

Minutes of the 2nd Caledonian Student Voice Meeting of Session 2018/19

Meeting held on Monday, 26th November 2018, in NH208, at 5.00pm.

Sign In:

Present: Rachel Simpson (Student President, Acting Chair); Yetunde Ogedengbe (VP SHLS); Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS); Ramzy Abou-Zeid (RA); Nahida Akter (NA); Monica Allen (MA); Tara Campbell (TC); Neill Clark (NC); Sarah Cullen (SC); Michael Docherty (MD); Susan Docherty (SD); Jennifer Donnelly (JD); Jonnie England (JE); Rebecca Fernie (RF); Kim (John) Flores (KF); Naomi Hollis (NH); Maja Jorgensen (MJ); Sandra Kubasik (SK); Nicole Kusel-McCroy (KMc); Michael Marshall (MM); Maria Nagy (MN); Ella Peters (EP); Alisa Pulkkinen (AP); Sophie Robinson (SR); Alex Rycroft (AR); Antonia Voss (AV).

Absent: Lauren Baigrie (LB); Helen Johnstone (HJ); Donatella Mindjou (DJ); Conor Tobin (CT); Declan McGallaghy (DMcG); Senna Mattar (SM); Cara Galbraith (CG); Konstantinos Ouzounoglou (KO).

Apologies: Eilidh Fulton (VP SCEBE); Hannah Brown (HB); Aliisa Pulkkinen (AP); Rebeka Luzaityte (RL); Dimitrios Maroulis (DM); Craig Davidson (CD); Kirsten Stewart (KS); Racheal Olayinka (RO); Caitlin Reid (CR); Yeelon Yeoh (YY); Sarah Mackie (SM).

In attendance: Sara MacLean (Student Voice Team Leader); Caroline Miller (Representation and Advice Manager); Kathryn Collins (Clerk).

Observers: F Skat (FS); Benedetta Giribaldi (BG); Rachel Ross (RR).

Members who were absent without apologies have received an automatic caution from Student Voice. Any member who receives two cautions will automatically face a vote of no confidence at which members of Student Voice may decide to remove them from their position.

1. Welcome

- 1.1 The meeting started at 5.04pm. The Chair (Rachel Simpson) welcomed all members to the second meeting of Student Voice for 2018/19. Members were asked to ensure they had signed in and taken a voting card to use when speaking. The Chair said that observers are welcome to the meeting but they are not eligible to vote. Members were reminded of what conduct is acceptable during the meeting.
- 1.2 The Student President explained that for this meeting she would be the Chair due to the absence of the Chair and that the Deputy Chair has resigned. The Chair informed members there would be an election for a Deputy Chair at tonight's meeting.
- 1.3 The Chair informed members that after the meeting all members have been invited to one free drink at the Re:Union Bar & Grill on behalf of the Students' Association.

2. Motion of No Confidence Review

- 2.1 The Chair explained that the Trustee Board commissioned Nick Smith Consulting to carry out a Motion of No Confidence Review (otherwise known as Officer Accountability). The Chair explained that a Motion of No Confidence, if successful, immediately removes that member from their post. In the simplest terms a Motion of No Confidence is the mechanism for firing an elected Officer. The Chair said that the Motion of No Confidence Review from Nick Smith Consulting

made recommendations for changes to our Election Rules and Nick Smith would be joining the Student Voice tonight via telephone.

At 5.10pm, Nick Smith joined Student Voice via teleconference.

- 2.2 The Chair welcomed Nick Smith to the meeting and asked him to discuss his Motion of No Confidence Review. Nick Smith said his paper outlines that there are two main models for dealing with a Motion of No Confidence within Students' Associations/Unions. The first is that Student Voice decides to approve (or not) a Motion of No Confidence in a Full Time Officer by a two third majority whether a referendum (an all student online vote) takes place on whether a Full Time Officer receives a Motion of No Confidence. Nick Smith explained in more detail the different types of issues to hold officers accountable and how Student Voice would want to be able to enact Motion of No Confidence.

At 5.15pm, Nick Smith left Student Voice.

- 2.3 The Chair asked Student Voice to discuss the Motion of No Confidence as per the Review from Nick Smith. It was noted that some members felt that Student Voice dealt with the political matters whilst Trustee Board dealt with staff matters and the strategic direction and so why change this going forward. Some members felt it would take the point of having Student Voice away if the current process of dealing with a Motion of No Confidence changed as Student Voice holds Full Time Officers to account and this power would be taken away if a referendum was enacted for the whole University to vote on. Members then discussed a range of sanctions for the Full Time Officers, as members felt that it was extreme to go straight to a Vote of No Confidence and then removed from Office. Members felt that there should be a range of sanctions/interim procedures in place to help mitigate the problem if a Full Time Officers has a complaint taken out against them depending on the seriousness of the complaint.
- 2.4 The Chair asked members their thoughts on the Disciplinary Committee and whether Trustee Board should be included. Members felt that Trustee Board should not be involved in the political decisions. The Chair summarised that members of Student Voice felt that it should be Student Voice that decides whether to approve (or not) a Motion of No Confidence in a Full Time Officer by a two thirds majority (our current approach) and that a range of sanctions should be possible for the Disciplinary Committee to impose such as compulsory training or support etc. JE asked The Chair to include some text in the Election Rules about not putting in a Motion of No Confidence just before the Elections, the chair responded that this has been reflected in the election rule revision that will be discussed and voted on later in the meeting.

The Chair thanked Student Voice for their thoughts and feedback and explained that at this stage it was only for discussion and that proposed changes to our Schedules and Bye-Laws on new/revised Motion of No Confidence rules would then be proposed to Student Voice in February 2019 based on the recommendations within the report.

*At this point in the meeting, Monica Allen (MA) asked some agenda items could be moved further up the agenda – point 6, Elections, and point 10, Student Voice Officer Reports. The Chair called for a vote to move point 6 and point 10, on the Student Voice agenda, to be discussed next. **Vote: For: 24, Against: 0, Abstention: 0.***

3. Elections

The Chair gave a brief description for the role of Student Voice Deputy Chair/Returning Officer and members were invited to put their name forward. Maria Nagy was elected as Student Voice Deputy Chair/Returning Officer. The Student Voice Team Leader said that a brief prior to each meeting will be offered to the Student Voice Chair and Deputy Chair.

The Chair discussed the responsibilities of the Elections Committee and that no member of the Elections Committee can take part in the Full Time Officers elections as a candidate, agent or campaigner. The Chair invited five members to put themselves forward for the Election Committee. Monica Allen (MA); Susan Docherty (SD); Kim (John) Flores (KF); Rebecca Fernie (RF) and Neill Clark (NC) were elected to the Elections Committee.

The Chair congratulated the members on their places within the Elections Committee and as Student Voice Deputy Chair/Returning Officer.

4. **Student Voice Officer Reports**

The Student Voice Officers were invited by the Chair to provide a brief verbal update if there had been any changes/updates to their report since they had submitted it. The Chair noted that there were a few new Representatives that had just taken on the role and there was no obligation to give an update at this meeting.

Editor-in-Chief (EDIT magazine)

- Re-elected Head of Events
- Head of Social Media has stepped down and there will be a by-election after Christmas.
- Received money from the Common Good Fund for the Manifesto Booklet for the up and coming Student Elections.

Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer

- Working on Age Discrimination Campaign.
- Easter Egg Campaign to be held again this year. Let the Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer know if you wish to be involved.

Radio Caley

- By-election taking place next week as some members are leaving Radio Caley.
- A 24 Hour Broadcast taking place soon.
- Received money from the Common Good Fund.
- Pub quiz taking place on 4th December with the EDIT.

Sports Council Chair

- Holding elections shortly for an Events Convenor.
- Working on the Show Racism the Red Card Campaign.

No questions were raised from the reports. The Chair invited members to take a vote to decide whether to approve the Student Voice Officer Reports. **Vote: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Student Voice Officer Reports were approved.

5. **Previous Minutes**

The Chair invited members to consider the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting held on 22nd October 2018. JE pointed out that his name had been misspelled and should be Jonnie and not Johnathan. **Action: Clerk.** The Chair said that only those present at the previous meeting could vote to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Caledonian Student Voice held on Monday, 22nd October 2018. **Vote: For: 11; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The previous Student Voice minutes from 22nd October 2018 were approved noting the above amendment.

6. **Matters Arising**

6.1 **GCU Branded Clothing**

The VP GSBS said that he had spoken with Sports Council and with Provan Sports Limited (PSL) who are looking into ties, badges, caps and other additional merchandise for GCU students. The VP GSBS said that he would keep Student Voice updated. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

6.2 **Bright White Recycled Paper**

The VP GSBS informed members that GCU photocopiers will not be stocking bright white recycled paper. The VP GSBS was asked to find out whether students would be able to pay the difference to have their dissertations printed on bright white recycled paper. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP GSBS.**

6.3 **Energy Drinks on Campus**

The VP SCEBE was not present at the meeting and so update was given. This matter is ongoing. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

6.4 **Referendum on Exams**

The Student President said that the referendum on exams before Christmas is still an ongoing matter. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**

6.5 **Benefits of affiliation to NUS**

The Student President presented a paper outlining the benefits of affiliation to NUS and highlighted the benefits that GCU Students' Association receives. JE said he had asked the Student President if she could specifically outline the benefits that GCU Students' Associations gets from NUS and if she could put together a report. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.**

6.6 **Voter Turnout Statistics for Friday Voting**

The Deputy Returning Officer provided the following Friday Election Turnout from 2015-2018. This matter is resolved.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Votes cast	421	341	308	553
Percentage	16%	14.50%	11.60%	17.60%

6.7 **Full Time Officer Election Timetable**

The Deputy Returning Officer provided a Full Time Officer Election Timetable which members noted. This matter is resolved.

6.8 **Mindfulness Sessions**

The Student President said that she was focusing on enhancing the current GCU services and that she has a meeting scheduled with the Mindfulness Practitioners. This matter is ongoing. **Action: Student President.** The Student President was asked to help increase awareness and to advertise the online resources available for students **Action: Student President.**

6.9 **Full Time Officer Model Review**

The Executive Committee reported back at an Executive Meeting held on 9th November 2018 that from the previous Student Voice meeting that there did not appear to be a consensus for this recommendation to be further discussed at Student Voice Sub-Committees. This matter is resolved.

7. **Minutes of Student Voice Committees**

No questions were raised by members in relation to the minutes. The Chair called for a vote to approve the previous minutes of all the Student Voice Sub Committees. **Vote: For: 14; Against: 0; Abstention: 5.** The previous minutes of all the Student Voice Sub Committees were approved.

8. **Affiliations**

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

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

- Language Café (society)
- Events Society
- Greek-Cypriot Society
- Physiotherapy Society

No questions were raised by members in relation to the affiliations. The Chair asked all members to take a vote to approve all ratifications. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 1; Abstention: 1.**

9. **Revised Election Rules**

The Deputy Returning Officer presented the revised Election Rules for approval to Student Voice. The Election Rules work in conjunction with Schedule 4 to the Constitution for campus wide elections (NUS Conference Delegations, GCU London Officer and Full Time Officer Elections). The recommendations from the NUS Returning Officer 2018 Report and the Motion of No Confidence Review conducted by Nick Smith Consulting have been adopted. A benchmarking exercise of the University of Strathclyde Students' Association and Edinburgh University Students' Association Election Rules was also undertaken. In addition, the University Secretary & Vice-Principal Governance and Head of Governance were consulted.

The revised Election Rules are presented as a tracked changes document with comments for context. The Election Rules are also presented without the tracked changes. The Chair asked all members to take a vote to approve all revised Election Rules. **Vote: For: 21; Against: 0; Abstention: 0.** The Election Rules were approved.

10. **Full Time Officer Reports**

The Chair asked the Full Time Officers if there had been any updates on any items in their submitted written reports which there has been developments since the report was written and if so for them to provide a brief two-minute verbal summary.

The VP GSBS was asked about Go Green Week which is available for all students to be involved and who will receive £50.00 expenses from GCU to participate and this is available to all student groups including media groups. Successful students will be awarded £50.00 and will be asked to attend the Go Green Week Festival 2019 with all expenses paid. The VP GSBS said that if anyone is interested them to speak to him directly. The VP GSBS said that Go Green Week will be advertised via the Students' Association website and information sent out in the All Student Email to GCU Students' Association members that have opted in to receive the email.

JE asked that a vote be taken to postpone the approval for the Full Time Officer report from the VP SCEBE until she is present at the next meeting and will then present her Full Time Officer reports from November 2018 and February 2019. The Chair called for a vote to postpone the approval of the Full Time Officer report from the VP SCEBE. **Vote: For: 13; Against: 0; Abstention: 6.**

No further questions were asked in relation to the Full Officers Reports and the Chair invited members to take a vote to decide whether to approve all the reports excluding the report from the VP SCEBE who will be required to present her November 2018 report at the next Student Voice in February 2019. **Action: VP SCEBE. Vote: For: 16; Against: 0; Abstention: 3.** The Student President, VP SHLS and the VP GSBS reports were approved.

11. Ideas

11.1 Signposting on foods in campus cafeterias (Rachel Ross)

The proposer, Rachel Ross (RR), presented her Idea to Student Voice. RR said that signposting on foods in all campus cafeterias would be helpful and inclusive for not only vegans, but also people with dairy intolerances and that a simple VE (Vegan) symbol would be very appreciated. The Chair asked Student Voice for any amendments to the Idea and it was proposed to have gluten free signposting too. No members were against the improvement to the Idea. The Chair called for a vote for the overall Idea including the improvement to the idea. **Vote: For: 19; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** As the VP SCEBE has catering under her remit she will take this Idea forward and report back at the next Student Voice. **Action: VP SCEBE.**

11.2 Save Energy (Clair Brown)

The proposer, Clair Brown, was not present at the meeting and the Student President spoke to the Idea. "I use the PC labs on a Sunday and every light, TV screen and announcement board are on in the corridors and open spaces. Surely in this day and age we should be trying harder to save energy by switching of tvs and announcement boards out with general uni attendance times and light switches should be made more visible with an emphasis on turning them off when they are not needed. The money raised could even be put to charitable use, if GCU budgets are healthy enough." The Student President said that it was always a good thing to try to reduce energy and this as a great way to reduce energy. However, the computers in the 24 Hour Lab turn themselves off after a certain time and the Popcorn Screens in the Students' Association building can't be turned off due to sponsorship/advertising contracts. The Chair asked for any amendments to the Idea and it was suggested that enquires are made about what the University currently does already in terms of saving energy in relation to the Idea submitted. The Chair called for a vote for the overall Idea including the improvement to the idea. **Vote: For: 10; Against: 1; Abstentions: 6.** The Student President said she would take this Idea forward and report back at the next Student Voice. **Action: Student President.**

At this point (6.50pm) the Chair called a motion to extend the guillotine and for the meeting to finish at 7.30pm. The Chair called for a vote and asked members if they wished to vote to extending the meeting. Vote: For: 4; Against: 12; Abstentions: 3. The Guillotine was not extended as the vote did not pass. The Chair called for another vote and asked members if they wished to vote to extending the meeting to 7.15pm. Vote: For: 14; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0. The meeting was extended until 7.15pm.

11.3 24/7 Safe Place (Benedetta Giribaldi)

The proposer, Benedetta Giribaldi (BG) spoke about having a 24/7 Safe Place within the University for students to go to offer a quiet and relaxing place where they can if feeling unsafe and anxious. BG spoke about the benefits of having this space. The Chair asked Student Voice if they had any questions. Members asked if the safe space would be student led and who would monitor the space, and enquired about capacity and the security aspect. It was noted that staff would not be available to monitor the space as it was a 24/7 space. The Student President asked for any amendments to the Idea. The Student President proposed using the Gender Safe Space, room NH205, located on level 2, within the Students' Association, to have a generic safe space on campus during opening hours as level 2 would not be open 24/7 as it closes at 8pm but that the Advice Centre and the Wellbeing Service is open too and the Nightline telephone number can be given out. The Chair added that if the uptake of the room NH205 is high and staff are able to

support it on some level then a 24/7 safe space can be looked into. The Chair said that she would discuss with the LGBT+ and Women's liberation groups about the use of the safe space to run the pilot. The Chair called for a vote for the overall Idea including the improvements to the idea. **Vote: For: 13 Against: 0; Abstentions: 6.** The Student President said she would take this Idea forward and report back at the next Student Voice. **Action: Student President.**

The Chair called for a vote to bring forward on the agenda the Revised Radio Caley Policy Document, Revised Transport Policy, and the Revised Societies Policy Document prior to the remaining three Ideas. Vote: For: 17 Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.

12. **Revised Radio Caley Policy Document**

Alex Rycroft, Station Manager, presented the Revised Radio Caley Policy Document and said the proposed changes are marked as track changes and asked Student Voice to approve the revised Radio Station Policy Document. No questions were asked. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Radio Caley Policy Document. **Vote: For: 18 Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.** The Revised Radio Caley Policy Document was approved.

13. **Revised Transport Policy**

The VP GSBS presented the Revised Transport Policy and explained that the proposal is to change the Transport Policy to allow students with a European Union driving licence to be eligible to drive hired vehicles (up to 8 seaters) for activities when they are aged 18 and over. The current policy is currently limited to UK driving licence holders only. "All drivers must be registered with GCU Students' Association and provide a copy of their driving licence at least 7 days prior to driving. To be eligible to drive a hired vehicle (up to 8 passengers) you must be aged 18 and over and have held a full UK or EU licence for 12 months or more." No questions were asked and the VP GSBS asked Student Voice to approve the Transport Policy. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Transport Policy Document. **Vote: For: 17 Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** The Revised Transport Policy Document was approved.

14. **Revised Societies Policy Document**

In the absence of the VP SCEBE, the Student President presented the Revised Societies Policy Document and said that the Societies Policy has been updated to include a section 15 on Initiation Ceremonies. The Societies Policy has been updated to include a section 15 (see below) on Initiation Ceremonies.

15.0 Initiation Ceremonies*

15.1 GCU Students' Association does not condone initiation ceremonies whether on or off Campus; and believes the practice of initiations may be a dangerous and degrading exercise that jeopardises the safety of its members and can be a source of negative publicity for the Students' Association. It is also considered that unforeseen circumstances that may result from such ceremonies can cause anguish that may affect students both personally and academically.

15.2 If a society is found to have breached the Initiations Policy, the society may be liable to disciplinary action in line with GCU Student' Association Disciplinary Procedure.

**Definition: An initiation ceremony is an event in which members (often new members) of the activity group are expected to perform a task or tasks as a means of gaining credibility, status or entry within that club or society. This may involve peer pressure (though not explicitly) exerted on students, and may compromise a person's inherent dignity as a person by forcing or requiring an individual to drink alcohol, eat mixtures of various food stuffs, nudity and behaviour that may be deemed humiliating.*

No questions were asked. The Chair called for a vote to approve the Revised Societies Policy Document. **Vote: For: 17 Against: 0; Abstentions:1.** The Revised Societies Policy Document was approved.

15. **Elections Timetable**

Student Voice noted the Elections Timetable.

16. **Ideas (continued from point 11)**

16.1 **Apps anywhere to be anywhere (Mark Green)**

The proposer, Mark Green, was not present and due to time constraints the Chair called for a vote to bring back this Idea to the next Student Voice meeting. **Vote: For: 18 Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** This Idea will be brought back to the next Student Voice for discussion. **Action: Clerk.**

16.2 **Having a microwave for people to warm their food up (Sumaya Mughal)**

The proposer, Sumaya Mughal, was not present and the VP SHLS spoke to the Idea. "A lot of people that bring food in for themselves struggle and are forced to eat their food cold as there are no microwave on campus for anyone to use. In addition, other universities already are providing microwaves on campus for students to use whereas GCU isn't. This especially gets hard for people that may be needing to eat Halal food as there isn't many options on the university campus for halal food/chicken." Member asked the VP SHLS how would the microwave be managed and what Baxterstorey cafeteria the proposer was referring to. Members raised concern about students with allergies and using the microwave and how the microwave would be cleaned. The Chair called for a vote for the overall Idea. **Vote: For: 12; Against: 3; Abstentions: 2.** As the VP SHLS said she would take forward this Idea forward and report back at the next Student Voice. **Action: VP SHLS.**

16.3 **The Saltire Centre to have lockers (Sarah Clare Mackie)**

The proposer, Sarah Clare Mackie, was not present and due to time constraints the Chair called for a vote to bring back this Idea to the next Student Voice meeting. **Vote: For: 17 Against: 0; Abstentions: 0.** This Idea will be brought back to the next Student Voice for discussion. **Action: Clerk.**

17. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The Chair thanked all members of Student Voice for their attendance and reminded members that Student Voice members are invited for one free drink in Re:Union Bar & Grill and a chance to network with other members.

The meeting was concluded at 7.19pm.

The next meeting of Student Voice is on 11th February 2019.