Minutes of the 1ˢᵗ Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2021/22

Meeting held on Monday, 25ᵗʰ October 2021, on Microsoft Teams, at 5.00pm.

Sign In:

Present: Vincent Waters (Chair); Jonnie England (Deputy Chair); Adil Rahoo (Student President); Olivia Hall (VP SCEBE); Priscilla Otuagoma (VP GSBS); Tabitha Nyariki (VP SHLS); Stefan Fisher (SF); River Gowans (RG); Joshua Foster (JF); Erin Rooney (ER); Jodie Murdoch (JM); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Natalie Timoshkina (NT); Natalie Lindsay (NL); Christiana Opoku Afriyie (CO); Maryam Chishti (MC); Katie Moffat (KM); Georgia Smith (GS); Charles Gribben (CG); Mubeen Mahmood (MM); Maeve Curtin (MAC); Laiba Tareen (LT); Zorena Shanks (ZS); Bhavanishanker Sharma (BS); Kelly Dwyer (KD); Zainab Ali (ZA); Rachael Hutchison (RH); Hailee Wilson (HW); Syed Ali Hasan (SA); Raiyen Mehmood (RM); Afia Kazmi (AK); Reece Manson (REM); Vamsi Chaitanya Surisetti (VC); Hamza Saleem (HS); Nicola McMaster (NM); Robert Gallacher (RGA); Douglas Livingston (DL)

Absent: Sohaib Saleem (SS); Jessica Greig (JG); Kenneth Heap (KH); Ghulam Sidique (GUS); Catherine Mackie (CM); Monica Day (MD); Helen Bolland (HB); Julius Cesar Alejandre (JC); Angelika Magiera (AM); Tun Nadia Aminuddin (TN); Rebecca Lawlor (RL); Rida Munir (RMU); Zeinab Farhat (ZF); Kamalpreet Badi (KB)

Apologies: Louise Dunn (LD); Sadida Hasan (SH); Rachel Gibson (RG) ; David Grimm (DG) ; Karolina Syrek (KS); Cols Young (CY); Raisah Khan (Clerk)

In attendance: Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader)

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

1. **Chair Announcements**

   The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the first digital meeting of Student Voice for 2021/22. Members were asked to keep their cameras on and microphones off unless they wanted to discuss something or present a paper. The Chair asked members to raise their digital hand if they wanted to speak to help the Chair keep order. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

   It was noted that item 3, Elections Schedule, is now a paper for discussion rather than approval giving Student Voice the chance to discuss the proposed changes.

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

   The Chair invited members to ask questions relating to the Full Time Officer Team Objectives.

   The Vice Chair raised concerns regarding the lack of information on Team Objectives in the Student President (formerly Vice President GSBS) reports at all the Student Voice meetings of 2020/21. The Chair explained that this agenda item is to be used for discussion about the proposed Objectives for 2021/22 only. There were no further questions asked about Full Time Officer Team Objectives.

   The Chair invited members to ask questions relating to the Full Time Officer Individual Objectives.

CO asked how the Vice President SHLS will achieve her first objective of running a racism education campaign through organised events. The Vice President SHLS explained that the objective is intended as an awareness campaign and will not be an event or a conference. The success of the awareness campaign will be measured through looking at how many people engage with the online campaign, making sure the University is having conversations about racism education and creating safe spaces for students.

CO asked the Vice President GSBS what the Community app will be like for student communications and engagement. The Vice President GSBS explained that the app will be an online community and specific to GCU students. This will create a space where communications can reach students more efficiently.

The Vice Chair asked the Vice President SCEBE for the motivation behind her third objective, the need for a social support network for students who have graduated. The Vice President SCEBE explained that a few GCU graduates who graduated during the pandemic have been in contact to raise some issues. Some of them have highlighted social issues such as isolation since leaving University. These concerns may be addressed through creating a support network for GCU graduates.

RG asked how the Student Presidents first objective, to create a mechanism in GCU for Female and Trans students to not be disadvantage due to menstruation, can be achieved so that other members do not feel excluded. The Student President intends to have conversations with the University and create a system where students will not face any disadvantages in their education due to medical reasons. The Vice Chair asked whether this is good for managing the expectations of students for the future as they may not have a similar mechanism in their work places. The Student President explained that as University for the Common Good, it is important to set a good standard and be a catalyst for changes in other organisations.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives. **Vote: For: 27; Against: 4; Abstention: 2.** The Full Time Officers Team and Individual Objectives were approved.

3. **Elections Schedule**

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the Elections Schedule which is a part of the Students' Association constitution that governs elections. It works in conjunction with the Election Rules. If there is a conflict with the Election Rules, the Election Schedule supersedes the Rules. Further, as it is part of the constitution, changes to the schedule must be approved by Student Voice, Trustee Board and GCU Court. GCU Students' Association revises its Election Rules yearly incorporating learning from previous years and feedback from candidates and other stakeholders. The rationale for the proposed changes were outlined within the paper presented by the Deputy Returning Officer for discussion. The paper will be brought back to the next Student Voice for approval. The Vice President SHLS asked for clarity on how non-compliance to the election rules can result in disqualification. The Deputy Returning Officer explained that the different rules have different values and so they will be dealt with according to their severity. There will also be increased transparency about the decisions that are made. The Chair asked Student Voice members to provide any further feedback directly to the Deputy Returning Officer before the paper comes back to Student Voice.

4. **Ideas**

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

4.1. **Ensure Core texts are available in the GCU Library**

'More than a few of my core texts and recommended reading texts have not been available on GCU Library and I feel that lectures should not be pushing us to buy our own textbooks only to reference it a few times in one essay. If text is deemed as core, it should be made available to students to access online.'

There were no concerns raised against the Idea.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea to Ensure Core texts are available in the GCU Library. **Vote: For: 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SCEBE agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

4.2. Discretionary and Childcare Applications

'Better clarity on evidence required for those involved in self-employment. There needs to be a series of possible evidence that can be provided that all staff should be aware of.
Currently, it is very vague and if the income doesn't match what is expected, then it is rejected. People in self-employment don't always have a set income level and can increase/decrease monthly. This makes it very difficult to fulfil the criteria and only adds additional pressure on a very stressful situation.'

The proposer explained that the Idea is asking for clearer guidance on evidence needed for discretionary and childcare applications.

NL agreed with the proposal and gave further feedback on the application being time consuming as it requires sending multiple emails. The Vice President SHLS suggested an improvement to include a better system for submissions so applicants don't need to send multiple emails.

The Chair called for a vote to consider the improvement. **Vote: For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The improvement was approved.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea with an improvement to include a better system for submissions so applicants don't need to send multiple emails. **Vote: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SHLS agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President SHLS.**

4.3. Accommodation Page Review

'Have applied for Caledonian Court this year for my halls of residence and the move has went extremely well however I have identified some problems around the application process for Caledonian Court that I think needs changing and have spoken to several different students and we identified some issues that the student association should try and change for prospective room mates:
1. The accommodation page of the website needs some more up to date photos of the flat rooms to give students an idea of what they are expecting as some who couldn't attend the open day weren't able to access up to date photos due to the accommodation page not having been updated in a long time.
2. The accommodation application process was on a paper form, for students who don't hold a printer and given COVID-19 with libraries being closed, it may be ideal for the student association to look at introducing an online application form for students to fill in if they wish to apply for accommodation which also helps the environment in terms of paper being printed to fill in the form and then scanned and returned to the accommodation team e-mail address.
I think this would make the application process more modern and more efficient and something tha would bring some real change to students applying for accommodation at Caledonian Court and something the student association should look into.'

The proposer has been working with the Student President on this Idea and has identified that the accommodation page on the GCU website is out of date and does not have up to date pictures or information on the Caledonian Court halls of residence. The application form is not available to submit electronically as it needs to be printed off which can be inconvenient.

The proposer suggested an improvement to the proposed Idea. After researching, it appears some other halls of residence have a resident's portal which is an easy and efficient way to report maintenance issues and pay rent. The Chair explained that the improvement is different to the initial Idea and should be submitted as a separate Idea for consideration.

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea of Accommodation Page Review. **Vote: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Idea was approved.

4.4. GCU should buy back textbooks from graduating students

'Expecting students to be spending £40+ on a book for a course to only require it for one module and then be left with it is a ridiculous concept. GCU should either provide a safe platform for students to sell their old textbooks to other/new GCU students or simply buy them back from students and sell themselves.'

RG highlighted that a similar Idea has previously been submitted for creating an official Facebook page for students to buy and sell course books. The Chair explained that although the Idea is similar, this Idea is asking the University to buy the books instead.

NL asked for clarity on where the books will be kept once they are bought by the University. The Chair spoke on behalf of the proposer and explained that it was envisaged the books would be made available to students again through the library or by selling them for a cheaper price to students**.**

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea for GCU should buy back textbooks from graduating students. **Vote: For: 22; Against: 2; Abstentions: 6.** The Idea was approved. The Vice President SCEBE agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Vice President SCEBE.**

5. Standing Orders

The Chair presented the Standing Policy paper for discussion and explained that 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 Chair said that the Ideas (motions) from 2015/16 are no longer policy unless a member brings forward a new Idea. Student Voice were asked to discuss and note the current Standing Policy. No questions were asked. The motions for 2015/16 will no longer be policy.

6. Elections

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

6.1. Learning and Teaching Sub- Committee

The Chair called for nominations for the positions of Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee Rep (1x PGT ; 1x PGR)

PGT:
- Bhavanishanker Sharma

PGR:

- Maeve Curtin

The Chair congratulated Bhavanishanker Sharma and Maeve Curtin for becoming members of the Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee.

6.2. Equality and Diversity

The Vice Chair called for nominations for the positions of Equality and Diversity (x2)

- Joshua Foster

The Vice Chair congratulated Joshua Foster for becoming a member of the Equality and Diversity Committee.

The remaining position will be carried forward to the next Student Voice meeting.

7. Full Time Officer Reports

The Chair invited the Full Time Officers to present their written reports for this meeting.

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: 21; Against: 1; Abstention: 3**. The Full Time Officers Reports were approved.

8. Student Voice Officer Reports

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

LGBT+ Officer
- Attended first meeting on campus which had high engagement.
- Arranging future meetings for the Trimester.
- Working on rewriting Students' Association LGBT student handbook.

The Chair explained that Student Voice Officers will be required to provide a written update at the next Student Voice meeting of 2021/22.

No questions were asked in relation to the Student Voice Officer report and the Chair invited members to take a vote to approve the report. **Vote: For: 25; Against: 2; Abstention: 1.** The Student Voice Officer report was approved.

9. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation

The Chair presented the list of new clubs and societies which have affiliated to the Students' Association. This list included:

- PENSA Glasgow
- GCU Tourism Society
- GCU Sign Language

CO asked what the objective is for GCU Tourism Society. Unfortunately, the Societies Council Chair was not present to answer this question. The Chair provided some clarity on what PENSA is. This is a Christian based movement which has been taking place across numerous Universities and is based

on the promotion of Christianity. The Societies connections with the wider community of PENSA is unknown. BS asked if GCU Learning and Development could work together with the GCU Sign Language Society. The Chair explained that the University departments are separate to the Students' Association clubs and societies.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation. **Vote: For: 10; Against: 11; Abstention: 8**. The Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation were not approved.

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

The Chair called for a vote to approve GCU Tourism Society. **Vote: For: 23; Against: 2; Abstention: 5**. The GCU Tourism Society was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve GCU Sign Language Society. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 3**. The GCU Sign Language Society was approved.

The Chair called for a vote to approve PENSA Glasgow Society. **Vote: For: 6; Against: 16; Abstention: 9.** The PENSA Glasgow Society was not approved.

10. **The Bigger Plan 2020- Year 5 Progress**

The Student President highlighted some of the key progress made in the Bigger Plan 2020 which started during the academic year 2017/18 and is a five-year plan. On Monday 16th March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Students' Association took the decision to stop all in person student activities and on Tuesday 17th March 2020 the Students' Association Building and London Office closed. The Students' Association Building and London Office and in person student activities did not resume until Monday 20th September 2021. Despite the challenges, GCU Students' Association was able to meet a lot of the KPI targets of the five-year plan as highlighted in the written report. The annual student survey response asking students if their Association has contributed positively to their experience at University has continued to increase. The Student President explained that the KPI targets which were not fulfilled were linked to changes introduced by the pandemic. For example, the election turnout was effected by elections taking place online rather than in-person. Also, some social media KPI's were not able to be achieved due to changes in algorithms.

The Vice Chair noted that it has been encouraging to see the growth in the Students' Association despite the setbacks by the Coronavirus pandemic. He congratulated the Full Time Officers for their hard work over the years which has contributed to the Students' Association success.

11. **Audited Accounts 2021**

The Students' Association External Auditors, Wylie & Bisset LLP, have completed the annual audit of the Students' Association Accounts 2020/21 (31st July 2021). The Trustees Annual Report outlines the achievements and performance of the Students' Association. This has been a challenging year for the Students' Association with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and moving most activities and services online. The Students' Association Building and London Office remained closed during the academic year 2020/21. With the exception of the limited return of some Sports Clubs for three weeks there were no in person student activities. The Coronavirus outbreak also had a financial impact on the ability of the Students' Association to generate other income.

The total expenditure was £649,887 (2020; £733,173). The expenditure is broken down as £296,219 (2020; £312,869) for Student Engagement, £127,743 (2020; £152,612) for Student Support and £225,925 (2020; £267,692) for Student Activities. The final surplus for the year was £41,320 (2020; £16,083), which includes £17,783 of funding from the Scottish Funding Council to be spent in

2021/22. Excluding the Scottish Funding Council, the surplus was £23,536. A total of £181,900 was retained within the reserve accounts (2020; £140,580).

The accounts have been submitted to the GCU Finance and General Purposes Meeting (GCU Court Sub Committee) on 18th October 2021 for information and the Trustee Board on 18th October 2021 for approval. No questions were asked and Student Voice noted the Audited Accounts 2020/21.

12. External Affiliations

The Student President presented the external affiliations for 2020/21. Section 22 of the 1994 Education Act requires the Students' Association to present the current list of affiliations for approval by members annually.

The Students' Association will remain affiliated to the following organisations:

	2019/20	2020/21
National Union of Students (NUS)	£25,156	£15,723
British Universities and College Sports (BUCS)	£5,097	£5,271
Scottish Student Sport (SSS)	£3,733	£2,856
National Nightline Association (NNA)	£130	£155
Advice UK	-	£258

The External Affiliations are included within the annual audited accounts available from www.GCUstudents.co.uk/financial. The Student President explained that the additional cost for Advice UK this year is the cost of insurance to cover the Advice Centre at the Students' Association.

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

The Chair called for a vote to approve the External Affiliations. **Vote: For: 17; Against: 2; Abstention: 8.** The External Affiliations were approved.

13. Minutes of Student Voice meeting on 22nd March 2021

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 22nd March 2021. No questions were raised by members in relation to the minutes. The Chair said that only those present at the previous meeting could vote to approve the minutes of the meeting at Student Voice held on 22nd March 2021. **Vote: For: 12; Against: 0; Abstention: 11.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 22nd March 2021 were approved.

14. Matters Arising from meeting on 22nd March 2021

The Chair asked the members if there were any questions about the matters arising.

The Vice Chair asked for an update on the referendum on exams before Christmas during the academic year. The Student President will be taking this up with the University and will evaluate whether a referendum would be necessary. The Chair asked the Student President to provide an update on the University's intentions for when exams will be at the next Student Voice meeting.

15. Student Voice Committees

The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote – For: 13; Against: 2; Abstention: 8.** The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

16. Elections Rules

The Deputy Returning Officer explained that GCU Students' Association revises its Election Rules yearly incorporating learning from previous years and feedback from candidates and other stakeholders. As part of this consultation, Student Voice is encouraged to read and feedback their thoughts on the current direction of the revision of the rules. The areas for discussion this year are how to define the beginning of campaigning as opposed to preparation work, rules on social media, how can GCU Learn (or associated tools such as MS Teams) be used for campaigning whilst ensuring fairness to access and issues surrounding copyright. The rationale for the proposed changes were outlined within the paper. There were no questions asked but Student Voice members were encouraged to provide feedback to the Deputy Returning Officer before the 2nd Student Voice meeting.

17. National Student Survey Results 2021

Student Voice noted the National Student Survey Results 2021.

18. Elections Timetable 2021/22

Student Voice noted the Elections Timetable 2021/22.

19. Full Time Officer Remuneration

It was noted that the Full Time Officer pay remained the same due to a pay freeze across the organisation. Student Voice noted the Full Time Officer Remuneration.

20. NUS Conference Delegate Nominations Close on Friday 29th October at 12noon

Student Voice noted that the NUS Conference Delegate Nominations Close on Friday 29th October at 12noon.

21. A.O.C.B

22. The Vice Chair asked how the block grant could be increased from the University. The Chair suggested writing a motion asking for an increase to the block grant from the University which can be discussed at the next Student Voice meeting. The Student Voice Team Leader offered to help with how to write a motion.

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

The meeting was concluded at 7pm.

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

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

Sign In:

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

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

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

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

Observers: David Carse, Ian Kerr, Danny Gallacher

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

1. **Chair Announcements**

    The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair welcomed all members to the second digital meeting of Student Voice for 2021/22. Members were asked to keep their cameras on and microphones off unless they wanted to discuss something or present a paper. The Chair asked members to raise their digital hand if they wanted to speak to help the Chair keep order. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.

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

2. **Revised The EDIT Policy Document**

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

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

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

3. **Revised Radio Caley Policy Document**

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

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

4. **Motion on Block Grant Increase**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. **Revised Elections Rules**

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

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

6. **By-Law changes from Equality and Diversity Committee**

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

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

7. **Ideas**

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

7.1. **Raise awareness of the needs of disabled students**

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

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

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

The Chair called for a vote for the Idea to run a campaign on the needs of disabled students on campus and that users of disabled parking spaces must show their Blue Badge on the dashboard of the car.. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 5.** The Idea was approved. The Student President agreed to take forward this Idea. **Action: Student President.**

7.2. GCU Website

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

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

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

7.3. Flu Boosters

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

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

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

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

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

7.4. Library Hours

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. **Elections**

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

8.1. **Elections Committee**

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

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

- Hamza Saleem
- Rachel Gibson
- Zainab Ali

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

9. **Full Time Officer Reports**

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

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

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

10. **Student Voice Officer Reports**

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

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

11. Extension of the Meeting

The Chair explained that due to time constraints for the meeting, there are still items to be discussed by Student Voice and requested members if the meeting could be extended by 15 minutes.

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

12. Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation

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

• PENSA Glasgow
• GCU Mooting Society

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

There were no questions on the GCU Mooting Society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 25th October 2021. No questions were raised by members in relation to the minutes. The Chair said that only those present at the previous meeting could vote to approve the minutes of the meeting at Student Voice held on 25th October 2021**. Vote: For: 18; Against: 0; Abstention: 4.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 25th October 2021 were approved.

15. Matters Arising from meeting on 25th October 2021

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

16. Student Voice Committees

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

17. Revised Elections Timetable 2021-22

Student Voice noted the revised Elections Timetable 2021-22.

18. A.O.C.B

18.1 Student Voice Meeting 21.02.22

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

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

The meeting was concluded at 7.15pm.

Minutes of the 3rd Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2021/22

Meeting held on Monday, 21st February 2022, on Microsoft Teams, at 5.00pm.

Sign In:

Present: Vincent Waters (Chair); Jonnie England (ViceChair); Adil Rahoo (Student President); Olivia Hall (VP SCEBE); Priscilla Otuagoma (VP GSBS); Tabitha Nyariki (VP SHLS); River Gowans (RG); Jessica Greig (JG); Christina Opoku Afriyie (CO); Karolina Syrek (KS); Natalia Timoshkina (NT); Helen Bolland (HB); Sohaib Saleem (SS); Jodie Murdoch (JM); Abdul Rafiq (AR); Abbie Houston (AH); Sadida Hasan (SH); Cols Young (CY); Bhavanishanker Sharma (BS); Hemantkumar Parmar (HP); Laiba Tareen (LT); Zeinab Farhat (ZF); Rachel Gibson (RG); Tun Nadia Aminuddin (TA); Oluwatosho Olowoye (OO); Raiyen Mehmood (RM); Afia Kazmi (AK); Hamza Saleem (HS); Vamsi Chaitanya Surisetti (VS)

Absent: Stefan Fisher (SF); Joshua Foster (JF); Ghulam Sidique (GS); Erin Rooney (ER); Natalie Lindsay (NL); Maryam Chishti (MC); Louise Dunn (LD); Noemi Buracchi (NB); Catherine Mackie (CM); Georgina Smith (GS); Liam Brown (LB); Sreejith Suresh (SS); Tarik Basbugoglu (TB); Zorena Shanks (ZS); Oliver Wright (OW); Rebecca Lawlor (RL); Rachael Hutchison (RH); David Grimm (DG); Syed Ali Hassan (SH); Reece Manson (RM); Nicola Mcmaster (NM); Michaela O'Hara (MO); Douglas Livingston (DL); Robert Gallacher (RG)

Apologies: Kenneth Heap (KH); Katie Moffat (KM); Charles Gribben (CG); Annamae Burrows (AB); Michaela Ditrichova (MD)

In attendance: David Carse (Chief Executive), Philip Morton (Clerk)

Observers: Kamalpreet Badi; Meg Lustman; Neena Mahal

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

1. **Chair Announcements**

    The meeting started at 5.00pm. The Chair welcomed all members, two members of the universities court of governors, the new student voice clerk and the Chief Executive who was standing in for the student voice leader in their absence to the third digital meeting of Student Voice for 2021/22. It was recognised that this meeting was originally scheduled to be a hybrid event but due to operational issues, this had to be moved to fully online. Members were made aware that this meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking and will be destroyed once the minutes have been collated. Members were asked to keep their cameras on and microphones off unless they wanted to discuss something or present a paper. The Chair asked members to raise their digital hand if they wanted to speak to help the Chair keep order. Members were reminded of what conduct was acceptable during the meeting.

    A significant change to this meeting (that may not be used in further student voice meetings) was announced due to issues with the practicalities of using the previous system. For this meeting, a new voting system would be used following the format of the Trustee Board. The vote for 'abstentions' will be counted first, followed by those 'against', then the remaining number of voters will be counted as 'for' the motion. These votes were made by use of raising a digital hand. Observers were reminded not to place a vote throughout this meeting.

2. Constitutional Change – Accountability Schedule Policy Document

The Chair explained that several items of discussion lead to the changes in the proposed schedule. The cover page of this document outlines the main areas of change. Point 2.7 of the proposal requires a separate vote and will be looked at separately before voting on the approval of the full policy document.

The Vice Chair raised a question on the rationale allowing the Full Time Officer to finish their contract of employment under the current accountability schedule, if the full time officers have been involved in making this document, why will they not fulfil the rest of their contract under this new schedule. The Chief Executive replied that this has not arisen from the Full Time Officers but from the previous consultation. This was not proposed through our democratic structures but was to be fair for those going into an election understanding the processes in which they would need to comply with.

The Chair explained point 2.7 of the document, that if a Full Time Officer is removed from their post for misconduct during their time in office that they cease to be a Full Time Officer at that point. The question that is open, should they be considered to stand again at a future time for election. This went to a vote with three options. Option one was that an officer cannot stand again if they are removed from their position; option two was that if they were or entered a programme of study, that they will be able to stand again; and option three was that the board of trustees would have the final say on whether the former officer would be able to stand again.

VP SHLS commented that they disagree with option three as the trustee board would be removing the power of Student Voice and strongly agrees with option one.

HB questioned that if the officer was removed, are allegations proven correct before removal? The Chief Executive clarified that the removal of an officer does require confirmation of misconduct through the correct processes. HB then questioned that if an allegation has been made but the officer was to remove themselves from post voluntarily prior to investigation, would this motion be triggered? The chair confirmed that this clause is only actioned if the officer is directly removed by Student Voice/Trustees. HB commented that there could be different levels of transgressions in relation to accountability, in which case is removal fair dependent on the level of misconduct. The Chief Executive commented that there is already a safeguard in place, where Student Voice votes to remove a Full Time Officer, that the Trustee Board could overturn the removal dependent on the nature of removal. It was clarified that option three of this clause was the universities proposal for the Trustee Board to interfere based on the seriousness of incident.

The Vice Chair raised that the removal from office is the last point in a misconduct process, that Full Time Officers could be held to account in a motion of censure meeting before being passed forward to the Trustee Board. The Vice Chair commented that similar to the American President impeachment rules, that an officer should not be able to stand again if they have been removed from post.

The Student President agreed with the comments of HB, that option two does not take into account complications within reason and rationale. Student President agreed with option three, although voices concern over clear wording within the proposed policy, and what would count as motion of no censure or a non-valid motion of no censure, subject to approval from the Trustee Board before the ability to re-run.

AR commented that options one and two in particular do not take into account the ability of human growth and character development over time.

CY had concerns in relation to allowing an officer to re-stand once removed due to misconduct. The Full Time Officers represent the student body and will have misused the power that they have. Having a second level of scrutiny dependent on the allegation is understood, however it is a concern that the

Board of Trustees could overturn a Student Voice vote. It was commented that if someone was removed from formal employment due to misconduct, that they would not be welcomed back; it should similarly be seen that if an officer misuses their power, they should not be able to re-stand.

The VP SCEBE echoed previous comments and agreed that if someone has been removed from post, that their return could have a negative effect on the wellbeing of the rest of the team. It was raised that you only get one year as a Full Time Officer (unless re-elected), if proven previously that they cannot deal with the level of work or misuse their position of power, that it is hard to believe that circumstances would change second time around, risking the integrity and workload of the position.

The Chair called for a vote. Options one was approved: **Vote: For: 17; Against: 11; Abstention: 1.**

The Chair called for a vote on the revised Accountability Schedule Policy Document. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 3.** The revised Accountability Schedule Policy Document was approved.

3. Constitutional Change – Elections Schedule Policy Document

The Chair clarified that if this schedule is passed, that it does not apply to the current Full Time Officer elections that are underway. A committee met last summer to revise the current schedule which was then shared at a previous Student Voice Meeting.

The Vice Chair sought confirmation on the rationale behind the mention of a ten-week period allowing the ability to resign from the role after election. The Vice Chair then voiced concerns over the removal of the elections committee, a unique and important part of our constitution overseeing fair play and ensuring transparency across the board when it comes to elections. The Chief Executive confirmed that the ten-week period mentioned above relates to the democratic standing allowing for the next place candidate to take up post as opposed to holding a by-election in the summer, allowing time for induction and training in the summer. In response to the second comment, the Chief Executive confirmed that the elections committee amendment was sector practice and allowing an independent member of staff to oversee election decisions within an advisory role only.

The Vice Chair proposed an amendment to keep the elections committee, commenting the need for transparency and that there is no reason for an individual staff member to make all decisions.

The Chair called for a vote on the amendment to the revised Elections Schedule Policy to reinstate the elections committee role. **Vote: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The amendment to reinstate the elections committee role was approved.

The Chair called for a vote on the revised Elections Schedule Policy as amended. **Vote: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The revised Elections Schedule Policy Document as amended was approved.

4. Constitutional Change – Membership Schedule Policy Document

The Chair highlighted the three main points to review. It was highlighted in the paper that Full Time Officers are defacto members of The Students' Association but this is not specified in the Schedules. The second amendment covered the ability to suspend a member of the Students' Association if the University has suspended them from campus. The third amendment proposed for the Trustee Board to have the ability of inducting Honorary Life Memberships for persons not affiliated with the University but who display an exemplary impact on the community aligned with the Students' Association's values.

The Vice Chair voiced concerns over the amendment relating to suspensions of Students' Association Members. It was highlighted that a student may be suspended for their own benefit and to ensure their safety on campus. Further concern was raised in relation to Honorary Life Memberships. Vice Chair mentioned that they have no issue with the Trustee Board issuing memberships but does not see the value in awarding an individual that has not done anything to benefit the University or Students' Association.

RG commented students and Full Time Officers can already nominate an honorary membership and that it is believed that external Trustees shouldn't have the right to choose this due to them not knowing what is happening within the Students' Association compared to those on campus.

HB questioned whether in the event of a suspended member, if they are still able to attend the Students' Association for advice and wellbeing reasons. The Student President replied that in the event of suspension, that any student still has access for advice, wellbeing and mental health appointments.

Student President went on to clarify that Full Time Officers met to ensure the award of honorary membership directly echoes the mission and values of the Students' Association. It was explained that this proposal of improvement was not to hand over power from Student Voice but to add additional powers to the Trustee Board. It was added that this proposal was in-line with how the University operates in other areas, for example, The Students' Association can nominate a candidate for an honorary degree, not necessarily as an associate of the University, rather incorporating those serving our same vision and values. It was raised that there should be a safeguard in place in the event of a nomination of a controversial figure. Adding power to the Trustee Board will further allow for ceremonial events for life members as well to have students more involved.

The Chief Executive clarified that a student suspended for their own safety would be classified as a 'withdrawal' or 'time-out' as opposed to a formal 'suspension'. University Governance is currently reviewing these terms and wordings and the matter is being closely monitored. It was noted that this should not prevent the schedule proceeding as planned.

Vice Chair proposed an amendment regarding the Trustee Board. Vice Chair does not feel that the trustees need this additional power when they already have the power to overrule Student Voice decisions. It was proposed to delete this from the revised document.

The Chair called for a vote on the amendment, deleting clause 3 that stated that the Trustee Board can nominate independent individuals for an honorary life membership. **Vote: For: 20; Against: 8; Abstentions: 0.** The amendment was approved.

The Chair called for a vote on the revised Membership Schedule Policy. **Vote: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The revised Membership Schedule Policy Document was approved.

5. **Trustee Board Membership Composition**

The Student President clarified the need for an additional external trustee member on the Board of Trustees. It was proposed that there would be a reduction of one student from the Trustee Board to keep the Trustee Board at sector level of twelve members. It was suggested that due to having four Full Time Officers and three students, that the board would still have a student majority but that they are currently in need of additional external expertise when it comes to fields such as finance and human resources for example.

VP SCEBE raised the concern that four Full Time Officers are employed and are no longer students when representing within the board and can't possibly represent a student view when they are not

attending the university as a student themselves. It could be argued that this amendment would no longer make the Board of Trustees student led.

The Vice Chair further voiced the concern that Full Time Officers are not students and that the reduction of a student position would not make the board student focused. It was outlined that if the rationale for decreasing the number of student trustees due to the appointments committee being unable to fill the position, that this is a real issue as to why with the population size of the university that this role cannot be filled. As a possible amendment, it was stated that if there is a struggle to fill the student trustee position that we must look to tie this into another role such as Societies Council or Sports Council leader.

VP SHLS added to the concerns of VP SCEBE that an additional external trustee should not be appointed at the detriment of the students. It was raised that there would be more value in adding a thirteenth member to the board as opposed to taking away a student member. RG agreed that as a student trustee that they do not see a benefit or removing a student trustee, rather if further expertise is needed that adding a thirteenth member would be more beneficial.

Student President commented that although Full Time Officers are employed, that when involved in trustee meetings that they are acting as student representatives. It was further added that they were happy for take on further amendments as to not compromise numbers.

The Chair asked for a decision on the amendment proposed. The Vice Chair proposed an amendment to keep the Trustee Board as twelve members in the roles that they are currently in, but for the Trustee Board to consider the desirability of tying student trustees to other elected Student Voice or subcommittee roles. The Chief Executive clarified the importance of law in which external trustees are not allowed to represent any individual group and must act in the best interest of the charity.

VP SHLS asked whether student trustee positions are closed to only those who are already volunteers, disallowing non-volunteering students from applying for the role. Chief Executive clarified that this is not an issue with the number of people applying for the role of student trustee and that there have always been more applicants than positions available.

The Chair first called for a vote on the amendment that the Trustee Board stays as the current twelve roles**. Vote: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The amendment was approved.

The Chair then called for a vote to approve the amended proposal**. Vote: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The amended proposal was approved. **Action: Student President.**

6. **Ideas**

    a. **GCU Should Begin Using Digital Student ID's / Introducing NFC Digital Student Cards**

    RM and AK have proposed similar ideas that were agreed to be presented as a single idea. The proposal is to replace the current physical student ID system with a digital student ID application. RM communicated that learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic indicate that methods of contactless engagement ensures that staff and students are safeguarded as well as reducing the need of handling unnecessary physical items, increased efficiency for the card holder and helping to future-proof the university. Furthermore, it can help the university lower costs in the manufacturing of each student card as well as reducing the use of plastic, aiding towards greater climate goals.

    VP SHLS commented that although they are in agreement that the idea is good, that some students would not be able to utilise a new system due to not having appropriate technology

to run the application. It was proposed that an improvement could be that a student can decide on having either a digital or physical card.

Vice Chair commented asking for confirmation that this system would work in the same way as using a phone instead of your debit card etc. AK followed up by commenting that yes, they could see this working in a similar fashion to how we use Apple Pay etc. at the moment and that there should still be an option of physical cards for those that cannot use the technology.

The Chair confirmed that the proposed improvement would clarify that students have an option to have either a physical or digital ID card. RM agreed with this improvement to the proposal.

AR commented that although a great idea, that from experience using similar applications, students would likely not download a designated application. Although the reduction of plastic usage is a positive factor, it is a concern that using a mobile application is no safer than a physical card and that students may well deter from using the application for security reasons.

HB commented that as a wheelchair user, that having just one device (i.e. a phone) is much easier from an accessibility standpoint. It was noted however that security is a concern and asked if the university have the infrastructure to protect mobile phone data. Furthermore, the concern of hacking and cost efficiency was raised. VP GSBS agreed with the concern of security and added that if there was an issue with a students' phone, technology or the application itself, that they would also need to have a card as backup. The Student President agreed on the concerns of cyber security and how data could be misused in the event of a hack. VP SCEBE added a concern that due to student cards using a chip or similar, would there need to be new technology instated within the university to allow for phone applications. The Chair confirmed that the university would need to invest in modern sensors to support the use of digital applications. KS added that they have used similar technology in other institutions, and although it did work great, saves time and eliminates the issue of lost student cards, that there must always be a backup in the event of technology going wrong, lost/broken phones etc. They also further raised concerns with the costs implemented with this investment upon the university. Several members echoed the sentiment that although a strong idea, that the practicality and accessibility to technology for all students to use a digital ID card may not be feasible.

AK added that as a Masters student currently studying electronic and electrical engineering that both herself, and classmates are in agreement that digital ID cards are the way forward. It was said that many students forget or lose their cards but are so used to carrying around technology at all times. They understand that some may feel uncomfortable having all data stored on your phone but echoed that hacks can happen anywhere, and that this shouldn't be the main concern moving forward.

The Chair called for a vote on the changed improvement for students to have the option to choose between a physical or digital card. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0.** The revised amendment was approved.

The Chair called for a vote on the full idea proposed with the either/or improvement in place to be presented to the university. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 2; Abstentions: 2.** The Idea with improvement was approved. The VP GSBS agreed to take forward this idea. **Action: VP GSBS.**

7. **Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation**

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

• PENSA Glasgow
• DESI Society

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

Vice Chair had an operational question regarding a previous Student Voice meeting in which it was agreed to include the society packs within these application documents. The Chair acknowledged that this had been agreed although due to availability changes, that the DESI society pack was not released at the same point as the others.

The Chair called for a vote to approve DESI Society. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The DESI Society was approved.

The Chair announced that the second society application proposed was PENSA Glasgow, having previously been proposed and rejected at Student Voice 1 and 2. It was stated that the Board of Trustees are concerned with the reasoning behind this rejection although it was acknowledged that it was unknown why individual members of Student Voice voted the way they did as they do not need to give an explanation on their voting stance. The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Vice Chair was concerned by the wording within the paper in which it was originally stated that the PENSA Society will be autonomous from PENSA UK, although later states that the society will be affiliated with PENSA UK. The Chief Executive confirmed that a society can affiliate with a national body whilst retaining the ability to manage their own rules on a local level.

KS noted that Student Voice in the past have approved a Catholic Society although there does not seem to be one now and hasn't been in the last 3 to 4 years. Since this time, our approach to different denominations within Christianity it to take a unifying approach with Christian Union acting as an umbrella group for the different Christian faiths. The Chair confirmed that there is no longer a current Catholic Society within the Students' Association.

TA voiced an opinion that if a proposal has already been voted against twice, that it should wait until the next academic year before being re-proposed. The Vice Chair followed to reiterate that Student Voice members have never been asked to explain their reasoning for decisions and that doing so undermines the integrity of Student Voice. They went on to comment that this paper does not address the main issues concerning the society and that the second rejected vote on this was an increased majority on the first.

RG noted that this went to Trustee Board and that they are a member of Trustee Board and they were asked not to talk on this as a conflict of interest but that their contributions might contribute in part to the long explanation on why Trustee Board overturned the previous decisions made by Student Voice.

KS voiced that whilst working with many Christian Unions, Christian denominations like PENSA has never before had an issue with joining an already established Christian Union. Christian Unions are place where the different denominations can come together under a shared belief. For KS, it raises questions on why PENSA does not join the umbrella organisation. KS noted that an attempt to open dialogue with those named on the PENSA application on how the Christian Union and PENSA could work together to create a comfortable environment for both parties to work together but there has been no communication from PENSA. This has raised questions/red flags on why they are unwilling to engage.,

CO commented that PENSA Glasgow has always had a society at GCU and never been rejected [clerk's note: PENSA has only been applied for affilaition this year] in this way and feels many concerns surround LGBT+ issues and the similarities between the Christian Union. Being part of PENSA before and the current Ethnic Diversity Network Officer, there is a massive concern over Student Voice's intentions to eliminate a black Christian minority society and take away a space for the community. The Christian Union is mainly Caucasian so black Christians may feel more at home at PENSA with other people who look like them. As EDN Officer, CO was concerned about taking away a space for Black people. It was added that if Student Voice say that they stand for minorities and inclusion, then worry about those values and extent of this inclusion.

ZF agreed with the sentiments of CO, that previous issues were addressed in the current PENSA paper and voiced that religious belief does not have the right to discriminate, further to this, the welcome pack has made it clear that nobody was to be excluded and during a Student's Association meeting held on 14th December 2021, it was confirmed that nobody would be excluded from the society. It was stated that the Christian Union has not reached out to PENSA to work alongside each other. It was commented that PENSA Glasgow was being denied on the basis of misconceptions.

KS clarified that the Christian Union does not discriminate against anyone and the majority of those in the Christian Union at GCU are minorities from all around the world. Secondly PENSA should be the body to open communications with the Christian Union due to them being an already established society.

The Chair called for a vote on PENSA Glasgow Society. **Vote: For: 7; Against: 6; Abstention: 13.** The PENSA Glasgow Society was approved.

8. **Extension of the Meeting**

The Chair explained that due to time constraints for the meeting, there are still items to be discussed by Student Voice and requested members if the meeting could be extended by 30 minutes.

The Chair called for a vote to suspend the current guillotine of time and to extend the meeting to 19:30. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The meeting time extension was approved.

9. **Full Time Officer Reports**

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

There were no questions or comments raised to the Student President, VP SCEBE, VP SCEBE, VP SHLS or VP GSBS regarding their reports submitted.

10. **Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Chair invited the Representation Officers and two Media Groups to update Student Voice Members on their current projects.

The LGBT+ Officer clarified that they are currently working on social media campaigns to highlight and celebrate LGBT+ history month this month. They commented that it has been difficult to figure out times and availability at this moment. They are currently looking into ways of collaborating with the Disabled Students' Officer.

The Women's Officer commented that they have been planning to conduct a campaign to enhance the safety of women. This is still in progress and needs to be worked upon before actioned.

The Ethnic Diversity Network Officer was no longer present although VP SHLS confirmed that there was a careers event booked for 02nd March for EDN students as well as the campaign launch for Student Voice and all Student Groups to pledge to tackle racism and discrimination within our communities and societies.

The Manager of Radio Caley stated that they are excited that the studio was now open again and broadcasting again.

The Editor in Chief of The Edit confirmed that they have had two issues released so far this year, an election special to be released very soon, promoting all candidates running for the Full Time Officer positions as well as a Spring edition to be released shortly after this.

The Disabled Officer, International Students Officer and Care Experience Officers were not present to give an update on their current projects.

There were no further questions asked in relation to the Student Voice Officers reports and updates.

The Chair reverted to the formal votes for both, Full Time Officer Reports and Student Voice Officer Reports until after the Minutes of Student Voice Committees. The Chair invited members to take a vote on all of the reports discussed. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 1**. The Full Time Officers and Student Voice Officers Reports were approved.

11. Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 06th December 2021

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 06th December 2021.

Vice Chair commented on several points for amendment. It was pointed out that in section 3 of the minutes in regards to the Revised Radio Caley policy, that the role discussed within this section has been in need of getting rid of for a while. In section 4, in which an amendment was approved, Vice Chair clarified that there were not 0 votes against the amendment as stated within the minutes as they had voted against it themselves. In Section 7.1 in which the idea to raise awareness of the needs of disabled students was brought forward, Vice Chair commented that his phrasing was that this was previously covered by the Student President and was not needed to be an idea. In terms of library hours, this is up for discussion every year and has been voted on at least once before. In section 7.6, Vice Chair commented that council would not allow certification of nursing courses if added. Within section 12, the main concern was not due to the closeness to the Christian Union but to later points raised. It was pointed out that historically, societies have refused partnerships with the likes of SNP and Labour parties who are external affiliates.

ZF stated that in section 12, there is clarification on affiliations and what is permissible within the Student's Association. It was commented that this was an inaccurate.

The Chair asked if members were happy to take all of comments as one revision to be voted on as opposed to being split into individual votes. It was agreed to vote on all additions as one.

The Chair asked that those present at the previous meeting could vote to approve the amended minutes of the meeting at Student Voice held on 06th December 2021. **Vote: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstention: 1.** The amended Student Voice minutes from 06th December 2021 were approved.

12. Matters Arising from meeting on 06th December 2021

The Chair asked the members if there were any questions about the matters arising.

Vice Chair asked VP SCEBE and VP SHLS on why there are no current updates on their actions. VP SCEBE stated that both themselves and VP SHLS had sent on their updates but did not seem to be included in the document. It was confirmed that these could be sent to members separately for any additional questions.

13. Student Voice Committees

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

The Chair called for a vote on the previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees.
Vote: For: 22; Against: 0; Abstention: 3. The previous minutes of all Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

14. Honourable Life Membership Nominations Deadline 18th March 2022

The Chair clarified that any student can nominate a person that is either a student or that has a close connection to the Students' Association.

Vice Chair commented that the link given in the agenda had a typo and clarified that the deadlines for nominations is 2022 and not 2021. This has since been updated on the website.

It was clarified to those that may not know, that the Executive Committee receive all nomination to create a shortlist of six candidates that can be introduced as an honorary life member that are then presented at Student Voice 4. It was further noted that additionally, that Full Time Officers automatically receive this award.

15. A.O.C.B

There was no further business to be discussed.

16. Student Voice Meeting 04.04.22

The next Student Voice meeting will be taking place on Monday 04th April 2022. Details on the format of this meeting will be confirmed by the Clerk as soon as possible.

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

The meeting was concluded at 7.20pm.

Minutes of the 4th Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2021/22

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

Sign In:

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

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

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

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

Observers: Monica Allen (MA)

Any member of Student Voice, excluding Full Time Officers, who miss two meetings of Student Voice without apologies in an academic year, will have automatically deemed to have resigned as a member, Officer, Department, PGT or PGR Rep.

1. **Chair Announcements**

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

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

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

2. **Minutes of Student Voice Meeting on 21st February 2022**

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

   There were no corrections or comments added.

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

3. **Matters Arising**

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

4. **Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

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

   The Chair called for a vote on the previous minutes of Student Voice Sub Committees, taken collectively.
   Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstention: 4. The previous minutes of Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

5. **Full Time Officer Reports**

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

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

   The Chair called for a vote on the Full Time Officer Reports.
   Vote: For: 14; Against: 0; Abstention: 5. The Full Time Officer Reports were approved.

6. **Student Voice Officer Reports**

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

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

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

   The Chair called for a vote on the Student Voice Officer Reports.
   Vote: For: 15; Against: 0; Abstention: 4. The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

7. **Clubs and Societies Proposed for Affiliation**

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

• Palestine Society
• Business Society

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. **Honorary Life Membership Nominations**

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

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

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

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

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

9. **Personal Tutoring Review Update**

VP GSBS was absent to present this update.

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

10. **Ideas**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Motion – Yearly Re-Approval of Affiliate Societies

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

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

There were no amendments proposed to this motion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Revised Transport Policy

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

There were no questions or comments regarding the policy.

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

14. Revised Sustainability Policy

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

There were no questions or comments regarding the policy.

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

15. Full Time Officer Competency Framework

The chair confirmed that this paper was for discussion only.

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

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

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

16. Student Voice Elections 2022/23

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

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

Student Voice Elections 2022/23
- Chair: Karolina Syrek
- Vice Chair: Robert Gallacher
- Fresher's Committee: Rachel Gibson
- Senate: Rachel Gibson; Jodie Murdoch; David Grimm; Olivia Hall

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

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

17. Student Trustees

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

18. Star Awards

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

19. Teaching Awards 2022

Members were told that the deadline for nominations is Thursday 14th April 2022.

20. Annual Student Survey 2022

Members were told that the deadline for submission is 29th April 2022.

21. Student Partnership Agreement

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

22. A.O.C.B

There was no further business to be discussed.

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

The meeting was concluded at 6.40pm.