Liam Brown (LB); Erin Rooney (ER); Jessica Greig (JG); Louise Dunn (LD); Maryam Chishti (MC); Sadida Hasan (SH); Abbie Houston (AH); Charles Gribben (CG); Laiba Tareen (LT); Kelly Dwyer (KD); Cols Young (CY); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Kamalpreet Badi (KB)

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

**Observers:** Monica Allen (MA)

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 5.20pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the fourth and final meeting of Student Voice for 2021/22. It was communicated that this was a hybrid event with members both in attendance in-person and online.

Members were made aware that this meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking and would be destroyed once the minutes had been collated and approved at the next Student Voice meeting. Members online were asked to keep their cameras on and microphones off unless they wanted to discuss something or present a paper. The Chair asked members in-person to raise their voting card and those online to raise a digital hand if they wished to speak or vote. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

As with the previous Student Voice meeting, the voting system used followed the format: votes for 'abstentions' will be counted first, followed by those 'against', then the remaining number of voters were counted as 'for' the motion. Observers were reminded not to place a vote.

## **2. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

The Chair invited members to consider the minute of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote on the Minute of Student Voice Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022. **Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Minute of Student Voice Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 was approved.

## **3. Matters Arising**

The Chair asked the members if there were any questions about the matters arising. There were no further comments or discussions on this matter.

## **4. Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

The Chair asked the members if there were any questions relating to the Committees of Student Voice Minutes. There were no questions.

The Chair called for a vote on the previous minutes of Student Voice Sub Committees, taken collectively.

**Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The previous minutes of Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

## **5. Full Time Officer Reports**

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

There were no questions or comments raised to the full time officers regarding their submitted reports.

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

**Vote: For: 14; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

## **6. Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Chair thanked the officers that submitted reports and invited student voice members to ask the Representation Officers and two Media Groups questions about their written reports.

There were no questions or comments raised in relation to the Student Voice Officers reports and updates.

The Chair noted the fact that the majority of officers, including department reps, had failed to submit written reports, though this is a condition of their position. He expressed the view that this was not acceptable and hoped for better in the coming year.

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

**Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

## 7. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation

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

- Palestine Society
- Business Society

The Chair stated that the proposed societies would be considered separately beginning with the Palestine Society.

The Chair acknowledged that the Chair and relevant head of Societies Council were not present to speak to either proposal, before inviting the Student Voice members to discuss the proposed affiliation.

Vice Chair commented that if upon approval, would the Students' Association be seen to be taking a political stance and that we need to be careful that we are not seen as taking a side i.e. with no current Israeli society. DG further asked if the university would be seen as favouring a side amongst conflict and with the Students' Association being attached to the university, will this cause a backlash on both the society and association.

AK commented that if we were to vote against the Palestine Society that it could be perceived that we were unfairly targeting them. If there were to be an Israeli Society proposed, that this is fine and both societies could work and communicate together to unite as opposed to political conflict. AR added that this would only be seen as political if we were to make it political and used the example that we have both a Pakistan and Indian society. Furthermore, societies are here to provide a second home for students that are not native to Glasgow. Having societies, and if there were to be an Israeli society added, promotes unity as opposed to conflict.

The Student President comment that the approval of this society does not make us pick a side, that it is adding a society that helps students, it shouldn't be a question whether there is an Israeli society or not. It was added that our student members should have a space to form a community between themselves and that is what the association is here to represent and support. Vice Chair responded to the student president, acknowledging the sentiment but raised that the society objectives are political including the raising of awareness of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

DG added to this stating that regardless of intension, public image is public image and that this will make us look affiliated to the political intension. AK felt that we should prioritise supporting people that need help.

The Chair commented that he would not speak as Chair on the proposal, but as a member of SV he contended that there is no easy answer to this. Parallel to the stance of the UN it was stated that Palestine is a place that should be a country, that there is nothing wrong with being political as a student, voicing for change and speaking up to say when you feel that, whether political or sociological, that not enough is getting done or something is wrong.

The Chair called for a vote on the Palestine Society application. **Vote: For: 14; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The Palestine Society was approved.

The Chair announced that the second society application proposed was the Business Society. The Chair opened the floor for questions or comments.

There were no questions or comments raised in relation to the Business Society proposition.

The Chair called for a vote on the Business Society. **Vote: For: 16; Against: 0; Abstention: 3.** The Business Society was approved.

## **8. Honorary Life Membership Nominations**

The Chair clarified the process and explanation of honorary life memberships and added that any student can nominate a person that is either a student or that has a close connection to the Students' Association.

The following GCU students were proposed for honorary life memberships: River Gowans, Jonnie England, Kirsten Burningham and Sohaib Saleem. The following non-students were proposed: Professor Pamela Gillies and Rebecca Meechan.

The Student President explained that the Executive Committee had a formal meeting to discuss the names shortlisted. Each Full Time Officer put forward a candidate before discussing if they met the criteria of a life membership in alignment with the values and mission of the Students' Association. It was added that the two non-students have worked closely, aided development and directly helped the Students' Association.

There were no questions or comments raised in relation to Honorary Life Memberships.

The Chair called for a vote on the Honorary Life Memberships. **Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The Honorary Life Memberships were approved.

## **9. Personal Tutoring Review Update**

VP GSBS was absent to present this update.

The Chair explained that the university is currently reviewing personal tutoring and would like the involvement of the Students' Association. They have asked for one or two focus groups involving students representing all academic schools for either in-person or online discussion regarding their experience of personal tutoring. Eight people agreed to partake in this. The Student Voice Leader will get in touch with those participants to progress the matter.

## **10. Ideas**

### **a. Free Access to Gym Facilities for All Students**

Unfortunately, the presenter of this idea was not in attendance. The Chair invited the Student Voice members to ask any questions or make comments about the proposed idea.

DG asked how this proposal would be funded. The Student Voice Team Lead read out the idea statement that was provided and it was added that there is no proposition of how this would be funded although it would be expected that the university would incur this cost.

ROG asked how this cost would affect the university. The Chair commented that although the university does have a positive surplus due to the pandemic, there are going to be cuts in budgets that this would need to cover. It would likely be that funding for this would be taken from another area in need of funding.

The Chair asked if there were any improvements to be made to this idea or if anyone would like to speak against the proposition.

VP SHLS commented that although this is generally a good idea, in terms of priorities for student services, this will be reducing funding and other resources in areas that are already currently lacking funding. In addition to this, the proposal will take up Full Time Officer time that can be better spent on the services that directly help all students. This was echoed by the Vice Chair who commented that other areas of work will need to be side-lined to take this on. DG added that this would take up valuable time for the Full Time Officers, that the current gym membership is already very affordable and that although they did not dismiss the idea, that other areas are in more desperate need of resources. VP SCEBE added that perhaps the officer that looks after sports could work towards cheaper deals and limited promotions such as 1 free month etc. However, it was acknowledged that this has not been wildly successful in the past. Furthermore, it was raised that if funding was made to make the gym free to everyone, would enough people use the service to warrant this.

AK commented that if a student is stressing about money and need exercise to aid with their mental health, that this is a great idea. Furthermore, it was said that it is not believed that people that do not currently use the gym would suddenly start to, that this will be benefiting those that already use it, so cost would not be incurring the overall student population.

ROG suggested a compromise in which discounts could be given to those who apply, such as for student voice members, class representatives, full time officers etc. It was further added that perhaps those struggling with mental health couple apply separately for a reduced price or free pass through the mental health team. AK agreed that this was a good idea, that a free pass could be applied for and granted on a case by case basis.

The Chair acknowledged that free access to the gym facilities could make a huge difference to peoples mental health.

The Chair proposed an improvement to the idea: that the university would provide funding for a social prescription of free arc access. A free pass would be prescribed through wellbeing services on a case-by-case basis, to improve mental health for those students who are in contact with that service and the service deems would benefit from ARC access.

The Chair called for a vote on the improvement for wellbeing services to prescribe free passes for the arc to improve mental health on a case by case basis. **Vote: For: 16; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3.** The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvement. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. The new Full Time Officer that takes over as lead of mental health will take forward this idea. **Action: New Full Time Officer with lead for mental health - TBC.**

## **11. Motion – Yearly Re-Approval of Affiliate Societies**

The Vice Chair presented their motion as written in the papers and invited Student Voice members to ask any questions or provide comments about this motion.

VP SHLS asked if this is a yearly approval, how will it affect students beginning in January who wish to start a new society. Vice Chair clarified that new societies are still submitted to Student Voice for approval as normal, that this motion was only for re-approval. VP SHLS further asked if this would be affected if throughout a year, Student Voice no longer wish for a society to be affiliated. Vice Chair confirmed that this would be investigated at the time and would not change this policy. It was further clarified that every year, societies must re-apply to remain affiliated.

There were no amendments proposed to this motion.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2.** The Yearly Re-Approval of Affiliate Societies Motion was approved.

## **12. Motion – Rename the Bar in the Students' Association**

The Vice Chair presented his motion as written in the paper, and commented that renaming the bar will start the process of reinvigorating the bar and what it is supposed to embody going forward. It was originally proposed that the bar would be self-sustaining, owned and operated by the Students' Association with income from the bar used to support other student services.

The Vice Chair invited Student Voice members to ask any questions or provide comments about this motion.

DG asked, in the interest of fairness, if the university as a whole would be asked for new name suggestions as opposed to just Student Voice members. Vice Chair commented that the point of a student parliament is to have a cross section of students from the university.

VP SCEBE commented that a new name makes sense with the rebranding of the bar as new seating, lighting and general atmosphere is being added over the summer. AK added that this may help create a fresh start and energise people to engage with the bar area. They added a suggestion to allow all students to have a say in the new name.

ROG made an observation that currently, the bar is not busy, possibly due to the style, atmosphere, ripped pool tables and lack of beverage choice.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion. **Vote: For: 18; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The motion to Rename the bar in the Students' Association was approved.

The Vice Chair agreed that opening suggestions to the full university is a good idea, but it needed to be decided when and how to best achieve this. VP SHLS highlighted that there are already three surveys currently sent out to students which may have an impact on replies for another email based survey and suggested that we explore a more creative avenue. RAG suggested the use of social media polls e.g. Instagram. ROG further suggested a physical sticker wall for suggestions similar to what was used for valentine's day. Vice Chair continued that a physical wall planted in the Students' Association and the George Moore building could be a great way to create engagement and perhaps prevent large quantities of irrelevant suggestions that could spam a social media poll.

The Chair followed by suggesting the Campus Life desk as well as an online wall and commented on the proposed timeline to make this happen, for example, by week 12. ROG added that social media may still be used but to direct students to using the physical walls. The Chair followed with the idea of a QR code that can be posted around campus as well as the physical wall to allow for online suggestions.

VP SHLS asked if the executive committee would make the final decision on this or if it should return to Student Voice. The Chair confirmed that there is too long a gap between now and the next Student Voice meeting when the bar refurbishment is to take place over summer.

The Chair confirmed that Student Team Lead will shortlist the top four names raised for the bar and open electronic voting to student voice members to pick the top suggestion to finalise the name. VP SCEBE will action the boards and online form for suggesting new names for the bar. **Action: VP SCEBE and Student Voice Team Leader.**

## **13. Revised Transport Policy**

VP SHLS confirmed that members had read the paper and asked if there were any questions about the Revised Transport Policy.

There were no questions or comments regarding the policy.

The Chair called for a vote on the Revised Transport Policy. **Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstentions: 4.** The Revised Transport Policy was approved.

#### **14. Revised Sustainability Policy**

It was noted that this policy had been delayed for review by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic but that there are some amendments to the paper. VP SHLS confirmed that members had read the paper and asked if there were any questions about the Revised Sustainability Policy.

There were no questions or comments regarding the policy.

The Chair called for a vote on the Revised Sustainability Policy. **Vote: For: 16; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3.** The Revised Sustainability Policy was approved.

#### **15. Full Time Officer Competency Framework**

The chair confirmed that this paper was for discussion only.

It was commented that this was the first attempt at drafting the document. The chair asked the members if there were any questions or comments on the Full Time Officer Competency Framework.

The Vice Chair asked if the Executive Committee had been consulted over this document. Further to that, it was asked if former Full Time Officers had been contacted for their retrospective view on the framework, and if not, why not. VP SHLS commented that that they were unaware of previous Full Time Officers being contacted for their consultation but was unsure on the rationale for this. The Vice Chair further suggested that the previous Full Time Officers should be contacted as they may have ideas and comments after they had left their post that they may not have had whilst they were here.

The Chair commented that, as someone who has stood for election in the past, in the “real world”, that they find it odd that we need a competency framework to stand for a post. It was said that views of the voters make the final decision on elective representatives regardless of their competency. Once they have been elected to a role, their work will show their competency, the devil in the detail being how they are managed in their post.

#### **16. Student Voice Elections 2022/23**

The Chair and Student Voice Team Leader explained the posts that are currently due for election and what each role entails. It was clarified that you cannot be a Student Voice Chair or Vice Chair and stand for any other post.

The Vice Chair, as returning officer, asked for members to nominate themselves to a role if they wish. The following were the results of these elections:

##### **Student Voice Elections 2022/23**

- Chair: Karolina Syrek
- Vice Chair: Robert Gallacher
- Fresher’s Committee: Rachel Gibson
- Senate: Rachel Gibson; Jodie Murdoch; David Grimm; Olivia Hall

- Senate Disciplinary: Robert Gallacher; Jodie Murdoch; David Grimm
- Honorary Degrees: David Grimm

Those positions left unfilled will be raised at Student Voice 1.

#### **17. Student Trustees**

The chair confirmed that the deadline for applications is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022. There are four positions available and those wishing to apply must be a student next year.

#### **18. Star Awards**

It was communicated that nominations had closed on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 although tickets can still be bought for the event.

#### **19. Teaching Awards 2022**

Members were told that the deadline for nominations is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

#### **20. Annual Student Survey 2022**

Members were told that the deadline for submission is 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

#### **21. Student Partnership Agreement**

VP GSBS is in charge of the Student Partnership Agreement but was not present to discuss. VP SHLS commented that the agreement has had quite a large refresh and encourages member to get involved, to encourage fellow students and to attend any consultants and the more engagement received, the better.

#### **22. A.O.C.B**

There was no further business to be discussed.

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

**The meeting was concluded at 6.40pm.**