

## Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2019/20

Meeting held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019, in NH208, at 5.00pm.

### Sign In:

**Present:** Eilidh Fulton (Student President); Bethany Stevenson (VP SHLS); Susan Docherty (VP SCEBE); Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS); Monica Allen (MA); Gaia Argiolas (GA); Raheel Aslam (RA); Kimberley Brown (KB); Racheal Brown (RB); Molly Ferugson (MF); Nicole Gray (NG); Seona Halbert (SH); David Howie (DH); Maggie Huminiecka (MH); Ryan Johnston (RJ); Sandra Kubasik (SK); Kathryn McNicol (KMcn); Kathy Mumme (KM); Maria Nagy (MN); Grace Nyariki (GN); Kerryanne O'Rourke (KO); Gillian Poynts (GP); Adil Rahoo (AR); Zubair Sarwar (ZS); Thomas Schwitalla (TS); Keir Thomson (KT); Vincent Waters (VW); Kirsty Winter (KW).

**Absent:** Dorian Clark (DC); Neill Clark (NC); Joanne Duff (JD); Tanya Fate-Cockbain (TFC); Joanne Fitzpatrick (JF); Eleanor MacLennan-Patton (EMP); Viktor Mirchev (VM); Bernadette Prickett (BP); Amy Senior (AS).

**Apologies:** Stewart Baker (SB); Peakay Dennis (PD); Jonnie England (JE); David Grimm (DG); Jennifer Hewitt (JH); Samah Khan (SK); Katie Moffat (KM); Sophie Robinson (SR); Stephanie Slater (SS); Jenny Stryman (JS); Maggie Wierzbicka (MW).

**In attendance:** Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Kathryn Collins (Clerk); Lesley McAleavy, Policy and Development Officer – Glasgow Caledonian University.

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.

Henceforth, with the passage of the amended By-laws at this meeting of Student Voice - 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. Welcome

- 1.1 The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the first meeting of Student Voice for 2019/20. 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.

### 2. Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) Update

Lesley McAleavy (LMcA), Policy and Development Officer, from Glasgow Caledonian University presented the Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) update to members saying that it was a huge priority for the University this year. LMcA explained where the University is with the ELIR, the process of the ELIR and how members can get involved. LMcA provided key review dates with the first on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 when a submission is sent to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). LMcA said that the final submission will be circulated for Student Voice members to see at the end of the next month. LMcA explained that the ELIR panel will want to meet students and the University will ask if any of the Student Voice members wish to be involved or if they know of any students that may wish to be involved in the ELIR. A campaign will be carried out so that all students are aware that the ELIR is taking place. Eilidh Fulton (Student President) reinforced the message of students getting involved as the student perspective is important and ELIR and the University want to see what students see. The University will reach out to students to ask if they

wish to be involved and members were asked to keep a look out for communications going out about ELIR. No questions were asked.

*Lesley McAleavy left the meeting at 5.09pm.*

### 3. **Previous Minutes**

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 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 Caledonian Student Voice held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019. **Vote: For: 8; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

#### 4.1 **Bright White Recycled Paper**

The VP GSBS gave an update on the use of bright white recycled paper on campus. Members discussed the new information given around the replacement of recycled bright white paper across campus. Members felt that the VP GSBS had took the matter as far as he could to try to get bright white recycled paper. The Chair called for a vote to close this matter arising in relation to Bright White Recycled Paper. **Vote: For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** This matter is now closed.

#### 4.2 **Referendum on exams before Christmas**

A referendum will be carried out this year, likely in Trimester B. **Action: Student President.** This matter is ongoing.

#### 4.3 **Dictionary for non-native speakers**

The VP SCEBE is working on this matter. **Action: VP SCEBE.** This matter is ongoing.

#### 4.4 **Mindfulness provisions at GCU**

Taster sessions, courses and key events were offered throughout the first trimester. Mindful Monday's have been launched on social media every Monday. This matter is resolved.

#### 4.5 **Baxterstorey – energy drinks**

Baxterstorey have confirmed that no other campuses that they work with stock energy drinks. This matter is resolved.

#### 4.6 **Daytime lockers**

A meeting is scheduled with the Facilities Department to discuss and an update will be given at the next Student Voice meeting. **Action: Student President.** This matter is ongoing.

#### 4.7 **Hot water on campus**

The VP SHLS said that social media posts will be going out about this and the Full Time Officers can let students know about this promotion at Ask the Officer. **Action: VP SHLS.** This matter is ongoing.

#### 4.8 **Reduce plastic cutlery**

Steps have begun to introduce wooden cutlery. This matter is resolved.

#### 4.9 **Phase out single use coffee cups**

The VP GSBS said that outlets have introduced the ugly mug scheme and phasing out single use coffee cups. **Action: VP GSBS.** This matter is ongoing.

#### 4.10 **Abolish Graduation Fees**

The Student President informed Student Voice that the University will be abolishing graduation fees starting in Spring 2020. This matter is resolved.

#### 4.11 **To evaluate the abolishment of GCU London graduation fees**

This matter is resolved and there will be no graduation fees for GCU London as of Summer 2020.

### 5. **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: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.**

### 6. **Elections**

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

- Learning and Teaching Committee (x 1 UG) - Maggie Huminiecka
- Equality and Diversity Committee (x1) - David Howie
- Elections Committee (x5) - Seona Halbert, Adil Rahoo, Maggie Huminiecka
- University Senate (x 1 PGR) – place still to be filled.

### 7. **Affiliations**

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

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

- Accountancy Society
- GCU Racing
- GCU Extinction Rebellion
- The Common Good Society
- The Circle Society
- GCU Scottish National Association (GCUSNA)
- Caledonian Politics Society
- Pokémon Go Society
- Emergency Care Society
- Pole Society
- Audio Society
- GCU Catholic Society
- Italian Society
- Weightlifting

Note: it has been clarified post-meeting that the GCU Scottish National Association (GCUSNA) is a starter society and not yet affiliated.

The objectives of all clubs and societies seeking affiliation will now be included in the Student Voice papers so that Student Voice can make a more informed judgement.

The Chair called for a vote to approve all ratifications. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.** All the affiliations listed were approved except for GCUSNA that is currently completing the full affiliation requirements before affiliation can be reconsidered.

#### 8. **By-Law Revisions**

The Student President presented the revised By-Laws paper which proposes revised By-Laws to better reflect how the Students' Association democracy operates. There are now substantive changes in how we operate. The Student President talked through the paper and highlighted key changes including changes to the Idea process. The Chair called for a vote to approve the revised By-Laws. This requires the backing of a two thirds of members present to be approved. No questions were asked. **Vote: For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The revised By-Laws were approved.

#### 9. **Election Rules**

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the revised Election Rules. The Election Rules work in conjunction with Schedule 4 of the Constitution for campus wide elections (NUS Conference Delegations, GCU London Officer and Full Time Officer Elections).

Feedback from the candidates' survey and the report from the Returning Officer was taken into consideration. A benchmarking exercise with the University elections rules was also undertaken. In addition, the University Secretary & Vice-Principal Governance and Head of Governance were consulted.

The revised Election Rules were presented as a tracked changes document with comments for context. The Election Rules were also presented without the tracked changes.

Changes include (not an exhaustive list):

- When campaigning can commence.
- Use of social media.
- Endorsing candidates.
- Using computer labs and library during the election period.
- Using the Students' Association and University logos.
- Rules on proxy voting.

The VP SHLS commented that she strongly disagreed with Full Time Officers being able to endorse any candidates running in the Elections and that it was an unfair advantage against the other candidates. The Student President said that it is democratic and that Full Time Officers are individual members and that endorsing a candidate should not affect professional relationships. Members discussed the change to the endorsement of candidates. From the discussion held the Chair asked members if they wished to vote on the Election Rules taking out the endorsement rule and for now to vote on the remainder of the paper. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Election Rules excluding the endorsement rule. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The revised Elections Rules excluding the endorsement rule was approved. The Chair then called for a vote in favour of keeping the endorsement change. **Vote: For: 13; Against: 11; Abstention: 1.** The revised Election Rules including the endorsement change was approved.

10. **External Affiliations**

The Student President presented the organisations that the Students' Association want to remain affiliated to in 2019/20 and reported that Section 22 of the 1994 Education Act requires the Students' Association to present the current list of affiliations for approval by members annually.

	2017/18	2018/19
National Union of Students (NUS)	£17,776*	£25,156
British Universities and College Sports (BUCS)	£4,246	£4,549
Scottish Student Sport (SSS)	£3,588	£3,660
National Nightline Association (NNA)	£59	£60

\*The NUS affiliation for 2017/18 was £25,156. This was the last year of receiving a rebate under the former NUS affiliation model for the previous year.

The External Affiliations are included within the annual audited accounts available from [www.GCUstudents.co.uk/financial](http://www.GCUstudents.co.uk/financial).

The Code of Practice relating to the operation of the Students' Association outlines the process for disaffiliation.

Members asked about the rebate from NUS and the role of NUS. The Student President informed Student Voice that Liam McCabe, current President of NUS, presented at Student Voice last term on the benefits of belonging to the National organisation. Minutes from the discussion can be found in past papers. The Chair called for a vote to approve the External Affiliations. **Vote: For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The External Affiliations were approved.

11. The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to only provide an update on items in which there has been developments since the report was written. The Full Time Officers each gave a brief update on their reports. The Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the Full Time Officers reports. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The Full Time Officers reports were approved.

12. **Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives**

The Student President presented a paper on the Full Time Officer Team Objectives highlighting the outcomes; action required, timescale, success measures and progress. Each Full Time Officer then spoke about their own Individual Objectives highlighting the outcomes; action required, timescale, success measures and progress. No questions were raised by members. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives. **Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives were approved.

13. **Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Student Voice Officers were invited by the Chair to introduce themselves and to give a brief verbal update.

**Mature & Part-Time Students' Officer**

- Working on securing a Mature and Part-Time space on campus.
- Collaborating with other societies to hold an event and have mature and part-time students participate in activities.

**Black or Minority Ethnic Officer**

- Multicultural event held at Strathclyde University Students' Union.
- Working on the black attainment gap.

**Women's Officer**

- Held first meet and greet meeting.
- Lunchtime workshop lunch club session with external speakers.

**LGBT+ Officer**

- Rape crisis workshop held.
- Collaboration with the Women's Group, BME and the Disabled Group.
- Will be hosting an active bystanders training and a Chemsex Workshop.

**International Students' Officer**

- Currently building group including relationship with INTO.
- Working on campaigns including promoting Erasmus uptake, Learning Development Centres and Quick English Writing Surgeries.
- Exploring a cultural event for trimester 2.

**Men's Health and Alliance Officer**

- First social event to follow shortly.
- White Ribbon day coming up on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The White Ribbon Campaign is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls.
- Exploring collaboration possibilities with the LGBT+ Officer, Disabled Officer, Women's Officer and Student Carers' Officer.

**Student Carers' Officer**

- Have started a community building event called Time for You. The GCU Wellbeing team have helped to promote to student carers. Participated in a feedback event with the university on the needs of student carers.

*At this point (6.55pm) the Chair called for a motion to extend the guillotine by a further 30 minutes and for the meeting to finish at 7.30pm. The Chair called for a vote and asked members if they wished to vote to extend the meeting. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 4; Abstention: 1.** The meeting was extended to 7.30pm.*

**Ethical and Environmental Officer**

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held last week.
- Facebook page created.
- Swapshop event being held in week 10.
- Working with Baxterstorey to use different cutlery and have the ugly mug campaign.
- Promoting a more sustainable Halloween and Christmas.

**Societies Council Chair**

- CUMSA is now known as CISA.
- Policy changes to Student Voice.
- Closed Dragons Den on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and all funding allocated.
- Running a Logo competition for the "Society Tree" in Re:Union

**Editor-In-Chief – THE EDIT**

- The EDIT has 93 members.
- Deadline for the EDIT Christmas edition is tomorrow.
- Deputy Editor has stood down.
- Revised Policy has come to Student Voice.

### **Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep**

- Attended School Board meeting.
- Need list for Class Representatives.

### **Media & Journalism Department Rep**

- Attended first School Board Meeting.
- Waiting for Class Rep names.

### **Nursing & Community Health Department Rep**

- Attended School Board meeting.

No questions were raised from the reports. The Chair invited members to take a vote to decide whether to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports. **Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

#### **14. Revised Societies Policy**

The Societies Council Chair presented the Societies Policy saying it has been updated to reflect changes to section 4.0-Withdrawal of Activation and the addition of Best Overall Contribution from a Society Committee Member to section 12.0- Society Awards. The Best Overall Contribution from a Society Member will be introduced at the Star Awards. No questions were asked and the Chair called for a vote to approve the revised Societies Policy. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The revised Societies Policy was approved.

#### **15. Revised Sports Policy**

The Sports Chair presented the Sports Policy saying that it has been updated to reflect changes to section 8.0 – Change of role name and duties on Sports Council for the position of Clothing Convenor to clothing and Bar Convenor. No questions were asked and the Chair called for a vote to approve the revised Sports Policy. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The revised Sports Policy was approved.

#### **16. Revised THE EDIT Policy**

The Editor-In-Chief presented the revised THE EDIT Policy saying major revisions include (not an exhaustive list): Change of names for Website Manager and Social Media Manger; Online voting for committee elections; elections coverage. No questions were asked and the Chair called for a vote to approve the revised THE EDIT Policy. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The revised THE EDIT Policy was approved.

#### **17. Ideas**

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

##### **17.1 Plant based canteen drive (Rory Harte)**

MA spoke on behalf of the proposer saying that a lot of universities are moving to a one day a week meat free campus. Members noted that there is already a plant based protein meal each day made available in the Refectory on campus. Member agreed that the promotion of a plant based diet in the canteen would be good. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea to promote plant-based food within the Refectory. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Idea was approved and the VP GSBS will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP GSBS.**

##### **17.2 Get rid of single use plastics and Styrofoam on campus (Tze Yeng Ng)**

Due to time constraints the Chair called for a vote to move this Idea to the next Student Voice for discussion. The Chair called for a vote to approve move the Idea to “Get rid of single use plastics and Styrofoam on campus.” **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Idea was approved to be moved to the next Student Voice meeting.

**17.3 4 “period related non-attendance day” per month for women (Gaia Argiolas)**

GA presented the Idea for 4 “period related non-attendance day” per month for women saying why it was a requirement. Members discussed this Idea at length and felt that although some members agreed in principal, this would be hard to implement and to operationally manage plus the non-attendance days could end up being used for anything. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea to 4 “period related non-attendance day” per month for women.” **Vote: For: 3; Against: 12; Abstention: 6.** The Idea was not approved.

*At this point (7.25pm) the Chair called for a motion to further extend the guillotine by another 20 minutes and for the meeting to finish at 7.55pm. The Chair called for a vote and asked members if they wished to vote to extend the meeting. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 4; Abstention: 1.** The meeting was extended to 7.55pm.*

**17.4 Mature Student Room (Susan Docherty)**

The VP SCEBE discussed her manifesto point to secure a Mature Student Space where mature students could come together to meet each other, network and do some course work. The VP GSBS asked whether this would exclude students from the rest of the population and how would they integrate. The VP SCEBE said students would integrate through their classes and that Mature Student Spaces are common in universities including the University of Strathclyde and the University of Glasgow. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea to have a Mature Student Room. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The Idea was approved. The VP SCEBE will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

**17.5 Provision of Free Dental Dams (Molly Ferguson)**

MF discussed the lack of provision for free dental dams on campus. At the moment, free condoms are provided via the Advice Centre within the Students’ Association. As the LGBT+ Liberation Officer, MF explained that the liberation group feels that it is discriminatory for free condoms to be offered but not dental dams. Member discussed and the Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea to have a provision of free dental dams within the Advice Centre. **Vote: For: 18; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The Idea was approved. The VP SCEBE will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

**17.6 Referencing, report and essay writing (David Grimm)**

Due to time constraints the Chair called for a vote to move this Idea to the next Student Voice for discussion. The Chair called for a vote to approve move the Idea to “Referencing, report and essay writing.” **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Idea was approved to be moved to the next Student Voice meeting.

**18. Standing Policy**

Any Idea (otherwise known as motions) passed becomes the policy of GCU Students’ Association for five years unless overturned by a future Idea. After five years, the policy will lapse unless brought forward as a new motion. The Standing Policy document outlines current progress with each Idea. The Ideas (motions) from 2014/15 are no longer policy unless a member brings forward a new Idea. No questions were asked and Student Voice noted the current Standing Policy.

**19. The Bigger Plan 2020 – Year 3 Progress**

The Student President presented The Bigger Plan 2020 – Year 3 Progress saying that the Bigger Plan 2020 was started during the academic year 2017/18 and is a four-year plan. This is Year 3 progress



update. This report outlines progress made towards the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Big Actions. The KPIs are ambitious in order to stretch the organisation. A summary of other performance is outlined within the annual report section of the Audited Accounts 2018/19. No questions were asked and Student Voice noted the current The Bigger Plan 2020 – Year 3 Progress.

20. **Audited Accounts 2019**

The Student President presented the Students' Association External Auditors, Wylie & Bisset LLP, have completed the annual audit of the Students' Association Accounts 2018/19 (31<sup>st</sup> July 2019). The annual report from the Trustee Board is included within the audited accounts. The total income from all sources was £758,150 (2018; £769,640). The Students' Association has continued to benefit from the recognition and support from the University, with £648,760 funding from Glasgow Caledonian University. In addition, the Students' Association generated £109,390 income. The total expenditure was £759,526 (2018; £735,233). The expenditure is broken down as £283,799 for Student Engagement, £156,827 for Student Support and £318,900 for Student Activities. The deficit for the year was £1,376 (2018: surplus of £34,407). A total of £124,497 was retained within the reserve accounts (2018: £125,873). The accounts have been submitted to the GCU Finance and General Purposes Meeting (GCU Court Sub Committee) on the 14th October 2019 and approved by Trustee Board on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019. No questions were asked and Student Voice noted the Audited Accounts 2018/19.

21. **National Student Survey Results 2019**

Student Voice noted the National Student Survey Results 2019.

22. **Guide to Student Representation at GCU**

Student Voice noted the Guide to Student Representation at GCU.

23. **Election Timetable 2019/20**

Student Voice noted the Election Timetable 2019/20.

24. **Trustee Board Minutes**

Student Voice noted the Trustee Board Minutes.

25. **Any Other Business**

- 25.1 The Student Voice Team Leader said that nominations for the NUS Delegate Elections were due by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 at 12noon.
- 25.2 MA discussed Carbon Literacy training being run by the Ethical and Environmental group. Attendees will receive a certificate for this training.
- 25.3 DH spoke about lockers in the Hamish Wood building, and noted that as a Postgraduate student, the locker return timeframe of March/May is not concurrent with the needs of Postgraduate Taught students who are active in Trimester 3. DH asked about getting the locker period extended. The Student President said she would look into this matter as she has a meeting to discuss lockers with Facilities Management. The Student President will give an update at the next Student Voice meeting. **Action: Student President.**

- 25.4 VW enquired about what Lottery funding (e.g. Awards for All) the SA receives and how the funding is allocated to sports clubs and/or societies. VW asked for one of the Full Time Officers to look into this. The Full Time Officers said that they had not heard of this funding. However, the Student President said she would look into this and report back at the next Student Voice meeting. **Action: Student President.**

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 7.54pm**

## **Minutes of the 2nd Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2019/20**

Meeting held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in NH208, at 5.00pm.

### **Sign In:**

**Present:** Eilidh Fulton (Student President); Bethany Stevenson (VP SHLS); Susan Docherty (VP SCEBE); Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS); Monica Allen (MA); Kimberley Brown (KB); Rachael Brown (RB); Dara Coussot (DC); Peakay Dennis (PD); Tanya Fate-Cockbain (FC); David Grimm (DG); Seona Halbert (SH); John Hogg (JH); David Howie (DH); Maggie Huminiecka (MH); Ryan Johnston (RJ); Sandra Kubasik (SK); Eleanor MacLennan-Patton (EMacL); Katie Moffat (KM); Kathy Mumme (KM); Grace Nyariki (GN); Adil Rahoo (AR); Sophie Robinson (SR); Thomas Schwitalla (TS); Stephanie Slater (SS); Vincent Waters (VW); Maggie Wierzbicka (MW); Kirsty Winter (KW).

**Absent:** Raheel Aslam (RA); Dorian Clark (DC); Joanne Duff (JD); Joanne Fitzpatrick (JF); Samah Khan (SK); Claire MacLeod (CMac); Viktor Mirchev (VM); Roxanna Munir (RM); Muhammad Nadeem ur rehman (MN); Ioannis Petrakis (IP); Adil Rahoo (AR); Amy Senior (AS); Jenny Stryman (JS); John Vasconcelos (JV).

**Apologies:** Gaia Argiolas (GA); Stewart Baker (SB); Laura Clark (LC); Neill Clark (NC); Jonnie England (JE); Molly Ferguson (MF); Nicola Gray (NG); Jennifer Hewitt (JH); Gabriele Janusonyte (GJ); Kathryn McNicol (KMcN); Maria Nagy (MN); Kerryanne O'Rourke (KO); Gillian Poynts (GP); Bernadette Pickett (BP); Zubair Sarwar (ZS); Lucy Starling (LS); Keir Thomson (KS).

**In attendance:** Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Kathryn Collins (Clerk).

**Observers:** Douglas Chalmers (VP UCU at GCU and President UCU UK); Danny Gallacher (University Court Governor), Lorna Addison (Societies Co-ordinator); Fraser Allan (Sports Co-ordinator); Mary Jane McNally; Sarina Vlaytchev; Sumaya Mughal.

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. Welcome**

- 1.1 The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair (Eilidh Fulton, Student President) welcomed all members and Danny Gallacher (University Court Governor) to the second meeting of Student Voice for 2019/20. 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 Student President explained that for this meeting she would be Acting Chair due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.
- 1.3 The Chair informed members that for the next agenda item Douglas Chalmers, VP University and College Union (UCU) and President UCU UK would be talking about the University Campus Union Strike Action and available to answer any questions.
- 1.4 The Chair proposed moving agenda item 11 – Ideas, further up the agenda and to be discussed at agenda item 7. The Chair called for a vote to move agenda item 11 – Ideas to be discussed at

agenda item 7. **Vote: For: 27; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** Agenda item 11 – Ideas, was moved to Item 7.

2. **University Campus Union Strike Action**

Douglas Chalmers (DC), VP University and College Union (UCU) at GCU and President UCU UK gave some background to members on the University Campus Union strike action taking place over disputes on pensions, pay and working conditions. DC talked about pay, equality, casualisation and workloads. There will be eight days of strike action from 25th - 29th November and 2nd - 4th December 2019. As well as eight strike days from 25 November, union members will begin “action short of a strike” when they return to work. This involves things like working strictly to contract, not covering for absent colleagues and refusing to reschedule lectures lost to strike action.

DC then took questions from Student Voice. Members asked about the affect to graduations taking place next week and the lectures that will be missed by striking staff. DC explained that lecturers missed will not be rescheduled. The Student President explained that if anything is missing in an exam paper then students will be asked not to answer the question in the exam. The exams written before Christmas will not be rewritten. Members asked about international students and how their attendance will be affected to which DC and the Student President said that international students’ attendance will not be affected and the cancellation of classes will not have an impact on visa requirements. The Chair encouraged members to visit the Strike Action: Frequently Asked Questions for Students on the GCU website for information. SR asked about tuition fees for international students, or anyone that is paying their fees, in relation to their classes being cancelled. The Student President said she would find out about the tuition fees. **Action: Student President.** PD asked about students currently undergoing ethics procedure for their dissertations/thesis and whether this would be halted until January. This is an issues as no research can be carried out until Ethics Board approval has been granted and some students dissertation research is time dependant. The Student President suggested that PD forward an email to the VP SHLS who will enquire about this on their behalf. **Action: VP SHLS.**

The Chair and Student Voice thanked DC for attending Student Voice.

*Douglas Chalmers (DC), VP University and College Union (UCU) at GCU and President UCU UK left the meeting at 5.26pm.*

3. **Previous Minutes**

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019. 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 Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved.

4. **Matters Arising**

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to provide a verbal update only on items in which there has been development since their paper was written.

4.1 **Referendum on exams before Christmas**

This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**

4.2 **Allow non-native speakers to have a dictionary**

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE**

4.3 **Increase the provision of daytime lockers around campus**

The Student President said that she had met with Campus Services to discuss the lockers. SP updated Student Voice that postgraduate students wishing to keep their lockers on into Trimester C

can do so and asked that students wishing to keep their locker should contact the Mailroom to let them know this as they deal with the lockers. The Student President added that there are currently 500 lockers on campus unused and due to this there is no need to source more lockers. Members discussed having the lockers located in various buildings across the campus. The Student President said that information on where the lockers are on campus and how to get a locker has been put on the Students' Association social media channels and in the all student email. This matter is resolved.

The Student Voice Team Leader added there has been an Idea submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to the Students' Association website asking for lockers to be moved to the Sir Alex Ferguson library and if this receives over 10 likes then it will come to the next Student Voice for discussion.

**4.4 Hot water to be made available on campus and promoted**

This matter is resolved.

**4.5 Phase out single use coffee cups in catering outlets**

The VP GSBS said that outlets have introduced ugly mugs as a way phasing out single use coffee cups. Baxterstorey said that they will always have to offer takeaway cups as some customers might wish to take their drinks away. Members discussed and asked if takeaway cups are to be phased out then there should be a facility on campus to rinse out keep cups and thus encouraging people to use their keep cup more than once. The Chair called for a vote to make a change to the original action to phase out single use coffee cups in catering outlets and for the VP GSBS to find out about facilities on campus to wash keep cups and then promote where this facility to members. **Vote – For: 28; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

**4.6 Plant-based canteen drive**

This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

**4.7 Mature student room**

This Mature Student Room is located in the Hamish Wood Building. This matter is resolved.

**4.8 Provision of free dental dams**

This matter is resolved.

**4.9 Extending locker rental period for post-graduate students**

This matter is resolved (as discussed at point 4.3 above).

**4.10 Report on what Lottery funding (e.g. Awards for All) the Students' Association receives and how it is allocated**

The VP SCEBE said that she had checked the National Lottery Awards for All Scotland within the Students' Association, online via the National Lottery website, and via telephone directly with the National Lottery. The only application ever submitted via the Students' Association was GCU Trampolining in 2018/19 and the application was rejected. Any club or society can submit an online application for funding and the Students' Association can assist with checking the online application before it is submitted. The funding available is from £300 to £10,000. The VP SCEBE said that the National Lottery advised applying for a smaller amount first as the Students' Association clubs, societies or groups have never received funding from them. For an application and to check the criteria go to <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland> This matter is resolved.

**5. Student Voice Committees**

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote – For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

## 6. Elections

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

- Senate Research Representative (x1 PGR) – still to be filled.
- Elections Committee (x2) – David Grimm and Eleanor MacLennan-Patton.

The Senate Research Representative (x1 PGR) will be brought back to the next Student Voice meeting in February 2020.

## 7. Ideas

### 7.1 **Get rid of all single use plastics and styrofoam on campus (Tze Yeng Ng joined via telephone).**

There is a shocking amount of single use plastics in the catering services. We have watched enough documentaries on how plastics and styrofoams are (1) not properly recycled and dumped in other countries (2) animals are dying from it (3) our bodies are invaded by micro plastics. Please remove all single use plastics on campus. (1) replace it with biodegradable options – e.g., wooden spoons and forks. If it is an issue of cost, then pray, tell, what is the price tag to life and the earth? (2) remove all plastic water bottles sales from campus and highlight the availability of water coolers (3) promote the selling of fresh fruit instead of crisps/breakfast bars that come with loads of packaging. (4) more vegetarian options on the menu. Let's do this so we can walk the talk of promoting the "common good".

The proposer, Tze Yeng Ng, joined Student Voice via teleconference and gave some background to her Idea and the Chair asked members if they had any questions.

DH asked for an amendment to the Idea as some people with a disabilities require plastic straws. Members agreed that there should be alternatives and to have the availability of plastic straws and that individuals should not need to say why they need it. The Chair asked if anyone wished to speak against the amendment to which there was none. The Chair called for a vote to make an amendment to the initial Idea "to Get rid of all single use plastics and styrofoam on campus" and include that plastic straws are still available on request. **Vote – For: 27; Against: 1; Abstention: 0.** The amendment to include that plastic straws are still available on request to the initial Idea passed. The Chair then called for a vote to approve the whole Idea including the newly added amendment. **Vote – For: 28; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Idea was approved. The VP GSBS and the VP SHLS will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP GSBS and VP SHLS.**

Tze Yeng Ng thanked Student Voice for their support.

### 7.2 **Referencing, report and essay writing (David Grimm).**

"Through discussion with other liberation group officers, the issue of essay writing came up, and how if a student is unaware of how to write in an academic matter then all responsibility to seek help is placed upon them and they are left to attend the LDC - an amazing service - should they feel confident enough. I am proposing that every student at the start of whichever year they are attending, the student will be given a class/mini-seminar on what their school is looking for with respect to referencing, how to write academically and what an academic essay may look like for example. This would be applicable to all students respective of age and stage of the study."

The hope is that this may empower students to feel empowered from their initial interactions with the university.

The proposer (David Grimm) gave some background to his Idea. Members discussed and gave feedback on their own personal experiences within their own departments/schools. Members suggested an amendment to the initial Idea which is that at the start of each programme there will

be a brief “what we expect from you”, in relation to referencing, report and essay writing, which is compulsory to take place but not compulsory for students to attend (it is there if students wish to attend but they don’t have to and will have no reflection on their attendance). The Chair asked if anyone wished to speak against the amendment to which there was none. The Chair called for a vote to make an amendment to the initial Idea “Referencing, report and essay writing” and to include that at the start of each programme there will be a brief “what we expect from you”, in relation to referencing, report and essay writing, which is compulsory to take place but not compulsory for students to attend (it is there if students wish to attend but they don’t have to and will have no reflection on their attendance). **Vote – For: 25; Against: 1; Abstention: 0.** The amendment to include that at the start of each programme there will be a brief “what we expect from you”, in relation to referencing, report and essay writing, which is compulsory to take place but not compulsory for students to attend (it is there if students wish to attend but they don’t have to and will have no reflection on their attendance) to the initial Idea passed. The Chair then called for a vote to approve the whole Idea including the newly added amendment. **Vote – For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Idea was approved. The VP GSBS, VP SHLS and the VP SCEBE will take this Idea forward to be included in very programme. **Action: VP GSBS, VP SHLS and VP SCEBE.**

### 7.3 **ARC Gym – Weightlifting Equipment (Jamie Robertson)**

“The weightlifting room in the ARC gym is in dire need of some new equipment, specifically one of the benches is in a terrible condition which I have linked a picture below. Ideally bigger dumbbells as they currently only go to 44kg, ideally have pairs up to 50/60kg and a few more dumbbells. I know that weightlifting room probably isn't as popular as upstairs but a new bench at the minimum should be realistic for the uni to purchase.

The proposer, Jamie Robertson, was not available to attend but did submit a report which the Student Voice Team Leader read to members.

Members discussed and agreed that some of the ARC Gym weightlifting equipment needs to be replaced. The Chair asked if anyone wished to speak against the Idea to which there was none. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea of new weightlifting equipment for the ARC Gym. **Vote – For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The VP SHLS will take this Idea forwards. **Action: VP SHLS.**

### 7.4 **Let’s get wildflowers on campus (David Grimm)**

“Since starting on campus I have seen flowers near the main entrance but have failed to see any others around the grounds, I believe that by growing wildflowers on the grounds it will have a positive impact on the majority of the student body, even if it's a subliminal impact. Tying into the universities attempts at being more green, wildflowers will increase the population of pollinator insects and promote growth of ecosystems. And obviously plants allow for a more oxygen rich environment and they look pretty which are all positives. I think we should have various flowers, scattered across campus - and all campuses where possible - but particularly on Glasgow grounds, to try and help both the environment and students mental wellbeing.”

The proposer (David Grimm) gave some background to his Idea. It was noted that some people will have allergies to the wild flowers and to bear this in mind. The wild flowers could be put around the edges of the concourse and volunteers, not staff, could help plant them. The Chair asked if anyone wished to speak against the Idea to which there was none. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Idea of having wildflowers on campus. **Vote – For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The VP GSBS will take this Idea forwards. **Action: VP GSBS.**

### 7.5 **Prayer spaces in each building on campus (Sumaya Mughal)**

“As a Muslim girl, prayer is a significant part of my life and is required in Islam to be done 5 times a day at certain times of the day. This can include times that I am in class. Whilst I am in class, many times I have had to rush out of the building and to the faith and belief which can take a

considerable amount of time, to then pray and rush back so that I don't miss too much in classes/lectures. to solve this, I have the idea of having prayer spaces (which can include a free room) for males and female separate in each building in campus as it would allow Muslims like me across campus to be able to pray on time and at the same time minimise the effect it has on our education and missing class time."

The proposer, Sumaya Mughal gave some background to her proposal. The VP SCEBE said that it would not be possible to have a prayer area in every building on campus but that if Sumaya Mughal wished to join the VP SCEBE at a meeting with the Head of Estates then options could be discussed. The VP SCEBE added that the Faith and Belief area is getting redesigned as a sanctuary. Also, once the quiet space film is made it will be put out across campus and social media to promote the quiet spaces across campus once they are identified. Members discussed and asked if there could be an amendment to the Idea and to have a quiet area/reflection room not just for the Muslim community but for people wishing to meditate or chill out for anxiety reasons. The VP SCEBE said this is why quiet spaces are being identified across campus for anyone to use for reflection, meditation, quiet space, and digital detox. The SCEBE said that the logistics of where the rooms would be need to be discussed.

The Chair asked if anyone wished to speak against the amendment to which there was none. The Chair called for a vote to make an amendment to the initial Idea "Prayer spaces in each building on campus" and to change the name from prayer space to reflection space, which are open to all students and not just a prayer space, and to discuss the logistics with the VP SCEBE. **Vote – For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 3.** The amendment to the initial Idea passed. The Chair then called for a vote to approve the whole Idea including the newly added amendment. **Vote – For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Idea was approved. The VP SCEBE will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

*At this point (6.53pm) the Chair called a motion to extend the guillotine until 7.30pm. The Chair called for a vote and asked members if they wished extend the meeting to 7.30pm. **Vote – For: 20; Against: 5; Abstention: 0.** The meeting time was extended to finish at 7.30pm.*

#### 7.6 **More food bins on campus!! (Sophie Christine Robinson)**

"I have come to the realisation that GCU has almost no facilities in the form of food waste bins for students to use around campus. I have walked around campus, consulted with other students and student societies and all agreed that there are very lacking food waste disposal facilities on GCU. I am proposing a motion to push for a drive to increase the number of food waste bins available that students can use on campus. Upon inspection the only food bins on campus are in the refectory (only 2 bins within close proximity to each other), there aren't even any in the learning café, recharge cafe or the Re:Union bar. Unbelievable for the effort GCU has in sustainability. The amount of wasted food that is improperly disposed of on GCU because there are no food bins to put it in will surely affect the campuses green status and environmental impact. The simple and inexpensive fix of more bins could be put in place to remedy the problem easily and effectively, particularly because the disposal facility of the food waste must already be in place due to the 2 existing food bins in the refectory."

The proposer, Sophie Christine Robinson gave some background to her proposal. Members discussed and no amendments were suggested to the Idea. The Chair asked if anyone wished to speak against the Idea to which there was none. The Chair then called for a vote to approve the Idea to have more food bins on campus. **Vote – For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Idea was approved. The VP GSBS will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP GSBS.**

#### 8. **Full Time Officer Reports**

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers only to provide a verbal update on any items in which there has been development since the report was written.



*The Chair (EF) stepped down at 7.00pm and SD chaired the meeting so the Student President could present her report.*

#### **Student President**

- The Circle Chai tea event held this morning went well.
- Joined, via teleconference, to a Quality Enhancement Symposium in Canada and spoke about Quality Enhancement in the UK and Scotland.
- Attended GCU London Graduations and events/sessions scheduled whilst there and heard about the student experience in London.
- All of the Full Time Officers were out this morning supporting GCU staff with the strike action they are taking.

*The Acting Chair (SD) stepped down at 7.02pm and the Chair (EF) resumed her position as Chair.*

#### **VP SCEBE**

- Organised for the PGR students from London to come to a Christmas party in Glasgow next week.
- Filmed a Christmas film for the University.
- Attended Ask the Officer, Radio Show, SAGE.
- Attended a meeting in place of the Student President about the conviction policy for students.
- Working on the Star Awards.
- Won small grant scheme - £250 towards our Mental Health Agreement. This is a win.
- Mature Student Space based in the Hamish Wood Building is getting furnished and decorated as we speak. This is a win.

#### **VP SHLS**

- Working with Student Life on a campaign and they are going to feature on the Students' Association.
- Collating student feedback on the student accommodation in the city centre and in Caley Court. The student experience should not be hindered by accommodation. The VP SHLS asked members to get in touch to give their feedback.
- Planning for the Teaching Awards – support your lecturer.
- Working with Scottish Student Sport (SSS) on female football coaching courses level 1,2 & 3 so they can get the qualifications. There will also be confidence courses available in March 2020.

#### **VP GSBS**

- Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November, attended an educational trip in Bosnia.
- Attending a Race Equality event over the weekend in Glasgow.
- Reviewing the Carbon Literacy Training and exploring if it can be rerun next year as it has been popular this year.
- Attending, Climate Strike Action on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, meet at the Hamish Wood building entrance at 9.45am.

No questions were 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: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The Full Time Officers reports were approved.

### **9. Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Chair asked the Student Voice Officers only to provide a verbal update on any items in which there has been development since the report was written.

#### **Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer**

- The BME Officer said that the Black and Minority Ethnic Students' Group wish to change their name to Ethnic Diversity Network. The Student Voice Team Leader added that this will require to go to the Executive Committee and back to Student Voice as per our By-Laws. **Action: VP GSBS.**

#### **Care Experience Students' Officer**

- The Care Experience Students' Officer asked for any estranged or care experience students to come and speak to him at some point about Christmas dinner, this also includes International Students, as they may not have a home to go to over the Christmas period either.
- The Social Work Society are doing a collection for the homeless, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019, to collect warm winter clothes. There will be buckets around the campus and information sent out via social media.

#### **Society Council Chair**

- The Society Council Chair talked about doing more to promote societies and so there will be stall on campus on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for all societies.

#### **Ethical & Environmental Officer**

*(The Student Voice Team Leader gave an update on behalf of the Ethical and Environmental Officer)*

- On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019, from 1pm – 4pm, there will be a swap shop in NH008. The swap shop is to help reduce what you buy. Any clothes left over will be given to the Halliday Foundation for the homeless. Check the website for further information.

No questions were asked in relation to the Student Voice Officer Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to approve all the reports. **Vote – For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Full Time Officers reports were approved.

#### **10. Voter Registration for General Election**

The Student President reminded all members to register by midnight on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and to please vote and make your voice heard.

#### **11. Update on Banded Grading**

The VP GSBS gave an update on banded grading and thanked those that took part to give their feedback. The VP GSBS said that the work would be continuous throughout the year. At this time there is no start date for when the new banded grading would start as this has still to be discussed. The VP GSBS said if any members had any questions then please speak to him.

#### **12. ELIR Reflective Analysis Report**

The Chair advised members to read the ELIR Reflective Analysis Report, in particular chapter 2 which would be most relevant. The Chair added that at the previous Student Voice meeting held Lesley McAleavy, Policy and Development Officer, attended the meeting to reach out to students asking members to be on the panel and to inform members that the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) will be coming to the University in March 2020.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

- 13.1 The VP SHLS talked about the GCU Learn App and Blackboard Learn which is a virtual learning environment and learning management system developed by Blackboard Inc. Blackboard Inc. is stopping the manufacturing of the app and are no longer providing app updates. GCU Learn site should be mobile compatible. The University is looking into possibly getting a GCU app. This has not

yet been communicated out to students as there is not a set timeline about when Blackboard is stopping their app. Communications will be sent out to members in due course.

- 13.2 The VP SCEBE said she would be taking on the Santa Sack Challenge this year and boxes will be put out in the open plan area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor within the Students' Association. The VP SCEBE asked for members to get involved and if possible to make up a selection box with toothbrushes and toiletries. Communications will be sent out to members in due course with a list of suitable items.

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 7.23pm.**

## Minutes of the 3rd Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2019/20

Meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020, in NH208, at 5.00pm.

**Sign in: Present:** Eilidh Fulton (Student President); Bethany Stevenson (VP SHLS); Susan Docherty (VP SCEBE); Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS); Loretta Bortey (LB); Racheal Brown (RB); Neill Clark (NC); Dara Coussot (DC); Peakay Dennis (PD); Jonnie England (JE); David Grimm (DG); Seona Halbert (SH); John Hogg (JKH); Maggie Huminiecka (MH); Sandra Kubasik (SK); Eleanor MacLennan-Patton (EMP); Kathryn McNicol (KMcN); Kathy Mumme (KM); Maria Nagy (MN); Grace Nyariki (GN); Gillian Poynts (GP); Adil Rahoo (AR); Sophie Robinson (SR); Thomas Schwitalla (TS); John Vasconcelos (JV); Vincent Waters (VW); Kirsty Winter (KW)

**Absent:** Uzoma Alaneme (UA); Gaia Argiolas (GA); Stewart Baker (SB); Kimberley Brown (KB); Dorian Clark (DC); Laura Clark (LC); Tanya Fate-Cockbain (TFC); Joanne Fitzpatrick (JF); Nicole Gray (NG); Gabriele Janusonyte (GJ); Samah Khan (SK); Viktor Mirchev (VM); Katie Moffat (KM); Ionnis Petrakis (IP); Bernadette Prickett (BP); Zubair Sarwar (ZS); Stephanie Slater (SS); Lucy Starling (LS)

**Apologies:** Monica Allen (MA); Molly Ferugson (MF); David Howie (DH); Ryan Johnston (RJ); Claire MacLoed (CM); Dorota Makaruk (DM); Muhammad Nadeem ur Rehman (MNR); Anosha Naziri (AN); Kerryanne O'Rourke (KO); Jenny Stryman (JS); Keir Thomson (KT); Maggie Wierzbicka (MW).

**In attendance:** Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); David Carse (Clerk).

### Observers:

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. Welcome

- 1.1 The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair (Maria Nagy) welcomed all members to the third meeting of Student Voice for 2019/20. 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 and to keep contributions brief but robust.

### 2 Previous Minutes

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. 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 Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved.

### 3 Matters Arising

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers to provide a verbal update only on items in which there has been development since their paper was written.

#### 3.1 To find out about the impact of the Nov 2019 strike on tuition fees of international students

The Student President informed Student Voice that the university will consider the impacts of the strikes on students on a case by case basis. If you do want to raise an issue, each school has a different contact but this information can be found out by emailing the schools. This matter is resolved.

### **3.2 Referendum on exams before Christmas**

Student President updated that the FTO are looking at holding this after the Full Time Officer (FTO) elections. Members questioned whether it could be done at the same time as the Full Time Officer elections and Student Voice discussed the pro and cons including voter fatigue of running another vote outside the election period and the lack of communication and information to voters concerning the referendum if run during the elections – trying to run two things at once without proper planning could mean that both suffer. Members also questioned why we are re-running a referendum in the first place. This matter is ongoing.

**Action: Student President**

### **3.3 Increase wildflowers on campus**

VP GSBS has spoken to GCU sustainability coordinator who informed VP GSBS that a previous trial of wildflowers was not successful and the amount of work to make wildflowers grow in the soil we have on campus was large. University would be willing to look at planting wildflowers if there was a commitment from the SA and/or society commitment from a society to upkeep wildflowers. Members questioned how feasible this would be as wildflowers grow during summer so how would a student society be able to take care of them. Members recommended that the policy position is taken back to university and to try again. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS**

### **3.4 Every programme cohort to have a session on academic writing and expectations within that course.**

This proposal is currently going through individual school boards. VPs of the academic schools are waiting for updates and will inform at next meeting. This matter is ongoing.

**Action: VP SHLS, SCEBE & GSBS**

## **4. Student Voice Committees**

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote – For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

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

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers only to provide a verbal update on any items in which there has been development since the report was written.

SP reported that GCU London Graduation was to not go ahead this year but she had lead discussions to keep it which has been successful. Also reported that information about the Safe Taxi scheme will be included on the back of Student cards.

SP requested that one of her individual objectives be changed from leading on a move of the Students' Association to a new location on campus to supporting ELIR. She explains that the university has been silent on the possible move and she would like her objectives to reflect the amount of effort she has put into ELIR. **Vote – For: 23; Against: 1; Abstention: 0.** Student Voice Approved the change of objective from Building Move to Supporting ELIR for SP.

VP SCEBE reported that we are working in partnership with the university to do training that will support the mental health lanyard scheme for staff. VPSCEBE also reported that the mature students room will be launching at the end of the week, gender-neutral toilets will be introduced, feel fab February is ready to launch and the diversity of thought video will be going into production. She is also applying for lottery funding to support mental health work of the Students' Association. JE asked how this funding application would work given that charities can only apply once a year. VP SCEBE explained that there are a few schemes the Lottery funds and an application will be going to two different schemes.

VP SHLS reported that in addition to the written report, there has been progress on the Common Good Games and sports policy within the last few days.

VP GSBS reported that in addition to the written report a careers event for BME students was held last week as part of the partnership work with the university to address the Black Attainment Gap. As part of this work, a survey for BME students will be active soon. Accreditation for 37 students has now been received from the Carbon Literacy Training (CLT). SAGE has been reviewing the Mitigating Circumstances policy and early retrieval. Member of Student Voice asked for clarification on VP GSBS report about Black History Month(BHM) activities – isn't BHM in October. VP GSBS answered that BHM is celebrated in October in the UK and February in the US events are being hosted as a way to continue engagement across the two trimesters and not just during UK BHM. A member questioned VP GSBS about whether the CLT will be rerun. VP GSBS answered that we are currently exploring ways to get it accredited at GCU as the plan is to run it frequently.

No further questions were asked in relation to the Full Time Officer Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to decide whether to approve all the reports. **Vote: For: 19 Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** All the Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

**6. 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: 21; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3.** The Student Voice Officers Reports were approved.

**7. 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.

- PhD Society
- Photographic Society
- PakSoc
- Cancer Support Scotland GCU
- GCU Music Collective
- GCU Social Sciences Society
- Student Solidarity Network

Members asked for clarification of the origins of the name PacSoc – it was chosen by the society themselves. A member asked about the Student Solidarity Network – MA stated it was to support lecturers in the current industrial action. The Chair asked all members to take a vote to approve all ratifications. **Vote: For: 23; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.**

## 8. Elections

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

- Elections Committee (x2) –Neill Clark and Bethany Stevenson
- Senate Research Student Representative (x1 PGR) – still to be filled
- Senate International Student Representative (x1) – Kathinka Mumme

The Senate Research Representative (x1 PGR) will be brought back to the next Student Voice meeting in March 2020.

## 9. Black and Minority Ethnic Officer/Group Name Change

The BME Officer presented the paper on changing the Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) Officer and Group name to Ethnic Diversity Network (EDN) Officer and Group. Although these individuals factually represent a minority in the population as far as numbers are concerned, continually referring to a minority does not create a consciousness of equality. Referring to minorities seems to emphasise under representation instead of encouraging a society that is open to various ethnicities as the norm. A member asked whether this would affect our partnership with NUS as they refer to BME and not EDN. The BME Officer explained that the proposed by-laws changes did take into account NUS preferred terminology and changes proposed should not affect our partnership. The Chair called for a vote to approve the By-Law change. This requires the backing of a two thirds of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The name change was approved.

## 10. Merge Mental Health and Men's Health and Alliance Officer and Group

VP SCEBE presented the paper on merging the Men's Mental Health and Alliance Officer/Group with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Group. Mental Health and Wellbeing issues affect all genders and combining the both groups together will strengthen the representation. The merger will utilise more resources rather than diluting them. Consultation has been taken with the Men's Mental Health Officer. Members questioned if not having a dedicated group for Men's Mental health would it decrease engagement with the group since some people are more comfortable speaking to a person of the same gender. VP SCEBE responded that the purpose of the group was to represent students and not to offer practical hands on support for individuals. A member questioned whether the Mental Health and Wellbeing Group would lose the focus on men's higher suicide rates that was one of the reasons the Men's Mental Health group was formed. President assured Student Voice that the mental health needs of men would not be lost in the new group as the Men's Mental Health Officer will be taking on the role of Officer for the proposed combined group. The Chair called for a vote to approve the By-Law change merging the Men's Mental Health and Alliance Group/Officer with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Group. This requires the backing of a two thirds of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 25; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The merge of the two groups was approved.

## 11. Safe Space Room Changed to Quiet Room

VP SCEBE presented the paper to change the current Safe Space room on level 2 of the Students Association to a Quiet Room. The original idea of Safe Space was for students to practice mindfulness and a place that provides information for students struggling with anxiety. This will remain the same. The term 'Quiet Room' is universally known and a name that all students will be familiar with, therefore all students, no matter what their gender identity will be able to identify and utilise this space. The room will be accessible to all students and will be used as a space to 'get away from it all' - when students simply want somewhere to go where they are unlikely to be disturbed. It can be used for contemplation, meditation and mindfulness. The idea includes the proposal of the room to be a digital detox space as the Quiet Room is a place to refrain from using electronic devices such as smartphones or computers, and to be regarded as an opportunity to reduce stress. This proposal has been in consultation with the Women's Officer and the LGBT+ Officer who currently use the space and are in agreement with the changes. Members asked about the digital detox element of the proposal. For example, could a student use their headphones while they are in the space. VP SCEBE confirmed that students would be able to use headphones but the room was not to be used as a digital workspace. Members asked how the restrictions on the use of digital equipment would be implemented. VP SCEBE responded that it would be on the honour system and infringements would be dealt with on a case by case basis. A Member questioned whether the space would be bookable. VP SCEBE responded that it would not be bookable but available on a walk in basis. A Member asked whether there would be time limits for use. VP SCEBE responded there would be no time limits on the use of the room. A member questioned whether this was morally right to do as the room was a sanctuary for liberation group members and increasing mental health provisions should not be at the cost of these groups. VP SCEBE responded the room was underutilised by the groups and that some members of the liberation groups felt there was a stigma to using the room. The Chair called for a vote to approve the change of the Safe Space to a Quiet Room. This requires a simple majority of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.** The change was approved.

## 12. Revised Societies' Policy

Societies Council Chair presented the paper for revisions to the Societies Policy. The change is to reflect discussion at Societies Council about how deactivation of a society that was passed into policy last year would be implemented. The change would seek to keep the final vote to deactivate a society with Societies Council. A member questioned the process for contacting a society that is on the verge of being deactivated. An amendment to the policy that the Society's President should be emailed on their regular student email address was proposed. The chair called on a vote to approve the amendment **Vote: For: 23; Against: 1; Abstention: 2.** The amendment was approved. The Chair called on a vote to approve the revision to the Societies' Policy. This requires the backing of a two thirds of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The changes to the Societies' Policy was approved.

## 13. Revised Sports' Policy

Sports Council Chair presented the paper for revisions to the Sports' Policy. It is proposed that there are changes in the criteria of awards, as outlined in sections 11.2.4 (Team of the



Year) and 11.4 (Club of the Year). It is also proposed to include a new Most Improved Club award in section 11.6. A member questioned whether it is common for Sports Clubs to be running a deficit. Sports Council Chair responded that each club is different and the changes proposed is meant to increase engagement of clubs with sports coordinator to ensure they are better supported/managed. The Chair called on a vote to approve the revision to the Sports' Policy. This requires the backing of a two thirds of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 2.** The changes to the Sports' Policy was approved.

#### **14. Full Time Officer-elect Resignation Notice Period**

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the paper on changing the notice period that FTO-elects can resign before triggering a by-election. The Full Time Officer Elections normally take place on Week 6 of Trimester B and the successfully elected Full Time Officers start Mid-May (this year on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020). There are ten weeks between the election results and the start of their contract.

Our By-Laws allow for a successfully elected candidate, called a Full Time Officer-elect, to be able to resign with four weeks of being elected and for their place to be filled by the next placed candidate. It is proposed to extend this period to 10 weeks, as this would be before a Full Time Officer starts their Handover and Induction and prevents the need for a By-Election. A By-Election usually has lower voter turnout and is therefore not as democratically rigorous as the Full Time Officers elections held during term-time. A member asked why the change was needed. The DRO responded that this scenario was seen in other institutions and that they are proposing a change proactively especially seeing that a by-election would eat into the training period of a new officer. A member asked whether moving from weeks to 10 weeks was too big of a change. The DRO responded that 10 weeks is the interim time between being elected but before taking up post, so this seemed like a natural boundary for a by-election being triggered. The Chair called on a vote to approve the change to the Full time officer –elect resignation period. This requires the backing of a two thirds of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 18; Against: 5; Abstention: 2.** The change to the by-laws was approved.

#### **15. NUS UK and Scotland Conference Policy Submission**

Members of NUS may submit up to two policy proposal for consideration at NUS Scotland Conference. A call for submissions was sent and two proposals were received. Care Experience Officer presented his proposal for NUS Scotland on enabling other universities to implement care experienced officer like we have with our Students Association. A member questioned whether another university has to have the exact same set up as we do here. Care Experienced Officer answered that the system could be different in each university but that there was a student representative for Care Experienced students was the important part. A member asked whether this was not also relevant to colleges. The care experienced office explained that this proposal seeks to implement in universities as a starting point as they have established students' associations/union. Many colleges do not have these or are just beginning to establish them. The Chair called on a vote to approve sending the proposal on Care Experienced Officers to the NUS Scotland conference. This requires a simple majority of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The proposal will be sent to NUS Scotland for consideration at conference.

Student Voice vice chair presented his proposal for NUS Scotland Conference for consideration. At the moment assistant dogs are allowed for seen disabilities but this proposal is to extend that to unseen disabilities. Want NUS to push government and HE/FE providers to allow emotional support animals. A member questioned whether this was feasible given the how similar policies have been implemented in the US. The vice chair responded that the British system would be simplified with no need to license support dogs which already the case in instances like guide dogs for the blind. A member asked if the support dogs would not need to be registered? Most likely there would be registry of support animals at a local level. A member queried about people who are allergic to dogs. A member explained that this is an example of conflicting needs that disability services already balance for other conditions. The Chair called on a vote to approve sending the proposal on emotional support animals to the NUS Scotland conference. This requires a simple majority of members present to be approved. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The proposal will be sent to NUS Scotland for consideration at conference.

*At this point (6:55pm) the Chair called for a motion to further extend the guillotine by another 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 extend the meeting. **Vote: For: 13; Against: 6; Abstention: 4.** The meeting was extended to 7.15pm.*

## **16. Ideas**

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

### **16.1 Turn left over cafeteria food into take-home meals for students in need (Muhammad Bin Omar)**

The proposal was present to Student Voice members by the chair as the proposer was not present. A member volunteered to speak against the motion stating that there are more in need population than students and the food should be donated to other charities for distribution. A member rebutted that student homelessness is often hidden and there are also other students who find it hard to buy food after paying rent. VPSHL reported that she had been in discussion with the catering outlet about what happens to leftover food. The catering outlets have taken measures to limit the amount of food wasted including selling it at reduced prices before expiring or repurposing leftovers. Catering noted that they had very little food waste from expiring food. The Chair called for a vote to approve move the Idea to distribute cafeteria left overs for students in need. **Vote: For: 8; Against: 4; Abstention: 11.** The Idea was approved. The VP SHLS will take this Idea forward. **Action: VP SHLS.**

### **16.2 Anti bac wipes and gel on campus (Vincent Waters)**

The proposer explained his Idea was to address the current state of cleansing on campus. The cleaning staff are overstretched and there are simple measures the university could take to supply cleaning products to students. The proposal is to have anti bac wipes readily available all over campus and to have anti bac gel in high traffic areas. A member asked about how sustainable the products would be. The proposer noted that there are bio-degradable versions but they are more expensive. A member asked about if the expense of implementing such a scheme could be better spent other places. The proposer noted that this was about health and would cut down on Fresher's flu and coronavirus. Further the university gets a block grant from the Scottish Government and they should use a portion of

this to look after the health of people at the university. Several amendments to the proposal was put forward. Amendment one was to include that anti-bac gel be available in all toilets. The Chair called for a vote on amendment one. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The amendment was approved. Amendment two was to campaign for the university to hire more cleaning staff. The Chair called for a vote on amendment two. **Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The amendment was approved. Amendment three was that anti bac gel should be limited to high traffic places only. The Chair called for a vote on amendment three. **Vote: For: 3; Against:11; Abstention: 8** The amendment was not approved. Amendment four was to advocate for the university to install brass handles on all doors. The Chair called for a vote on amendment four. **Vote: For: 19; Against:0; Abstention: 3.** The amendment was approved. The chair called for a vote on the Idea with approved amendments. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstention: 0.** The Idea was approved. The Student President will take this idea forward. **Action: Student President**

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 7:17pm**