



STIRLING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the Students' Association COUNCIL held on Thursday 26th
March 2009 at 6.15pm in 2W1.

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)
Mark Charters	-	LGBT Officer/ Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect
Jamie MacDonald	-	Sports Union President-elect
Sean O'Hara	-	Student Activities Officer
Rhianna Humphrey	-	Equal Opportunities Officer-elect
Ally McCrae	-	Air3 Station Manager
Kimberley Hutchison	-	Mature Students' Officer
David Nicholson	-	Disabled Students' Officer
Michael Dunn	-	Ethics & Environment Officer
Kim Delaney	-	AirTV Station Manager
Cat Tippet	-	Murray Hall Representative
Emily Chapman	-	Sports Studies Representative/Publicity Officer-elect
Christopher McGee	-	Nursing & Midwifery Representative
Vivien Lafferty	-	Accounting & Finance Representative/Women's Officer-elect
Heather Moonlight	-	Management Representative
Nikki Holder	-	Psychology Representative/International Students' Officer
Joanne Peek	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
Ashleigh Sheils	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
Daniel Boles	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
Gemma Greaves	-	Marketing Representative
Ruth Bowler	-	Marketing Representative
Catriona Wood	-	Applied Social Science Representative
Steven Gale	-	History Representative

1.2 In Attendance

Nick Manton	-	Membership Services Manager
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1.3	<u>Observers</u>		
	Andréas Frögren	-	LGBT Officer-elect
	Graeme McLaughlin		
1.4	<u>Apologies</u>		
	David Stuart	-	Entertainments Officer-elect
	Jodie Hughes	-	Women's Officer
	Dale McEwan	-	Brig Editor
	Hannah Pickford	-	Sports Studies Representative
	James Banks	-	Vice-Chairperson of the Highland Campus Representative Committee/Chair
	Chloe Postlethwaite	-	Law Representative
	Kara Young	-	Film, Media & Journalism Representative
	Megan King	-	Politics Representative
	Thomas Mazzocco	-	Computing Science & Maths Representative
	Dean Thomson	-	Politics Representative
	Jacqueline Ashcroft	-	Geddes Court Representative
	Iva Stancheva	-	Accounting & Finance Representative
	Khorum Rehman	-	Economics Representative
	David Campbell	-	Accounting & Finance Representative
1.5	<u>Absent Without Apologies</u>		
	Lucy Strachan	-	Campaigns Officer
	David Lewin	-	Black Students' Officer
	Rebecca Han	-	International Students' Officer
	Richard McPherson	-	Chairperson of the Highland Campus Representative Committee
	Emily Farrimond	-	English Studies Representative
	Louise MacDonald	-	English Studies Representative
	Declan Glasgow	-	English Studies Representative
	Onyeka Esiana	-	Biological & Environmental Sciences Representative
	Katherine Lamb	-	History Representative
	Rebecca Thorley	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
	Colette Gilhooley	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
	Maria Bartlett	-	Film, Media & Journalism Representative
	Danny Rafferty	-	Andrew Stewart Hall Representative
	Neelum Raza	-	Law Representative
	Mudiwa Mutasa	-	Economics Representative
	Gavin Waddell	-	Applied Social Science Representative
	Billie Jones	-	Film, Media & Journalism Representative
	Matt Jessop	-	History Representative
	Kerr Hunter	-	Marketing Representative
	Garry Paton	-	Philosophy Representative
	Colin McTaggart	-	Computing Science & Maths Representative

Note: In absence of Chair, President agrees to Chair the meeting. Chair informs Council that the meeting is Inquorate.

2 Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

2.1 Noted: Cat Tippet to be listed under Apologies.

2.2 Noted: 9.2.4 should read: Broke the Equal Opportunities Policy and we have an obligation to our members. We are right to ban him.

3 Adoption Of Minutes From Previous Meetings

3.1 Council Minutes 24th February 2009: PASSED.

3.2 Executive Minutes 27th February 2009: PASSED.

4 Notice Of Adoption Of Any Other Competent Business

4.1 Noted: Price of Student Books to be added as 9.4.

5 Challenges To The Order Of The Paper

5.1 Noted: 8.2 Welfare & Education Committee report and 9.3 Mission/Vision deferred until next meeting.

6 Resignations & Elections

6.1 Resignations

6.1.1 President: Confirms the resignations of Laura Brown, English Studies Representative and Ian Neilson, Philosophy Representative.

6.2 Elections

6.2.1 President: Congratulates Emily Farrimond, English Studies Representative; Louise MacDonald, English Studies Representative and Rebecca Thorley, Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative on their election to SUSA Council.

6.2.2 President: Welcomes Jamie MacDonald, Sports Union President-elect; Rhianna Humphrey, Equal Opportunities Officer-elect and David Stuart, Entertainments Officer-elect to membership of SUSA Council for remainder of academic year.

7 Dates To Note

7.1 31 March-2 April NUS National Conference

7.2 1 April SU Executive nominations open

7.3 15 April SU Executive nominations close

7.4 18 April SU Ball

7.5 20 April SUSA Council/Student Experience Committee Meeting 5pm

7.6 21 April SUSA Council 6.15pm 2W1

7.7 22 April Clubs & Societies Awards Ceremony

7.8 23 April SU AGM 6.15pm Logie Lecture Theatre

7.9 2 May SU Final Fling

8 Reports

8.1 Student Activities Committee

8.1.1 Student Activities Officer: Held the Clubs & Socs Festival in the Atrium and this allowed clubs to show off what they are doing. Had candy floss and popcorn for students. Thanks to Jodie, Rhianna and Emily for all their help. On the Tuesday held a Volunteering day with Barnardo's. Clubs & Socs awards will be held on 22 April. Voting for the awards is open until Weds 1 April. Next meeting of Student Activities Committee will be on Friday 17th April and all are welcome to attend.

8.2 Welfare & Education Committee

8.2.1 Noted: Deferred to next meeting.

8.3 NUS Scotland Conference

8.3.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Took place in Erskine. Liam Burns elected as NUS Scotland President. Tom Spencer elected to Scottish Executive Committee (SEC). Passed policies in areas concerning Funding and HE. Overall a good experience.

8.4 Elections March 2009

8.4.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Thanks Membership Services Manager, Membership Services Secretary and Print Room Operator for all their help during the elections. Had a record turnout of 2036 voters which represents over 20% of eligible voters. This compares with the UK average in student unions of 11%.

8.4.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Congratulates Tom Spencer, President; Mark Cullen, Vice President (Services & Treasurer); Mark Charters, Vice President (Welfare & Education); Jamie MacDonald, Sports Union President; Emily Chapman, Publicity Officer; Sean O'Hara, Student Activities Officer; David Stuart, Entertainments Officer; Rhianna Humphrey, Equal Opportunities Officer; Catriona MacPhee, Brig Editor; Andy Cuthbertson, Air3 Station Manager; Gavin Hugh, AirTV Station Manager; David Lewin, Black Students' Officer; Jacob Longstaff, Disabled Students' Officer; Andréas Frögren, LGBT Officer; Vivien Lafferty, Women's Officer; Alba Brown, Ethics & Environment Officer; Nicolene Holder, International Students' Officer; David Harding, Mature Students' Officer.

8.4.3 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Reports that two complaints were received and two warnings issued.

8.4.4 Noted: Vice President (Services & Treasurer) regains position as Chair following election and will be looking to have an open meeting to review and look for future improvements and all will be invited to attend.

9 Discussion & Decision Topics

9.1 Respecting Dunblane's Memory

- 9.1.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): A few weeks ago the Sunday Express ran a story about naming and shaming survivors of the Dunblane tragedy. Included comments about their lives and that some were drunks, unemployed and so on. The article has received massive condemnation. The paper has published an apology and is being investigated by the Press Complaints Commission. Have been contacted by alumni to see what can be done about this. The editor, Derek Lambie is a distinguished alumni. Have had correspondence saying SUSA should consider going to the University and lobbying them that he is not a distinguished alumni anymore.
- 9.1.2 LGBT Officer/ Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect: Why can't they go to the University directly themselves?
- 9.1.3 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): They could do but contacted me as a first point to see if anything could be done centrally.
- 9.1.4 LGBT Officer/ Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect: It doesn't appear that it directly affects the student body.
- 9.1.5 Vice President (Welfare & Education): It can do as the Career Development Centre often use former alumni in work that they do.
- 9.1.6 President: There are students now who were part of it.
- 9.1.7 Sports Union President-elect: What did the article say?
- 9.1.8 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): What they are up to now. Press Complaints Commission are investigating on grounds of privacy and on accuracy as well. Comes down to issue of Editor as he approves the front page.
- 9.1.9 Mature Students' Officer: How many people does this affect?
- 9.1.10 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Not sure to be honest. This was a last minute thing but wanted to have discussion on it.
- 9.1.11 Gemma Greaves: When was it published?
- 9.1.12 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): The Sunday before last.
- 9.1.13 Jo Peek: How many complaints have there been?
- 9.1.14 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Had some messages via facebook, about 6 or so. Again, this was just to get a feeling.
- 9.1.15 President: Vice President (Services & Treasurer) can keep an eye on this situation and bring back if necessary.
- 9.1.16 Mature Students' Officer: Feel this is more up to alumni to take forward than us.

9.2 Top Up Fees

- 9.2.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Last week, Vice Chancellor's in England discussed proposals to increase fees to £5k a year. This will have an affect on Scottish University's too. The Scottish Government will then need to consider how it will compete in respect of funding. Need to look at how we can support the great work that is going on in England to prevent this, and ensure it doesn't have an affect on us. We don't want this to happen.

- 9.2.2 Sports Union President-elect: How will this affect Scotland?
- 9.2.3 Vice President (Welfare & Education): England will have more money available and because they want to increase it, the worry will be that a big divide takes place.
- 9.2.4 President: Two-thirds of Vice Chancellor's have come out publically and say they support this. Their argument, which is a compelling one, is that if the Government want 50% into Higher Education whilst retaining quality delivery at an International level, then they will need to consider charging students more. The danger is that this will create a market in HE. The millions such a move would bring in, would force Scotland to act so as not to be left behind. Need to consider what we can do.
- 9.2.5 Vice President (Welfare & Education): It's a shame we couldn't attend the lobby the day after the announcement. We can attend future lobbies and lobby MPs but we need to think now. There will be a review in November but it's important to plan now.
- 9.2.6 Sports Studies Representative/Publicity Officer-elect: How will this affect English students studying in Scotland?
- 9.2.7 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Education is a devolved issue and just now the fee I believe is £1,700 per year.
- 9.2.8 Gemma Greaves: Surely English students are opposing this?
- 9.2.9 President: Yes they are and there is likely to be a national demonstration.
- 9.2.10 Psychology Representative/International Students' Officer: There is a Facebook group that people can join. Should get this out to students.
- 9.2.11 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Is there a way we can convince our own Principal to come out against it?
- 9.2.12 President: Can try but it's unlikely to happen. Will likely say it's an English issue.
- 9.2.13 Gemma Greaves: Raising awareness is important because not many students will know about this.
- 9.2.14 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Timing of the campaign is crucial.
- 9.2.15 Vice President (Welfare & Education): We must start now.

9.3 Mission/Vision

- 9.3.1 Noted: Deferred to next meeting.

9.4 Price of Student Books

- 9.4.1 Gemma Greaves: Student Books are getting more and more expensive. On average, I'm paying £45 a book. We do have the Library but what happens if someone wants to buy a book and can't? Also need to consider about providing information on different editions that are available.
- 9.4.2 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Need to consider if Departments are picking appropriate books for the reading list.

- 9.4.3 Gemma Greaves: It would be helpful if Departments also provided the ISBN number and possibly a diagram of the front cover and edition and year. Make it easier for students to find the right books.
- 9.4.4 Sports Studies Representative/Publicity Officer-elect: Do have the SUSA Book Shop to help. We do need to do something about books.
- 9.4.5 Gemma Greaves: Everyone knows being a student you are poor. We need help and support.
- 9.4.6 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): We need to build on the book store and develop it further. Looking at digitalising it and making it easier to find what you're after. Will work on this over the summer.
- 9.4.7 Accounting & Finance Representative/Women's Officer-elect: Can sometimes buy a recommended book and then it's not referred to at all during the course.
- 9.4.8 Gemma Greaves: Departments need to look over lists and update them. Could also help by suggesting previous editions and providing the details on any changes as an option.
- 9.4.9 LGBT Officer/Vice President (Welfare & Education)-elect: Sometimes the lecturer's own book is there and there is an expectation to buy it.
- 9.4.10 Ruth Bowler: This will be more apparent with the re-development of the Library.
- 9.4.11 Jo Peek: Some Lecturers do give lists of previous editions.
- 9.4.12 President: As part of the Library re-development, they'll be looking at which books are used the most so could organise effort to focus on people taking out specific books.
- 9.4.13 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Will speak to the Deputy Principal for Learning & Teaching and Director of Information Services to see if we can get the message out.
- 9.4.14 Jo Peek: Also let us know so we can tell reps to bring up at their meetings.
- 9.4.15 President: It would be a good idea to have reps raise at SSCC meetings.
- 9.4.16 Noted: Discussion on the future of the Library Reserve Book Room facility.

10 Date of Next Meeting

- 10.1 There will be a meeting of SUSA Council and the University's Student Experience Committee on Monday 20th April at 5pm (venue to be confirmed).
- 10.2 Next meeting of SUSA Council will be on Tuesday 21st April at 6.15pm in 2W1.