

## STIRLING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the Students' Association COUNCIL held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 6.15pm in Lecture Theatre 2W1.

### 1 Attendance

#### 1.1 Members Present

David Fletcher	-	President
Will Mackenzie	-	Vice President (Services & Treasurer)
Chris Baxter	-	Vice President (Welfare & Education)
Tom Spencer	-	Student Activities Officer/President-elect
Lucy Strachan	-	Campaigns Officer
Laura Mackay	-	Disabled Students Officer/Equal Opportunities Officer-elect
Catherine Coales	-	Women's Officer/Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect
Sean O'Hara	-	Ethics & Environment Officer
Mark Charters	-	LGBT Officer
Mark Cullen	-	Brig Editor/Vice President (Services & Treasurer)-elect
Sandra Munro	-	ASH Representative/Publicity Officer-elect
Andreas Ferrara	-	Economics Representative
Iain Johnston	-	History Representative
Geoffrey Neumann	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative
Pamela Neil	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative (Chair of Council)
Jodie Hughes	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative/Women's Officer-elect
David Lewin	-	Biological & Environmental Science Representative/Black Students' Officer-elect
Zofia Bukiel	-	Law Representative
Caron Cook	-	Management Representative
Vriti Patil	-	Film & Media Studies Representative
Nikolaus Kyfondis	-	Politics Representative
Ally McCrae	-	Air3 Station Manager
Daniel Holden	-	Biological & Environmental Science Representative
Sarah Green	-	Nursing & Midwifery Representative
Marta Wozniak	-	Economics Representative
Gary Masson	-	Accounting & Finance Representative

	Catriona Wood	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	Helen Rowbotham	-	English Studies Representative
	Louise Glen-Lee	-	Film & Media Studies Representative
	Hannah Wilson	-	Education Representative
	Laura Devin	-	Education Representative
	Graeme McLaughlin	-	Law Representative
1.2	<u>In Attendance</u>		
	Nick Manton	-	SUSA Membership Services Manager
1.3	<u>Observers</u>		
	Hannah Pickford		
1.4	<u>Apologies</u>		
	Jennifer Savage	-	Sports Union President
	Greg Ure	-	Sports Union President-elect
	Roxanne Connelly	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	Dorothea Christie	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	Ashley Rhymer	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	Kim Allison	-	English Studies Representative
	Kristina Auxtova	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
	Matthew Whittaker	-	AKD Representative
	Robbie Mackenzie	-	Entertainments Officer-elect
1.5	<u>Absent Without Apologies</u>		
	Matt Johnston	-	Entertainments Officer
	Ray Burke	-	Mature Students Officer
	Steven Quinn	-	AirTV Station Manager
	Ben Tyler	-	International Students Officer
	Brona Nic Giolla Easpaig	-	Psychology Representative
	Eliza Brush	-	Politics Representative
	Liam Ellis	-	Psychology Representative
	Eilidh Dillon	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
	Vivien Lafferty	-	Accounting & Finance Representative
	Geraldine Thurgood	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
	Alex Hunter	-	Murray Hall Representative
	Dean Thomson	-	Geddes Court Representative
	Emma McBride	-	Management Representative
	Jessica Warne	-	Biological & Environmental Science Representative
	Christopher Donnelly	-	Film & Media Studies Representative
	Karen Logan	-	Education Representative
	Kevin Hochard	-	Psychology Representative
	Emma Cartwright	-	Psychology Representative
	Joanne Mirek	-	Education Representative
	Eva Serenciscova	-	Management Representative

## 2 Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

### 3 Adoption Of Minutes From Previous Meetings

- 3.1 Council Minutes: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008: PASSED.
- 3.2 Executive Minutes: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007: PASSED.
- 3.3 Executive Minutes: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007: PASSED.
- 3.4 Executive Minutes: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008: PASSED.
- 3.5 Executive Minutes: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008: PASSED.

### 4 Notice Of Adoption Of Any Other Competent Business

- 4.1 Age Concern to be taken as 9.2
- 4.2 NUS Scotland Conference Report to be taken as 8.3
- 4.3 Glow Statement to be taken as 8.4
- 4.4 Building Momentum Through Better Training to be taken as 9.3

## 5 Challenges To The Order Of The Paper

### 6 Resignations & Elections

#### 6.1 Resignations

- 6.1.1 Noted: Jacob Longstaff, History Representative; Claire Pender, Management Representative; Kara Young, Sports Studies Representative; Rhona Hewat, Film & Media Studies Representative; Lara Ellis-Feather, Law Representative; Dawn Munro, Education Representative all resigned.
- 6.1.2 Noted: Chair advises Council of those members who have (including this meeting) missed either 3 or 4 meetings without apologies and requests Council take a vote on resigning them.
- 6.1.3 Noted: Karen Logan, Education Representative; Kevin Hochard, Psychology Representative; Emma Cartwright, Psychology Representative; Geraldine Thurgood, School of Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative; Ben Tyler, International Students' Officer; Joanne Mirek, Education Representative; Chris Donnelly, Film & Media Studies Representative; Emma McBride, Management Representative and Eva Serenciscova, Management Representative all resigned.

#### 6.2 Elections

- 6.2.1 Noted: Helen Rowbotham, English Studies Representative; Hannah Wilson, Education Representative; Laura Devin, Education Representative; Graeme McLaughlin, Law Representative and Louise Glen-Lee, Film & Media Studies Representative elected to Council.
- 6.2.2 Noted: Following recent SUSA elections, Greg Ure, Sports Union President-elect joins the membership of Council.

## 7 Dates To Note

- 7.1 Course Rep Training 26 March

- 7.2 Joint SUSA Council/Student Experience Committee Meeting 27 March 5pm B3
- 7.3 NUS National Conference 1-3 April
- 7.4 President's Have a Heart Campaign 7 & 8 April
- 7.5 Nominations open for Sports Union Executive 10 April
- 7.6 Living on the Edge Campaign 14 April
- 7.7 Equality & Diversity Festival 21 April
- 7.8 Sports Union AGM 24 April
- 7.9 Joint SUSA Council/Quality Enhancement Committee 28 April 5pm (Venue TBC)
- 7.10 Sports Union Ball 12 April
- 7.11 Final Fling 3 May
- 7.12 NUS Black Students Conference 3 May
- 7.13 New Sabbaticals take office 1 June

## 8 Reports

### 8.1 Sports Union Executive Committee

8.1.1 Noted: Not present.

### 8.2 Elections

8.2.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Elections held on 17/18 March. 1480 students took a ballot or voted online which is approximately 15% of the student body. Congratulations to those candidates who stimulated interest and those who publicised the elections. Largest group was first years with more women voting than men. Large percentage of online votes (908) and myself, President & Membership Services Manager took 4 hours sorting these on the Tuesday night. Congratulations to Tom Spencer, Mark Cullen, Catherine Coales and Greg Ure who will be next year's Sabbatical team. Also congratulations to Rob Mackenzie, Ents; Lucy Strachan, Campaigns; Sandra Munro, Publicity; Laura Mackay, Equal Opps; Mark Charters, LGBT; David Lewin, Black Students' Officer; Jodie Hughes, Women's Officer; Ally McCrae, Air3 Station Manager and Kim Delaney, AirTV Station Manager. Thanked Membership Services Manager for all his help during elections and for keeping the house in order. Thanked Membership Services Secretary, President, Pamela Neil (Chair of Council) and Natalie Mavers from NUS Scotland for their help with the count.

### 8.3 NUS Scotland Conference Report

8.3.1 President: Was in early March and had elections for NUS Scotland Officers. Stirling motion on Plagiarism passed. Was productive and anyone wishing to find out more can come and speak to me about it.

8.3.2 Student Activities Officer/President-elect: Chris Baxter was elected to the Scottish Executive Committee.

## 8.4 Glow Statement

8.4.1 President: Reads out the following statement: During recent years SUSAs licensed premises have experienced a serious downturn in attendance, in common with many other Student Associations across Scotland and the UK. In the past year, Glasgow Caledonian University and Napier University Student Associations have been forced to close all their commercial services. While the situation at SUSAs has not reached this level, it has, unfortunately become necessary to re-evaluate the services which we offer in order to maintain a sustainable level of provision. With this in mind, SUSAs Finance Committee has taken the very difficult decision to close Glow from mid semester for the foreseeable future. This decision was not taken lightly and was made in the best interests of the long term viability of our union. The Studio bar will continue to operate as normal and the SUSAs shop is completely unaffected. We hope that our members will understand the reasons for this decision and that you will continue to support SUSAs as it strives to rebuild a strong financial position so that, at some point in the future, we might relaunch a full programme of services.

## 8.5 NUS Extraordinary Conference

8.5.1 President: Took place in Leicester in December. Discussed the issue of Governance Reform and a new Constitution. Achieved the two-third's vote necessary. Needs to be ratified at NUS National Conference.

## 9 Discussion & Decision Topics

### 9.1 NUS: Return of Reform

9.1.1 President: Outlines motion. Governance Review was discussed at Council last semester. Achieved two-thirds majority at Extraordinary Conference in December and now needs to be ratified by National Conference.

9.1.2 Noted: President asks for removal of Council Notes 6. AGREED.

9.1.3 Brig Editor/Vice President (Services & Treasurer)-elect: Agrees with the motion but feels we shouldn't mandate delegates as circumstances may require us to vote against it.

9.1.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): The review is not perfect but it is much better than what we have now. Will mean Stirling can have an impact at national level. No different than mandating delegates how to vote in line with policy on top-up fees or student support. Must be in line with SUSAs policy. Everyone is in agreement this motion is good so comes down to whether you agree with mandating. Calls procedural motion 3 that the motion now be put.

9.1.5 Membership Services Manager: Clarifies for Council what this means.

9.1.6 Noted: Vote taken. Procedural motion FALLS. Discussion continues.

- 9.1.7 David Lewin/Black Students' Officer-elect: There could be problems with the review and more motions could be added. Things may happen on the day. Delegates should not just be parrots.
- 9.1.7 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Disagree. We are representing Stirling students here. We speak for Stirling students.
- 9.1.8 President: Agree with Vice President (Welfare & Education) and Vice President (Services & Treasurer). To not mandate means allowing delegates to vote against our policy. The argument is flawed. We are a representative body and speak on behalf of the students who elected us.
- 9.1.9 Louise Glen-Lee: Doesn't agree that we should tell them what to do. You have to trust them to do the right thing.
- 9.1.10 Women's Office/Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect: Some amendments can get added and make it something scary to vote for.
- 9.1.11 David Lewin/Black Students' Officer-elect: The Governance Review overall is a good thing. Give it support provided no one botches it. With changes that can be made, delegates should have the freedom to vote.
- 9.1.12 Student Activities Officer/President-elect: Do you trust people to vote or do you want to force them?
- 9.1.13 Chair: Does anyone have anything new to add?
- 9.1.14 Vice President (Welfare & Education): It's not a question of trust. We are taking a position for Stirling students. The President is the delegation leader. If our key recommendations are not what the final review looks like then he can direct members of the delegation accordingly. After all, we are here to represent students.
- 9.1.15 Noted: Vote taken on the motion. PASSED.

## 9.2 Age Concern

- 9.2.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Issue of proposal by Scottish Executive increasing the legal drinking age to 21 came up over the weekend. This would destroy every Student Union operation across the country. This will not solve the issues caused by alcohol in Scotland as it will lead to people drinking irresponsibly. We in SUSA provide a safe space to consume alcohol sensibly. There is a correlation between successful commercial services and the uptake in every service within a Student Union so this would affect everything we do. Looking at the wrong areas. Why at New Year could I buy 54 cans of beer in a supermarket for £18? I couldn't buy 15 bottles of water for that. Urge you all to support this motion.
- 9.2.2 President: This received unanimous support through our Finance Committee today. I am happy to take this forward.

- 9.2.3 Brig Editor/Vice President (Services & Treasurer): This motion is a good thing. Also mandates wider action with other bodies who are likely to be interested in campaigning on this issue as well.
- 9.2.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Northern Services & NUSSL will be able to help. They will not exist if this goes ahead.
- 9.2.5 David Lewin/Black Students' Officer-elect: Great motion. Crap suggestion. If you're old enough to fight for your country you should be old enough to drink.
- 9.2.6 Nikolaus Kyfondis: Is it just going to be a letter? Have to do something different.
- 9.2.7 Vriti Patil: Agree. Have to do something more and have a balanced argument. Different countries have different solutions and these need to be looked at.
- 9.2.8 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Has the potential to be a great student campaign. I was in London as part of the Admission Impossible campaign. With something like this it could be very interesting.
- 9.2.9 President: Disagree with some of what has been said. Managed to achieve a lot with campaigns through effective lobbying. Are of course other things to do. Aware of the social problems but in dealing with that, we want to make sure the ways of doing so are appropriate and effective.
- 9.2.10 Women's Officer/Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect: Yes it is a social problem but we need to focus on the welfare and representation of students here.
- 9.2.11 Vice President (Welfare & Education): If this does go ahead there will be no bar to drink in. Lobbying can work and has with the likes of HMO and Graduate Endowment recent successes. Only effective if there is a group effort.
- 9.2.12 Nikolaus Kyfondis: Don't disagree.
- 9.2.13 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Students will engage and it will introduce them to student politics.
- 9.2.14 Geoffrey Neumann: If you can present the facts through lobbying then it can be the first step for a longer campaign.
- 9.2.15 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Yes, it's the first step of hopefully national effort.
- 9.2.16 Noted: Vote on motion. PASSED.

### 9.3 Building Momentum through Better Training

- 9.3.1 Brig Editor/Vice President (Services & Treasurer)-elect: Sabbs have official handovers but nothing formal for Executive and OWSR's. Very often after the elections those in office can relax when the new people are elected and those taking over don't get the handover they need. Sabbs and staff don't have time to hand hold all these officers and explain how to go about their roles. Results in a lot of officer's not giving handovers. This would tell officers what to do and have them give a handover. Would be expected to

submit a report on it to the relevant sub-Committee thus keeping a formal record.

- 9.3.2 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Good motion. The Sports Union do this well with Treasurer's handovers so perhaps something to learn from there.
- 9.3.3 President: No problem with encouraging handovers but what do you propose we do if they don't do it?
- 9.3.4 Brig Editor/Vice President (Services & Treasurer)-elect: You're right, we can't make them.
- 9.3.5 Sandra Munro/Publicity Officer-elect: How can you say it is a requirement when Sabbs don't have to do a Handover?
- 9.3.6 Ethics & Environment Officer: This seems too bureaucratic. Very high school in saying you must do this.
- 9.3.7 Jodie Hughes/Women's Officer-elect: I think it's a good idea which doesn't mean all have to start again every time.
- 9.3.8 Sandra Munro/Publicity Officer-elect: Should be something written down for each year.
- 9.3.9 David Lewin/Black Students' Officer-elect: Calls procedural motion 3 that the motion now be put.
- 9.3.10 Noted: Vote taken. Procedural motion PASSED. Discussion ends.
- 9.3.11 Noted: Vote taken on motion. PASSED.

## 10 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 22 April 2008 at 6.15pm in 2W1.

*Nick Manton*  
*Membership Services Manager*

*26 March 2008*