

STIRLING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of an Emergency meeting of the Students' Association COUNCIL held on Monday 1st December 2008 at 4.00pm in Lecture Theatre A6.

1 Attendance

1.1 Members Present

Tom Spencer	-	President
Greg Ure	-	Sports Union President
Mark Cullen	-	Vice President (Services & Treasurer)
Catherine Coales	-	Vice President (Welfare & Education)
Sean O'Hara	-	Student Activities Officer
Jodie Hughes	-	Women's Officer
David Lewin	-	Black Students' Officer
Mark Charters	-	LGBT Officer
Kim Delaney	-	AirTV Station Manager
Dale McEwan	-	Brig Editor
Kimberley Hutchison	-	Mature Students Officer
David Nicholson	-	Disabled Students Officer
Michael Dunn	-	Ethics & Environment Officer
Ally McCrae	-	Air3 Station Manager
Rebecca Han	-	International Students Officer
Emily Chapman	-	Sports Studies Representative
Christopher McGee	-	Nursing & Midwifery Representative
Vivien Lafferty	-	Accounting & Finance Representative
Katherine Lamb	-	History Representative
Colette Gilhooley	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
Heather Moonlight	-	Management Representative
Nikki Holder	-	Psychology Representative
Declan Glasgow	-	English Studies Representative
Matt Jessop	-	History Representative
Steven Gale	-	History Representative
Dean Thomson	-	Politics Representative
Kerr Hunter	-	Marketing Representative
Garry Paton	-	Philosophy Representative
Jacqueline Ashcroft	-	Geddes Court Representative
Danny Rafferty	-	Andrew Stewart Hall Representative
Onyeka Esiana	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
Ian Neilson	-	Philosophy Representative

1.2	<u>In Attendance</u>		
	Nick Manton	-	Membership Services Manager
	Graham Boyack	-	Interim General Manager
1.3	<u>Observers</u>		
	Darren Sempie		
1.4	<u>Apologies</u>		
	Lucy Strachan	-	Campaigns Officer
	Laura Mackay	-	Equal Opportunities Officer
	Hannah Pickford	-	Sports Studies Representative
	Joanne Peek	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
	Chloe Postlethwaite	-	Law Representative
	Iva Stancheva	-	Accounting & Finance Representative
	Khorum Rehman	-	Economics Representative
	Daniel Boles	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
	Ashleigh Sheils	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
	Catriona Wood	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	James Banks	-	Vice-Chairperson of the Highland Campus Representative Committee/Chair
	Neelum Raza	-	Law Representative
	Colin McTaggart	-	Computing Science & Maths Representative
	Megan King	-	Politics Representative
	Thomas Mazzocco	-	Computing Science & Maths Representative
	Gemma Greaves	-	Marketing Representative
	Ruth Bowler	-	Marketing Representative
	Laura Brown	-	English Studies Representative
	Jennifer Mitchell	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
1.5	<u>Absent Without Apologies</u>		
	Robbie Mackenzie	-	Entertainments Officer
	Raymond Burke	-	English Studies Representative
	David Campbell	-	Accounting & Finance Representative
	Richard McPherson	-	Chairperson of the Highland Campus Representative Committee
	Cat Tippet	-	Murray Hall Representative
	Mudiwa Mutasa	-	Economics Representative
	Gavin Waddell	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	Billie Jones	-	Film, Media & Journalism Representative
	Maria Bartlett	-	Film, Media & Journalism Representative
	Kara Young	-	Film, Media & Journalism Representative

2 Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

3 Adoption Of Minutes From Previous Meetings

4 Notice Of Adoption Of Any Other Competent Business

5 Challenges To The Order Of The Paper

6 Resignations & Elections

7 Dates To Note

8 Reports

9 Discussion & Decision Topics

9.1 SUSA Governance Reform

9.1.1 President: On taking office, we wanted to look at changes and have worked with Trustees. Have looked at fixing the Finances and University have given support. Commissioned 2 reports and both state that we need to look at our Constitution and that it needs to be clearer. Want a mandate from Council to take the proposals in the motion forward.

9.1.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Want to find out what student opinion is and talk to students.

9.1.3 Noted: Vote on Motion. UNANIMOUS.

9.2 Election Reform

9.2.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): When elected, set about changing things and wanted to look at union development. 3 parts to this, the first being the Officer handover motion passed last year, part two is this proposal and part three is training for Officers. Should be more fun to be an Officer and make it better so people go on and do it for more than one year. This is looking at student activism. The elections are not bad and are run efficiently but want to make it better. Two key parts include the turnout as not enough people vote, and also how many people run for positions. We need more contested elections. Want to improve the quality and diversity of the candidates. There are elements of this which are just simple changes, such as the Handbook. Other parts require Schedule change and we can't just go ahead and do this. Also looking at elements such as incentives for those on the Elections Committee. Also looking to SUSAonline and other websites to improve communication, training for potential candidates and expanding the length of time elections run. Key part we need permission for is dumping the ballot voting and going all online. Want to still have Atrium presence to assist people voting. Would also be keen to hear any other ideas people may have.

- 9.2.2 Dean Thomson: Not the first clue about the structure. You need to explain what all the positions mean.
- 9.2.3 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Want to do this now so we can get the changes through and start promotion sooner to explain everything. Looking to start promotions in Re:Freshers Week.
- 9.2.4 Women's Officer: If you start too early in Freshers Week, you can put some people off.
- 9.2.5 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Whilst other Unions start that early, I think that's too soon. There is a lot of effort involved in running an election.
- 9.2.6 Women's Officer: Good idea about the laptops. There are some though, that don't do everything on a computer so it's important to have a small ballot option.
- 9.2.7 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Want to keep the help aspect and have people assist in the Atrium.
- 9.2.8 Student Activities Officer: Why do we not offer voting in Pathfoot?
- 9.2.9 President: Did run it in Pathfoot a few years ago and it was universally agreed that it wasn't worthwhile. Candidates can go to Pathfoot though and campaign.
- 9.2.10 Student Activities Officer: Even if it was only 2 laptops and staff to run it. Should be using the whole campus.
- 9.2.11 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): The campaign materials will focus on the need to campaign everywhere. Our best tools for such promotion are the candidates themselves. We need to train them and tell them how to do it.
- 9.2.12 Student Activities Officer: So it won't be done again?
- 9.2.13 President: Never say never.
- 9.2.14 Mature Students Officer: Agree with Student Activities Officer. Should be able to vote there. Even if it's only for a handful of votes.
- 9.2.15 Emily Chapman: Agree with Student Activities Officer as well. It can be confusing for first years though so need to address publicity.
- 9.2.16 Dean Thomson: Publicity is an issue in first year Halls as there never seems to be any. Is there a change in policy needed?
- 9.2.17 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): I have an issue anyway with printed publicity. No one reads it, ineffective, bad for the environment. The key is online promotion and using University portal and e-mail system.
- 9.2.18 Air3 Station Manager: How do other Unions administer online situation and deal with complaints and bitchy comments?
- 9.2.19 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): This is a typical argument. My response is to open it up completely with one rule, you cannot spend money. Any issues are up to the Elections Committee to deal with. Should be able to ask hard questions of candidates. Shouldn't be bullying or harassment.
- 9.2.20 LGBT Officer: Should candidates be made to submit all material for online in advance?

- 9.2.21 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Can make your own SUSAAonline site and put what you want on it but it will be moderated. If you claim you're going to invest £8M in SUSAA then we can deal with things like that.
- 9.2.22 Mature Students Officer: If that's the case, then is it not better to just use SUSAAonline? Otherwise it becomes quite complicated. It would also encourage students to use the site.
- 9.2.23 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): I know what you're saying but don't agree. We need to make the most of social networking and raise the whole profile of the election.
- 9.2.24 Noted: Discussion on the use of SUSAAonline.
- 9.2.25 Dean Thomson: Do you have the resources to deal with complaints?
- 9.2.26 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Discipline Committee works very well.
- 9.2.27 Noted: Vote on Motion. UNANIMOUS.

10 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 Tuesday 24th February 2009 at 6.15pm in 2W1.

Nick Manton
Membership Services Manager

2 December 2008