

STIRLING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the Students' Association COUNCIL held on Tuesday 21st November 2006 at 6.15pm in Cottrell 2W1.

1 Attendance

1.1 Members Present

Chris Dempster	-	President
Robert Hudd	-	Vice President (Services & Treasurer)
Chris Baxter	-	Vice President (Welfare & Education)
Will Mackenzie	-	Sports Union President
David Fletcher	-	Student Activities Officer
Tom Spencer	-	Publicity Officer
David Deary	-	Campaigns Officer
Brona Nic Giolla Easpaig	-	Equal Opportunities Officer
Alastair McCrae	-	Entertainments Officer
Carla McLean	-	Disabled Students Officer
Jennifer Gouck	-	Women's Officer
Karri Vaslot	-	Ethics & Environment Officer
Dale McEwan	-	LGBT Officer
Andy Shepherd	-	AirTV Station Manager
Mark Cullen	-	Brig Editor
Lucy Strachan	-	Geddes Court Hall Representative
Ashleigh Jeppesen	-	Psychology Representative
Kim Allison	-	English Studies Representative
Catherine Coales	-	Psychology Representative
Dorothea Will	-	History Representative
Daniel Holden	-	Biological & Environmental Science Representative
Ashleigh Wilson	-	ASH Representative
Deborah Hunter	-	Marketing Representative
Iain McOmish	-	Politics Representative
Stephen Duff	-	Law Representative
Mark Pickering	-	Psychology Representative
Jesse Blum	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative
Eric Moylan	-	Murray Hall Representative
Prokopi Eftychia	-	Film & Media Studies Representative
Stuart Armstrong	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative

1.2 In Attendance

Nick Manton, SUSA Membership Services Manager

- 1.3 Observers
Christopher Ball; Gordon Clubb; Martin McLauchlan; Gavin Hugh
- 1.4 Apologies
- | | | |
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| Alastair Headden | - | Air3 Station Manager |
| Anisa Omar | - | Black Students Officer |
| Gemma Corcoran | - | History Representative |
| Billie Lister | - | Sociology Representative |
| Adam Conn | - | Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative |
| Gracious Guti | - | Management & Organisation Representative |
| Gail Cunningham | - | Management & Organisation Representative |
| Deborah Collins | - | Nursing & Midwifery Representative |
- 1.5 Absent Without Apologies
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| Sarah Simpson | - | Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative |
| Rosalind Greig | - | Politics Representative |
| Calum Watson | - | Psychology Representative |
| Chris Wynne | - | English Studies Representative |
| Sarah Johnston | - | Computing Science & Mathematics Representative |
| Sadia Sohail | - | Accounting & Finance Representative |
| Craig McQueen | - | Biological & Environmental Science Representative |
| Scott Craig | - | Accounting & Finance Representative |
| Marc Smith | - | Economics Representative |
| Katie Bradley | - | Education Representative |
| David Nicolson | - | English Studies Representative |
| Sally Hodgson | - | Film & Media Studies Representative |
| Nicole French | - | Marketing Representative |
| Hilary Malcolm | - | Nursing & Midwifery Representative |
| Florencia Frind | - | Philosophy Representative |
| John Price | - | Philosophy Representative |
| David Harding | - | Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative |
| Fiona McKinlay | - | Applied Social Science Representative |
| Farrena Ahmed | - | Economics Representative |
| Alma Clark | - | Education Representative |
| Thomas Ferguson | - | Law Representative |
| Jesse Brown Marsh | - | Education Representative |
| Adam Anderson | - | Education Representative |
| Robert Bridges | - | Biological & Environmental Science Representative |

Chair notifies representatives that the meeting is inquorate and any business discussed will need to be approved at a quorate meeting before becoming policy. Ethics and Environment Officer calls for procedural motion that a guillotine of 9.30pm be introduced. PASSED.

2 Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

2.1.1 Brig Editor: Are the minutes online?

2.1.2 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Yes they are online. Asks all Council members to make sure they read the minutes.

2.1.3 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Can we move on to voting on the minutes?

3 Adoption Of Minutes From Previous Meetings

3.1 Council Minutes: 6 December 2005 PASSED

3.2 Council Minutes: 17 October 2006 PASSED

3.3 Executive Minutes: 14 September 2006

3.3.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Can we vote on the rest as a block?

3.3.2 Noted: Minutes 3.3 - 3.8 PASSED

4 Notice Of Adoption Of Any Other Competent Business

4.1 Brig Editor: Asks proposer to withdraw Guns in Publicity motion 9.20 and replace with amendment to Print & Broadcast Guidelines motion.

4.1.1 Noted: Proposer agrees.

4.1.2 Noted: Vote taken to agree on accepting amendment - agreed.

4.2 Publicity Officer: Withdraws 9.3 General SUSA Day, 9.6 Council Matters and 9.7 Accountability & Representation.

4.3 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Withdraws 8.9 Our Name is All We Have.

4.3.1 Equal Opportunities Officer: Asks what 8.9 is.

4.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Asks Chair to confirm situation with amendments to motions which have been withdrawn?

4.5 Noted: Chair confirms amendments will fall. Confirms that amendment has been submitted for 9.2 Don't Cha wish the channels were not like me?

5 Challenges To The Order Of The Paper

5.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Asks that amendment to 9.2 Cha wish the channels were not like me? is taken ahead of motion.

5.2 Student Activities Officer: Asks that 9.13 becomes 9.1.

5.3 Publicity Officer: Asks that 9.5 becomes 9.2.

6 Resignations & Elections

6.1 Resignations

6.1.1 Noted: Chair confirms resignations from Council of Chris Giffney, Education Representative; Julio Bermejo, Film & Media Studies Representative; Laura Christie, Biological & Environmental Science Representative.

6.2 Elections

6.2.1 Noted: Chair confirms election to Council of Robert Bridges, Biological & Environmental Science Representative; Jessie Brown Marsh, Education Representative; Stuart Armstrong, Computing Science & Maths Representative; Prokopi Eftychia, Film & Media Representative, Adam Anderson, Education Representative, Deborah Collins, Nursing & Midwifery Representative.

6.3 Publicity Team

- 6.3.1 Publicity Officer: There is a lot involved in publicity at the moment and need help. Starting a new group and need input on posters you like and general feedback. Been working with Entertainments Officer. Looking for people to get involved.
- 6.3.2 Sports Union President: Well done to Entertainments Officer.
- 6.3.3 Iain McOmish: What about publicity getting taken down by cleaners?
- 6.3.4 Publicity Officer: Have been in touch with University and waiting on a response about this. Asking for dispensation for SUSA. Following up on this.
- 6.3.5 Sports Union President: Have noticed a lot of posters in incorrect places.
- 6.3.6 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Can we stick to the agenda please and discuss this further outwith the meeting?
- 6.3.7 Publicity Officer: Asks for details for those interested in joining Publicity Team.
- 6.3.8 Noted: Campaigns Officer, Catherine Coales, AirTV Station Manager, Brig Editor, Disabled Students Officer, Prokopi Eftychia, President, Ashleigh Wilson, Sports Union President all volunteer to help.
- 6.3.9 Membership Services Manager: Apologises for missing off newly elected Executive Officers during the details on elections.
- 6.3.10 Noted: Chair formally welcomes and introduces Campaigns Officer, Entertainments Officer, Equal Opportunities Officer.

7 Dates To Note

- 7.1 24 November Welfare & Education Committee 3pm
- 7.2 25 November Anti-Racism March in Glasgow
- 7.3 29 November Council night out
- 7.4 1 December SUSA One World Day
- 7.5 1 December World Aids Day
- 7.6 2 December Robbins Final Fling
- 7.7 2 December 10am-4pm LGBT Youth Conference
- 7.8 3 December Disability Equality Duty comes into force
- 7.9 3 or 4 December Disability Day
- 7.10 22 December Faslane 365 Students Day
- 7.11 25 December Christmas Day
- 7.12 14 April 2007 Sports Union Ball
- 7.13 Most Saturdays Pro-asylum rally in Glasgow

8 Reports

8.1 Chair of Welfare & Education Committee

8.1.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Have had 2 meetings of the Committee. Membership has been unusually low due to the vacancies to be filled but now have full compliment. At the last meeting we discussed issues including lifts in the Robbins (which is on-going), the TV channels in Studio were discussed and the Unwanted Presence motion all of which are to be discussed by Council tonight. Working on student well-being, One World Week and It Could be You campaigns. Any questions about these then please ask me. Working on library issues and will be taking this up with Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching).

8.1.2 Disabled Students Officer: Also missed out the Disability Equality Scheme and Right to Read motions which will be discussed and went through the Committee.

8.1.3 LGBT Officer: As did the motion about opening up forums.

8.2 Chair of Services Committee

8.2.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Focus has been on Entertainments including comedy and working on increasing attendance at Glow. Would welcome feedback from Council. Also been discussing and working on the promotion of NUS Extra and helping to feed into the proposals for Publicity Guidelines.

8.3 Chair of Student Activities Committee

8.3.1 Student Activities Officer: Have only had 1 meeting but helped put together the Clubs & Socs schedule which is to be discussed on the agenda. Next meeting is next Monday but as yet there is nothing on the agenda but do please come along if you are interested.

8.4 Chair of Sports Union Executive Committee

8.4.1 Sports Union President: Have been dealing with a number of issues this semester. Housekeeping wise, several clubs (Sub Aqua, Men's Rugby, Men's Football and Men's Hockey) all discussed and appropriate action taken/in the process of being dealt with. Discussed proposals from MDI Media relating to a Sports Union yearbook but decided against this. Have been joined by the Publicity Officer from SUSA Council. The Exec had a training day out at Xscape in Glasgow. Have been much tighter on memberships this year and been working with the Department of Sports Studies on this. Indication is we will get far more signups than ever because of the hard work of all those involved, in particular, a big thanks much go to the SUSA Finance Administrator for all her work on this. Had a laundry proposal from one-to-one. Followed up on a couple of complaints ranging from external users of pitches to incidents in Glow involving smoker fireworks. Have been discussing the Glow Deal at length and set a timetable for clubs who will be

running nights in co-ordination with the SUSA Ents team. Have decided on the Christmas party in Glow and started to think about the Sports Union night in Re:Freshers week. The Sports Union Ball date has been set. The photographer has been arranged and the venue will again be the Inchyra Grange after the success of last years event there. Team Photographs have also been organised for April.

8.4.2 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): The Sports Union Executive Committee is an example of good practice and other Committees can hopefully learn from it.

8.5 NUS Council Report

8.5.1 President: Attended NUS Scotland Council event with Student Activities Officer, Publicity Officer and after the Vice President (Welfare & Education) was unable to attend at the last minute, the Disabled Students Officer kindly agreed to attend as well. Discussed motions on top-up fees and the cap on fees in England. Made changes to ensure Stirling's position of opposition to the principal of fees was also maintained. Motion on privatisation of halls and welfare services passed as did motions on concessionary funding for transport for students, better banking for students (for international students and fair charges) as well as a motion regarding placement students.

8.6 SUSA By-election

8.6.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Gave a brief report on the November elections. Unable to attract candidates for International Students Officer, Mature Students Officer or Exchange Students Officer.

8.7 SUSA Referenda

8.7.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Held on same day as elections. Only one issue achieved quoracy. The Executive Committee are currently working to implement this.

8.8 HMO Campaign

8.8.1 Campaigns Officer: Had campaign day last Tuesday to get students to sign a letter to their MSP's regarding proposed amendments relating to HMO's which might impact upon students. Managed to collect 546 signatures. Were meant to be presenting this to our local MSP Sylvia Jackson on the Wednesday but the Bill got moved forward to the Wednesday so myself, Lucy Strachan, President and Vice President (Welfare & Education) went to the Parliament and presented it to Sylvia in person. She was going to be voting against the amendments. Had discussions with Andrew Arbuckle and Mark Ruskell. Saw debate on the floor and the amendments ended up being withdrawn. Thank all those who helped in the campaign.

8.8.2 Prokopi Eftychia: What does HMO mean?

- 8.8.3 Vice President (Welfare & Education): HMO is a House in Multiple Occupancy. It is a house where 3 or more people live together but aren't related and all have separate rooms. They are licensed by local Councils to ensure health and safety requirements. The amendments would have meant quotas being introduced and this would have affected students.
- 8.8.4 Sports Union President: We've had some great campaigns - the LGBT Blood campaign for example. This showed SUSA in a great light and engaged people not normally involved. It was great that SUSA was campaigning on a student issue.
- 8.8.5 President: There were 5 amendments to be squashed so we went after Andrew Arbuckle.
- 8.8.6 Campaigns Officer: Our letter that students signed was read out on the floor of the Parliament by the Minister.
- 8.8.7 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): We can learn from this. Shows you don't need to have a policy for everything.
- 8.8.8 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Can we move on?

9 Discussion & Decision Topics

9.1 New Clubs and Societies Schedule

- 9.1.1 Student Activities Officer: The current schedule needs updating. Have taken on board a number of views in preparing this.
- 9.1.2 Chair: Can you confirm if the title is indeed to be Clubs and Societies Schedule and not Student Activities?
- 9.1.3 Student Activities Officer: It is Clubs and Societies Schedule.
- 9.1.4 AirTV Station Manager: Suggests not using Comic Sans font.
- 9.1.5 Disabled Students Officer: Keep comments short with all due respect.
- 9.1.6 Noted: Vote on accepting new Clubs and Societies Schedule. PASSED.

9.2 Publicity Guideline Consolidation

- 9.2.1 Publicity Officer: This has been discussed through Services Committee.
- 9.2.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Is there not an amendment to this?
- 9.2.3 Brig Editor: No not this motion.
- 9.2.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Couple of things regarding this. Council Notes 2 was actually Welfare and Education Committee not Vice President (Welfare & Education). Worked with the Liberation Officers on this and came up with the guidelines to pass to Tom. Tom has helpfully taken this forward.
- 9.2.5 Noted: Vote to amend Council Notes 2 and remove Vice President (Welfare & Education) and replace with Welfare & Education Committee. PASSED.
- 9.2.6 Campaigns Officer: Should Council Instructs 9 not read 'have the power' instead of 'have to power'?

- 9.2.7 Noted: Vote to amend Council Instructs 9 so it begins ‘Services Committee have the power....’. PASSED.
- 9.2.8 Student Activities Officer: In saying Services Committee can do this is that not devolving power?
- 9.2.9 Vice President (Welfare & Education): My understanding is that policy decided by Council can only be changed by Council and any additions would need to be brought to Council. Can work side by side.
- 9.2.10 Publicity Officer: If Council passes the guidelines then Services Committee should have the power to do it.
- 9.2.11 Disabled Students Officer: Should it not include Welfare & Education Committee?
- 9.2.12 Publicity Officer: Can work for all. Services Committee has responsibility for publicity.
- 9.2.13 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): It’s important to note that this would replace all previous publicity guidelines.
- 9.2.14 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Under Council Instructs 9, any new publicity guidelines would be added to it. Any future policy would need to instruct the Services Committee.
- 9.2.15 Jesse Blum: Is Council Instructs 9 new?
- 9.2.16 Publicity Officer: Just want to make sure it’s kept up to date.
- 9.2.17 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Do we need Council Instructs 9 when Council passes it? Calls for a procedural motion to remove Council Instructs 9.
- 9.2.18 Publicity Officer: Happy to let everyone decide.
- 9.2.19 Noted: Vote to remove Council Instructs 9. PASSED.
- 9.2.20 Noted: Vote on motion. PASSED.
- 9.3 Amendment: Don’t Cha Wish the Channels Were Not Like Me?
- 9.3.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Explains to Council how the procedure for discussing and dealing with amendments works.
- 9.3.2 Women’s Officer: This is about the music channels in Studio. The issue is coming up a lot. There is a problem with the way women are objectified in the media. It also affects men sometimes too. Several members have complained and we should be doing something about this in our Union. With the amendment, Welfare and Education Committee can constantly consider the issue.
- 9.3.3 Noted: Vote on Amendment. PASSED.
- 9.3.4 Eric Moylan: Will this be on-going and reviewed on a male and female basis?
- 9.3.5 Catherine Coales: Yes.
- 9.3.6 Stephen Duff: What about those in the Rock Society and those with different music tastes? This is often their type of videos that feature such content. They are not going to be allowed to see their videos.
- 9.3.7 Women’s Officer: Appreciates that and doesn’t want to cut out the majority view. It’s more about channels like FHM. Any complaints to bar staff will be taken to Welfare & Education Committee.

- 9.3.8 Brig Editor: It's impossible to remove objectification but this at least removes the extreme. This will instruct the bar staff on how to deal with it. Women's Group not looking to ban everything and it is focused on time of day.
- 9.3.9 Campaigns Officer: Which channels are excluded just now?
- 9.3.10 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Is a list currently. Not trying to ban any type of music. Working with the Venues Team on this. List can be amended.
- 9.3.11 Jesse Blum: What impact does this have on the TV screen in the Atrium?
- 9.3.12 President: None. That is run by the University and this only applies to the Robbins Centre.
- 9.3.13 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): If you have a complaint report it to a Duty Manager. In the Robbins it is important to remember you are no different to any other member. Report it through a Duty Manager.
- 9.3.14 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Complaints will then be logged.
- 9.3.15 Ashleigh Wilson: What will happen if someone complains? Will it be changed?
- 9.3.16 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Not if it's on the approved list.
- 9.3.17 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): The staff will be helpful. If it's really bad it will be changed. It shouldn't be an issue.
- 9.3.18 Ethics & Environment Officer: How are you going to implement this? Will someone have to sit with a remote control?
- 9.3.19 Vice President (Welfare & Education): The way it will work is that Welfare & Education Committee will work on an approved list so this kind of problem should not arise as the channels being shown will have been considered. We don't want someone having to sit with a remote.
- 9.3.20 Catherine Coales: Calls procedural motion that the motion now be put.
- 9.3.21 Noted: Vote on procedural motion. PASSED.
- 9.3.22 Noted: Vote on motion. PASSED.

9.4 Identity Badges for Officers

- 9.4.1 Disabled Students Officer: A few officers have been discussing this. It relates to using the SUSA office and having to show your student card at the front desk. It is difficult and believes identity badges for officers would be a good idea. That way they could be used for campaigns and staff can recognise who the officers are.
- 9.4.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): I don't see much of a problem with that. The only thing to remember though is that it would be only for Association business such as campaigns. This is not a motion and we are inquorate, perhaps we can discuss outwith the meeting.

- 9.4.3 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Reminds Council members that whilst they are on the premises they are ordinary students like everyone else and should show their card. No excuses.
 - 9.4.4 President: Budget issue. What about generic badges?
 - 9.4.5 Noted: Chair recommends referring the issue to Services Committee.
- 9.5 Stop the Spread - Keep the Cap!
- 9.5.1 Publicity Officer: No need to give you a history lesson. 17,000 people put off joining Higher Education. If it happens it will impact upon Scotland. NUS Scotland passed policy at Scottish Council.
 - 9.5.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): We need to make sure we are not in support of fees. The way this might read is that we are accepting the concept of fees and this is damage limitation. Suggests including the following as Council Believes 1 and renumbering the existing Council Believes accordingly: 'Education is a right, not a privilege to be paid for.'
 - 9.5.3 Noted: Vote to accept addition as detailed above. PASSED.
 - 9.5.4 Disabled Students Officer: Calls procedural motion that the motion now be put.
 - 9.5.5 Noted: Vote on procedural motion. PASSED.
 - 9.5.6 Noted: Vote on motion. PASSED.
- 9.6 Opposing the Privatisation of Halls of Residence
- 9.6.1 Publicity Officer: This was discussed at NUS Scotland Council. Affecting many students across Scotland where privatised halls are being introduced. Private companies building them and offering to provide welfare and social activities. This should concern us. There are already private residences being built in town. We must take action now before the University ever thinks about doing that here. SUSA has previously passed policy to pass to NUS National Conference to oppose the privatisation of Halls. I know that the Campaigns Officer has been in touch with the University and they say they have no plans to introduce such a scheme. However, if they ever do in the future it may be too late in the future if we don't pass the policy now.
 - 9.6.2 Campaigns Officer: I don't think we need to pass policy on this. We could simply run a campaign if necessary. This is policy for policy's sake. I take the University at their word. More consultation is needed.
 - 9.6.3 President: Agree with Campaigns Officer about the need for consultation but just because they have no plans doesn't mean we shouldn't do this. Any plans would go through the University structures. Can we change Council Instructs 1 to read 'SUSA must oppose any future plans for the privatisation of the running and management of University Accommodation.'
 - 9.6.4 Noted: Vote to accept addition as detailed above. PASSED.

- 9.6.5 Student Activities Officer: Council Instructs 2 - what would 'key services' be? Should it not be all? Suggests removing word 'key'.
- 9.6.6 Noted: Vote to accept amendment as detailed above. PASSED.
- 9.6.7 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): No reason not to have this. Calls procedural motion that the motion now be put.
- 9.6.8 Noted: Vote on procedural motion. PASSED.
- 9.6.9 Noted: Vote on motion. PASSED.

9.7 An Unwanted Presence

- 9.7.1 LGBT Officer: Outlines background reasons for this motion. Received complaints from students at the Commercial Fayre in September regarding the Jehovah's Witness stall and a passage of text they were giving out which shuns homosexuals. This breaks our Equal Opportunities Policy. Felt uncomfortable. Sabbs said that they would write a motion. Aware a meeting took place with Jehovah's Witness to talk about the complaints but I wasn't invited. Not trying to censor. Just don't think this should be under the SUSA banner.
- 9.7.2 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Myself and the Vice President (Welfare & Education) met with the Elder of the Jehovah's Witness and explained our side and found out what happened. They said they understood and shouldn't have acted the way they did. In future if someone asked about their view on homosexuality they would be given a bible reference to consult. Reads out letter received from them following meeting. Would be concerned to pass this motion. Understands the concerns and also the undertaking of Jehovah's Witness in future. We would be passing this then on what is in the bible and that would be against Christian organisations.
- 9.7.3 LGBT Officer: Would have loved to have been there at the meeting. Should have been invited. It was unfair. Understand that they just give a bible reference but problem lies with the content of their material.
- 9.7.4 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): When asked, they read it out. In future would just give reference.
- 9.7.5 LGBT Officer: Breaks Equal Opportunities Policy. Why not let them organise something themselves?
- 9.7.6 President: The Christian Union are invited to attend the Fayre.
- 9.7.7 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Went to the stall with a copy of the Equal Opportunities Policy and told them about a complaint. I told them that if it happened again they would be asked to leave. Apologises to LGBT Officer for not inviting him to the meeting. They have given an undertaking. Not sure this motion is the best way forward. The Equal Opportunities Policy also states we should not discriminate on the basis of religion. They deserve a second chance.

- 9.7.8 Iain McOmish: Motion will look like discrimination on the basis of religion. Most religions have a view on homosexuality. I'm not saying it's right.
- 9.7.9 LGBT Officer: Fact that you won't like what you hear is not an excuse.
- 9.7.10 Brig Editor: Issue coming up nationally. There is an obvious clash between homosexuality and religion. The student was directed to literature which is homophobic. There is a clear conflict there. The LGBT Officer is proposing it on this one issue. Asks Membership Services Manager if anything like this has ever happened before.
- 9.7.11 Membership Services Manager: Provides brief history of motions passed in 2005 which focused on the removal of Gideon's Bibles from Halls of residence and the subsequent amendment which came forward for this and the role played by the President of the time in dealing with this issue.
- 9.7.12 Brig Editor: Asking Jehovah's Witness to be selective is difficult. Nationally people are saying that religious organisations work separately.
- 9.7.13 Disabled Students Officer: Don't think it's forgivable at all. We should not allow them a forum for homophobic references. Vital we don't do that. Perhaps the Vice President (Services & Treasurer) can explain why they were there and how much they paid?
- 9.7.14 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Invited to attend as many organisations are. I think they paid £100. We give every religious organisation a chance. If they did this again we would all agree they should be out.
- 9.7.15 Disabled Students Officer: You are wanting us to make a decision on the basis of a meeting you had. The LGBT Officer and the LGBT community were not involved in that.
- 9.7.16 Stephen Duff: Confused. What is this trying to do, stop them coming? It is not a blanket ban that we discussed at the last meeting?
- 9.7.17 Vice President (Welfare & Education): That motion was to do with a No Platforms policy. Covers groups concerned with religious hatred and racism.
- 9.7.18 Eric Moylan: Is there any warning as to what the reference provided contains?
- 9.7.19 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): I can go back and speak to them about this if Council want me to.
- 9.7.20 Eric Moylan: Would this be stipulated?
- 9.7.21 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): We have a good working relationship with them.
- 9.7.22 LGBT Officer: My concern is the presence of an organisation that shuns homosexuals. They shouldn't be invited.
- 9.7.23 Campaigns Officer: The key thing is the Equal Opportunities Policy. Council Instructs breaches this and so I can't vote for this.

- 9.7.24 Ashleigh Wilson: Concerned how it can be monitored. Can't have a SUSA rep there all the time.
- 9.7.25 Equal Opportunities Officer: Is everyone comfortable justifying this to Jehovah's Witness students? This has wider implications.
- 9.7.26 Campaigns Officer: Calls procedural motion that the motion now be put.
- 9.7.27 Noted: Vote on procedural motion. PASSED.
- 9.7.28 Noted: Vote on motion. FALLS.
- 9.7.29 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): For clarification, if this does happen again please come and see us.
- 9.7.30 Brig Editor: Can we please ensure that autonomous liberation campaigns are invited to any such meetings?

9.8 Forums 4 U!

- 9.8.1 LGBT Officer: The forums have changed recently and are only open to those who are members. They should be open for all to view. SUSA should encourage dialogue for Council. People should be able to see what is being said. Council can't even see the Exec forums. How are students supposed to know? The forums are helpful for liberation groups. It's good to see what is going on. Open clubs and widen participation.
- 9.8.2 Student Activities Officer: As Student Activities Officer, my remit covers clubs and societies. I was wondering if you have checked with them about this and if it is something they want? As a former web admin I know there is a huge list of work needing done and it's currently one person. Just raising a note of caution as their study must come first.
- 9.8.3 LGBT Officer: Consulted clubs and societies and liberation groups. We shouldn't be penalised by SUSA not employing someone to do it.
- 9.8.4 President: It is a voluntary position. Would need money to employ someone.
- 9.8.5 Brig Editor: I remember it being taken offline. Really got to me that the LGBT and liberation forums were not open. It can provide a step to join the group and this is important. Hope to undo all of it in due course. This is the first step. There should be nothing to hide. People always ask, what does SUSA do? It's got a nightclub, building - big deal. Conscious of confidentiality. Where is the web team? Feel sorry for the current web administrator but not this Council's fault there is no webteam.
- 9.8.6 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Not suggesting it wouldn't happen. No problem with open to view. All clubs do need to be consulted. This should really be discussed at Clubs Council. Is there a danger of students being outed on the forums? I know the LGBT group welcome heterosexuals as well. Council Instructs doesn't address the original motion which looked at the issue of SUSAonline forums and therefore this would sit side by side with it in

contradiction to that. Calls for procedural motion that the motion be referred to Services Committee for further investigation.

- 9.8.7 Noted: Chair clarifies process for procedural motion as laid out in Standing Orders.
- 9.8.8 LGBT Officer: For clarification, were clubs consulted last time when the forums were shut? Can the wording not be amended tonight? Can't these forums be opened up?
- 9.8.9 Chair: Asks that Council acts with respect to one another.
- 9.8.10 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): As relevant Officer and Chair of Services Committee, I would be happy to take this forward. This won't be implemented for a while. Can work on the mechanisms with Web Administrator.
- 9.8.11 Noted: Vote on Procedural motion. TIE.
- 9.8.12 Noted: Discussion continues.
- 9.8.13 President: Will this mean people would be able to post confidentially? Will the different levels of postings still be available? Have experience of posting information for the group only which then got out. I would like this to be amended.
- 9.8.14 Student Activities Officer: Can post to current members of club, the site or all.
- 9.8.15 LGBT Officer: Would want to still have these options.
- 9.8.16 President: As Council Instructs 1 stands, everyone would be able to see.
- 9.8.17 AirTV Station Manager: Reads as if it would be reverting back. Difficult issue. The forums were closed quickly and I helped coding for the website and know it's not difficult to do. Understand the current Website Administrator is busy. This motion should be voted on the basis of the merits of doing it.
- 9.8.18 President: If that is the general feeling, then I don't feel there is any problem.
- 9.8.19 AirTV Station Manager: The levels are still there.
- 9.8.20 Membership Services Manager: Asks that the elected officers show some respect to the Chair and direct any comments through her.
- 9.8.21 President: Wording is the problem. My reading of it is that no part is restricted. Would be good to change it if Council is in agreement. Suggests amendment to Council Instructs 1 'That the right to observe the Council, Executive, Clubs and Societies and Liberation Groups' forums be granted to all, regardless of membership status of these groups, however retaining the club members' permission system.'
- 9.8.22 Noted: Vote to accept addition as detailed above. PASSED.
- 9.8.23 Publicity Officer: As President of two clubs it is infuriating. Calls procedural motion that the motion now be put.
- 9.8.24 Noted: Vote on Procedural motion. PASSED.
- 9.8.25 Noted: Vote on motion. PASSED.

9.9 Run Alone - Like It - Sabbatical elections publicity

- 9.9.1 LGBT Officer: Will keep this quick. When running for Sabbatical Officer many people run in a team. This could allow a budget of up to £120. We currently provide free reign to endorse running buddies. What about those who run on their own? They are penalised. Should be promoting inclusion.
 - 9.9.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Not really about the motion but important to note that there are rules for publicity and Council cannot, with the motion presented, overturn the Elections Schedule. Calls for procedural motion that the motion be referred for re-examination.
 - 9.9.3 Noted: Chair again explains the procedure as laid out in the Standing Orders.
 - 9.9.4 LGBT Officer: Why can't Council take a stand on this?
 - 9.9.5 Campaigns Officer: Should deal with this and how it affects the Elections Schedule. This can't be passed and should be referred back.
 - 9.9.6 Noted: Vote on Procedural motion. PASSED.
 - 9.9.7 Noted: Standing orders suspended whilst Chair takes a break from the meeting.
 - 9.9.8 Noted: Chair returns and Standing orders reinstated.
 - 9.9.9 Chair: The behaviour of some members of Council is inappropriate. Can hear other people voices when people are speaking, there is whispering and note passing. Asks that everyone acts with respect to the Chair and the Membership Services Manager.
- 9.10 Accountability and Memos
- 9.10.1 LGBT Officer: Given that we have the Disabled Students Officer here and she won't be here next semester, I'd like to withdraw the motion so we can move on with business.
- 9.11 Right to Read - Information Policy
- 9.11.1 Disabled Students Officer: Have spoken about this with disabled students and at the Welfare & Education Committee. We need to be progressive. A lot of unions have this. We need to reach the maximum amount of people and ensure the inclusion of disabled people in our union. We should make the union exemplary to the University. Commend the Executive Officers for their efforts this semester in making posters accessible. There is still room for improvement. If we set this policy it will make the job of the Disabled Students Officer a lot easier. The policy means future Executive Officers need to comply with this. We need to reach a lot more people and work together.
 - 9.11.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): I have a few questions. First point, can we please remove the word 'pretty' from Council Notes 4 as this is not correct.
 - 9.11.3 Noted: Vote to accept amendment as detailed above. PASSED.

- 9.11.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Can I clarify what you mean by materials?
- 9.11.5 Disabled Students Officer: Everything. It is defined.
- 9.11.6 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Is it everything listed in Council Instructs 5? What do you mean by materials?
- 9.11.7 Disabled Students Officer: Rules and regulations. Things like that. Things like SUSA's menus. Not just paper copies. People should be able to download things as well.
- 9.11.8 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Council Believes 7 and the use of 14 point Arial. Can you clarify. If we were to use an A3 poster, 14 might look too small. Can we use a larger font if necessary? Would it be better to say 'at least'?
- 9.11.9 Brig Editor: What about Brig? If it was in 14 point Arial it would be huge. It is available online.
- 9.11.10 Disabled Students Officer: Doesn't include Brig.
- 9.11.11 Noted: Vote to amend Council Instructs 7 to read 'Materials printed in at least 14 point Arial, with pastel coloured paper (pink, blue, yellow) and more accessible to some people.' PASSED.
- 9.11.12 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Council Instructs 3 - can I clarify what the situation would be with materials supplied from, for example, NUS, NUSSL for events such as Flirt. Would we then have to make our own copies? If it is not solely student issues then we can't spend money on it. There are cost and practical implications.
- 9.11.13 Disabled Students Officer: Are you saying it's not possible to promote an event?
- 9.11.14 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Clarifies.
- 9.11.15 Disabled Students Officer: Yes.
- 9.11.16 Vice President (Welfare & Education): There are cost implications. How should we pay?
- 9.11.17 Disabled Students Officer: Can you give me an example?
- 9.11.18 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Talking about posters we are given. For example, NUS UK Welfare Rights Campaign material. This is inaccessible. Would we have to fund money to get posters?
- 9.11.19 Disabled Students Officer: As far as I can see, yes.
- 9.11.20 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Suggest change to Council Instructs 4 to read, 'All SUSA information which is not already made available online should be made available in accessible pdf format through SUSAonline.'
- 9.11.21 Disabled Students Officer: Just to clarify. People can use software to read the information from the site.
- 9.11.22 Noted: Voted to accept amendment to wording as outlined above. PASSED.
- 9.11.23 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Council Instructs 7. The first part is already done. Can we take out 'In the Robbins'?
- 9.11.24 Disabled Students Officer: Aware that it is there but wants it to be policy. That makes it easier for future Officers.

- 9.11.25 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Withdraws request to change wording. Wishes to clarify that is has been done. Before advertising need to explore options as detailed in Council Instructs 8. Who is going to convert the documents? Is it a one-off? Is it a contract? Need to refer this to Finance Committee. Problems we can sort - clubs using scrolling text on their mini-sites. Need to discuss with Web Administrator and with Print Room Operator.
- 9.11.26 Disabled Students Officer: Have spoken to the Print Room Operator.
- 9.11.27 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Wish the Disabled Students Officer had put this through the Services Committee. As Vice President (Services & Treasurer) can't endorse this. We already have a budget deficit of £4k +. There is no budget to deal with this. We can do some elements of this without policy - move accessible board - fine. The Brig Editor mentioned Brig. All media is covered as part of SUSA. Must stipulate it doesn't include Brig. Council Instructs 3 where it talks about half of all posters - this would probably mean we would just not produce them as posters need to grab your attention and be eye-catching.
- 9.11.28 President: Disability Discrimination Act talks about reasonable adjustment. Issue of affordability. Agree with the spirit of it but we can't just do it. One other thing - SUSA policy goes through to clubs and societies. What about their posters? 50% - who foots the bill? Money is the biggest problem with this.
- 9.11.29 Disabled Students Officer: Talking about SUSA's official posters. Already must do one poster in accessible format. We have two options - an Association that promotes to everyone all it does, or to some. That is the choice we have here. Don't just follow law. Change society regardless of what the law's are. It might cost a slight amount. If we pass this we can pride ourselves on accessibility. There are 500 self-disclosed disabled students at the University. The numbers aren't going to be huge. If we make half of all posters accessible we'll reach more people.
- 9.11.30 Publicity Officer: As Publicity Officer have zero issue with making this policy. To rule it out based on money goes against what we believe. It means we could reach disabled students. Cut back budgets which aren't our focus (welfare and liberation campaigns). It is not right to exclude members because we want more comedy night posters.
- 9.11.31 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): It would not come out of the Ents budget. Would be campaigns and budgets like that. They would be hit. There would be complications.
- 9.11.32 President: Agrees with Publicity Officer but sees the need to be realistic. Money constrains everything we do. Is it actually affordable? It isn't a case of towing the law.
- 9.11.33 Chair: Calls an end to the discussion as guillotine has been reached. Council agree to continue to take vote on motion.

9.11.34 Noted: Vote on motion. FALLS.

10 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 Spring semester 2007.

Nick Manton
Membership Services Manager

4 December 2006