

Minutes of the 3rd Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2022/23

Meeting held on Monday, 20th February 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); Jennifer Abali (VP SHLS); Hammad Amer (HA); Loveth Ayetoba (LA); Ryan Brown (RB); Kanwal Chaudhry (KC); Eben Crichton (EC); Lewechi Emeana (LE); Rachel-Louise Gibson (RG); Katy Gillespie (KG); Daniele Giustini (DG); David Grimm (DGR); Zoe Ingram (ZI); Pranali Khatri (PK); Zubaida Kiran (ZK); Aspen Milledge (AMI); Felix Oluwatobi Olowokere (FO); Bolaji Oyewo (BO); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Anoop Pk (AP); Ahmer Riaz (AR); Louisa Richardson (LR); Miranda Romero Torres (MT); Pulaporn Sreewichian (PSR); Aryan Srivastava (AS); Smit Trivedi (ST); Daniel Williams (DW); Swati Yadav (SY)

Absent: Derthinn Bushell (DB); Sheryl Cunningham (SCU); Emma-Clare Darby (ED); Stefan Fisher (SF); Laura Fitzsimmons (LF); Louise Hannah (LH); Antonio Hegar (AH); Joel Jacob (JJ); Alireza Mahdian-Amroabadi (AM); Jessica Michael-Odobi (JM); Jayalakshmy Mololath (JMO); Aliyah Noel (AN); Christian Nwazuloke (CNW); Taiwo Olaleye (TO)

Apologies: Noemi Buracchi (NB); Sofia Congradyova (SC); Gordon Edwards (GE); Joshua Foster (JF); River Gowans (RGO); Liam Loporini (LL); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Chidozie Nwaigwe (CN); Gino Obaseki (GO); Chris Opoku (CO); Jaik Robertson (JR); Peter Scheibenhoffer (PS); Priyaben Solanki (PSO); Eilidh Stewart (ES);

In attendance: Alistair Robertson (PVC Learning & Teaching); Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Philip Morton (Clerk),

Observers: Duncan Robertson (DR)

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 third 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. Draft Student Partnership Agreement

The Student President presented the Draft Student Partnership Agreement and gave a brief overview and how the university and Students' Association have worked collaboratively to revise this document. It was further noted that consultation and feedback has taken place with both staff and students to create the agreement. The Executive Committee recently reviewed the language used in the document to ensure it read in a 'student friendly' manner but did not make further amendments that changed the content of the document.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching reiterated that significant consultation and engagement with staff and students. It was further confirmed that this paper would be raised at Senate and the Students' Association Trustee Board before approval will be sought from University Court. It was commented that a website is being created for the Student Partnership Agreement that will include case studies, videos and further content to show examples of this partnership in action.

DG asked how student input would be conveyed on the website and how long it will take for this process to begin. Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching stated that student input would be fairly open and are open minded to what students' would like to be included under the four key principles of the agreement. It was further confirmed that if the Student Partnership Agreement is approved at University Court in April, that examples of content could be supplied after this with the launch of the agreement beginning in the next academic year of 2023/24.

3. Full Time Officer Reports

Vice President SHLS highlighted ongoing discussions with the university to help with the cost of living crisis for students with the planned introduction of a community pantry.

The Student President confirmed that discretionary and childcare funding for students in financial crisis is available for international students. This is not yet communicated on the university website but international students are currently eligible to apply and information will be updated.

Vice President SCEBE signposted a careers drop-in organised with the careers team that is available for all students to attend as well as their work with the university on Carbon Literacy Training being made available for all staff and students. It was further noted that the university are working on extending the free breakfast initiative to help with the cost of living crisis for the rest of trimester B.

BO acknowledged the introduction of the new 'find my class rep' programme and praised this piece of work.

Vice President GSBS commented that at the previous Student Voice meeting, it was asked if menu revisions could cater for halal meat. It was confirmed that in relation to the proposed African food menu that halal options would be available.

In relation to the GCU app development, Vice President GSBS is creating a survey for students' to fill out on features they would like added to the app. It was commented that they are attempting to create a hub of information and data that can be accessed from one place such as timetables, library services, scholarships and more.

AS asked if GSBS have plans for more career information services such as SCEBE and SHLS has. Vice President GSBS commented that this will be discussed further with the Dean of GSBS for how to promote more opportunities.

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

Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0. The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

4. Student Voice Officer Reports

Student Voice Officers were asked if they would like to present a verbal report.

AS introduced themselves as the new International Officer. They commented that they are focussing on an intercultural event with support from the Full Time Officer team as well as seeking to introduce free tea and coffee sessions for students to take a break from studies during stressful assignment periods.

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

Vote: For: 23; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1. The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

5. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation

Vice President SHLS presented the list of new societies seeking affiliation to the Students' Association in the absence of the Societies Council Chair and provided a brief overview of each.

Affiliation for Societies:

- CaledoMUN
- Student Solidarity Society
- Dietetics Society

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation.

Vote: For: 19; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1. The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were approved.

6. Motion: Close GCU New York

DGR presented their motion to close GCU New York. It was commented that GCU are currently struggling with the number of lecturers to students and that investment is needed. Although exact numbers cannot be obtained, it is said that it costs roughly £20 million per year to operate GCU New York for the 100 students that attend. Whilst staff are currently striking for better wages and working conditions as well as students struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis, it was proposed that the money currently used for GCU New York would be better invested to alleviate these issues.

BO asked where the figures used in the proposal were sourced. DGR commented that GCU have not been transparent on the financials of GCU New York and that the figures obtained were from newspaper articles. It was further stated that GCU should show transparency with these financial figures. AMI noted that they have attempted to obtain more information on GCU New York but were unable to.

PSR asked if there are reputational risks involved and how this could move forward. DGR replied that reputation has already declined with staff and resources not living up to standard and students struggling with their university experience. It was added that this is a proposal to be taken forward to make sure the university know that the Student Voice are unhappy with this current status.

AR asked if the sentiment of alumni has been considered. DGR acknowledged that this is an area that has not been considered. KC commented that if the university was to close, that this would not happen instantly, that there would be time for staff and alumni to complete studies and find other opportunities or employment.

There were no members wishing to speak against this motion.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion: Close GCU New York.

Vote: For: 17; Against: 5; Abstentions: 5. The Motion: Close GCU New York was approved.

7. Revised Societies Policy

Vice President SHLS presented the Revised Societies Policy in the absence of the Societies Chair to be approved.

Vice President SCEBE asked why two similar societies can form in Glasgow and London. Vice President SHLS answered that the London Campus is made up of postgraduate students who are studying for one or two years and may want their own society to join. It was further commented that London students may not have the means or expenses to travel from London to Glasgow on a regular basis for events, meetings etc. The Student President added that students would like for more engagement on the London campus both with the Students' Association and for their own personal belonging.

AR asked if there is a full time student officer currently in London that can aid this engagement. Vice President SHLS confirmed that there is a London Officer in-place for the interest of students studying on that campus and the events they may hold. The Student President further commented that there are academic representatives in London as well as the Student President liaising with the London Officer under their policy remit area to aid with engagement, awareness and information.

BO questioned the need for returning societies that miss deadline to go through the starter society process again. The Chair commented that this is a means for the society to communicate with the Societies Council that they are still an active society so that inactive societies that students may be trying to contact are not automatically re-affiliated.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Societies Policy.

Vote: For: 14; Against: 8; Abstentions: 4. The Revised Societies Policy was approved.

8. Motion: Memorial

DGR proposed the Motion: Memorial, for a bench to be placed with a plaque or a tree to be planted in honour of the recent passing of a GCU student as well as recognising all students that the university has lost. It was commented that the planting of a tree or addition of a bench also ties into the GCU environmental and sustainability policy.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Motion: Memorial.

Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 1. The Motion: Memorial was approved.

9. Ideas

The Chair presented ideas (based on the number of votes submitted on the Students' Association website) for approval.

Investing in the GCU Campus

A statement from the proposer was read by the Student Voice Team Leader conveying their idea for the development of a GCU campus investment strategy to refurbish certain parts of GCU over both long and short-term investments.

Vice President SHLS commented on the timeliness of this idea as the university is currently looking at refurbishment and updating areas such as the Annie Lennox building.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

Vote: For: 14; Against: 1; Abstentions: 3. The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President.**

Access to Specialist Labs during Weekends

Due to the proposer not being present, Vice President SCEBE spoke for the proposed idea.

It was confirmed that specialist labs and equipment should be made available to students that need them and that they would not require a lecturer in attendance.

There were no improvements added to this idea.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

Vote: For: 16; Against: 1; Abstentions: 1. The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

Free Bowl of Soup and a Roll on Production of a Student Card

The Student Voice Team Leader read the idea on the proposers behalf.

LE mentioned that free breakfast for staff and students may be continuing, and if so, if this solves the issue presented here. The Chair commented that the extension applies to breakfast which finishes at 11am but does not give access to a hot meal for those who may not be on campus by this time or those who stay late. DG raised that if a soup was to be supplied, would this change daily as dietary requirements and personal taste may result in students missing out on a free meal. Vice President SHLS acknowledged the universities request for further feedback on ways to help students during the cost of living crisis and proposed that investment spent on initiatives such as free bus travel may be beneficial.

The Student Voice Team Leader confirmed that this idea was submitted prior to the Free Breakfast for Staff and Students initiative being announced.

LE proposed the improvement that that due to the free breakfast intuitive ongoing, that this change to a free meal being available to all students and staff during opening hours on production of a student card.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement a free meal to be available to all students and staff during opening hours on production of a student card.

Vote: For: 18; Against: 1; 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: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0. The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

Take Down Triggering Posters for 'Erase the Grey' Campaign

Due to the proposer not being in attendance, Vice President SHLS spoke on behalf of this idea. It was acknowledged that during a university meeting, that there had been correspondence from both staff and students to remove the campaign materials due to triggering wording. It was noted that the campaign also provides workshops, counselling services, resources and more as well as the posters. DG commented that they have spoken to students who do not agree with the signage and are in favour of this idea.

DGR acknowledged that some people may be triggered by the wording in the campaign but that others have found the campaign to be positive in raising awareness and bringing to attention matters and behaviours which are not regularly spoken about as well as providing support to students. It was noted that the campaign could use tweaking and that more communication could be presented on why the campaign is ongoing and on additional resources provided. LR agreed that that more information should be presented on what else the campaign provides in terms of services, workshops, talks, events etc. DGR commented that the campaign has had a positive effect on women who have not realised that situations they may be in are abusive. LA further commented that the campaign could run for a shorter length with more awareness on confidential support and how students may seek this.

DGR proposed the improvement that the campaign should be re-evaluated with further consultation with students with an emphasis on minimising triggering and where support can be sought.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement for a re-evaluation of the Erase the Grey Campaign

Vote: For: 15; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2. The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the changed improvement to raise more awareness of the support available for students through all of the GCU schools.

Vote: For: 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1. The revised improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed including the revised improvements.

Vote: For: 10; Against: 9; Abstentions: 1. The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President**

Accepting Cash Payments

The proposer was not available for presenting this idea.

ST commented that often when international students arrive in the UK, that they do not have a bank card, and only have cash until this can be setup. For this reason, they are unable to buy food, water etc. within the university due to them not accepting card payments. RB added that cash payment should be allowed for accessibility to all students.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea proposed.

Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2. The Idea was approved. **Action: Student President.**

Lack of Plant Based Milk

As the proposer was unavailable to present the idea, the Chair commented that people with dietary requirements should have the option for plant based milk on campus at all times to accommodate their needs.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the full idea.

Vote: For: 10; Against: 9; Abstentions: 2. The Idea was approved. **Action: Vice President GSBS.**

10. Elections

The Chair presented the Student Voice Elected Positions needing filled for 2022/23. 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:

- Vice Chair of Student Voice (1 position):

Ahmer Riaz

This position was duly elected.

- Senate Rep (1 position):

Aryan Srivastava

This position was duly elected.

- Student Disciplinary Committee (2 positions):

Pranali Khatri and Lewechi Emeana

These positions were duly elected.

- Elections Committee (3 positions):
Smit Trivedi, Loveth Ayetoba and Pranali Khatri
These positions were duly elected.

11. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 05th December 2022

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 05th December 2022.

There were no corrections or comments added.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 05th December 2022.
Vote: For: 11; Against: 0; Abstention: 2. The Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 05th December 2022 were approved.

12. Matters Arising from Meeting on 05th December 2022

The Chair invited members of Student Voice to ask the Full Time Officers any questions regarding the Matters Arising. There were no questions asked.

13. 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: 12; Against: 0; Abstention: 4. The Minutes of Student Voice Committees were approved.

14. National Student Survey Q26 Report

Vice President SCEBE highlighted the National Student Survey, in particular question 26 regarding Students' Association.

DGR asked if fourth years with an extension of an extra year are able to complete this survey. Vice President SCEBE confirmed that the survey can be completed on receipt of the email.

15. Full Time Officer Nominations

The Chair noted that the closing date for Full Time Officer Nominations is Friday 24th February at 12 noon.

16. Honorary Memberships Nominations

The Chair noted that the closing date for Honorary Memberships Nominations is Monday 06th March at 12 noon.

17. AOCB

There was no other business to be discussed.

The meeting was concluded at 18:35pm.

DRAFT