

STIRLING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the Students' Association COUNCIL held on Tuesday 27th February 2007 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
Karri Vaslot	-	Ethics & Environment Officer
Dale McEwan	-	LGBT Officer
Mark Cullen	-	Brig Editor
Anisa Omar	-	Black Students Officer
Lucy Strachan	-	Geddes Court Hall Representative (Chair of Council)
Catherine Coales	-	Psychology Representative
Iain McOmish	-	Politics Representative
Stephen Duff	-	Law Representative
Mark Pickering	-	Psychology Representative
Jesse Blum	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative
Eric Moylan	-	Murray Hall Representative
Stuart Armstrong	-	Computing Science & Mathematics Representative
Rosalind Greig	-	Politics Representative
Gemma Corcoran	-	History Representative
Adam Conn	-	Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative
Gracious Guti	-	Management & Organisation Representative
Florencia Frind	-	Philosophy Representative
Alma Clark	-	Education Representative
Steven O'Donnell	-	History Representative
Sadia Sohail	-	Accounting & Finance Representative

- 1.2 In Attendance
Nick Manton, SUSA Membership Services Manager
- 1.3 Observers
Sean O’Hara; Kay Mitchell; Laura Middleton; Andy Combe
- 1.4 Apologies
- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Alastair Headden | - | Air3 Station Manager |
| Billie Lister | - | Sociology Representative |
| Fiona McKinlay | - | Applied Social Science Representative |
| Daniel Holden | - | Biological & Environmental Science Representative |
| Carla McLean | - | Disabled Students Officer |
| Jennifer Gouck | - | Women’s Officer |
| Kim Allison | - | English Studies Representative |
| Deborah Hunter | - | Marketing Representative |
- 1.5 Absent Without Apologies
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| Gail Cunningham | - | Management & Organisation Representative |
| Deborah Collins | - | Nursing & Midwifery Representative |
| Calum Watson | - | Psychology Representative |
| Sarah Johnston | - | Computing Science & Mathematics Representative |
| Katie Bradley | - | Education Representative |
| Sally Hodgson | - | Film & Media Studies Representative |
| Hilary Malcolm | - | Nursing & Midwifery Representative |
| David Harding | - | Languages, Cultures & Religions Representative |
| Farrena Ahmed | - | Economics Representative |
| Thomas Ferguson | - | Law Representative |
| Jesse Brown Marsh | - | Education Representative |
| Adam Anderson | - | Education Representative |
| Andy Shepherd | - | AirTV Station Manager |
| Ashleigh Wilson | - | ASH Representative |

With permission of Chair, Membership Services Manager outlines the situation regarding quoracy for the meeting.

2 Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

3 Adoption Of Minutes From Previous Meetings

- 3.1 Council Minutes: 21 November 2006 PASSED.
- 3.2 Executive Minutes: 3.2 - 3.8 Taken as a block. PASSED.

4 Notice Of Adoption Of Any Other Competent Business

4.1 President: Election of Women's Officer to be taken as 9.5.

5 Challenges To The Order Of The Paper

6 Resignations & Elections

6.1 Resignations & Elections

6.1.1 Noted: Council notes resignations from Eftyhcia Prokopi (Film and Media Studies); Sarah Simpson (School of Languages, Cultures & Religions); Craig McQueen (Biological & Environmental Sciences); Dorothea Will (History); David Nicolson (English Studies); Scott David Craig (Accounting and Finance); Robert Bridges (Biological & Environmental Sciences); Jon Price (Philosophy); Ashleigh Jeppesen (Psychology); Chris Wynne (English Studies); Marc Smith (Economics); Nicole French (Marketing).

6.1.2 Noted: Council welcomes Steven O'Donnell elected to Council as representative for History Department.

6.1.3 Noted: With these resignations Council quoracy reduces and the meeting becomes quorate.

6.1.4 Chair: Position available on Welfare & Education Committee for a Council member.

6.1.5 Vice-President (Welfare & Education): Outlines role and remit of Welfare & Education Committee.

6.1.6 Noted: Gemma Corcoran elected to Welfare & Education Committee.

6.1.7 Membership Services Manager: Explains situation with those who have not attended 3 meetings of Council.

6.1.8 Noted: Council votes to remove David Harding (School of Languages, Cultures & Religions); Hilary Malcolm (Nursing & Midwifery); Katie Bradley (Education) and Sally Hodgson (Film & Media Studies).

6.2 NUS Scotland Conference delegates

6.2.1 Noted: Chair suspends Standing Orders.

6.2.2 President: Gives overview of NUS Scotland and NUS National Conferences.

6.2.2 Noted: Tom Spencer, Chris Baxter and Lucy Strachan elected to represent SUSU at NUS Scotland Conference on 3-4 March.

6.3 NUS National Conference delegates

6.3.1 Noted: David Deary, Robert Hudd, David Fletcher and Mark Cullen elected to represent SUSU at NUS National Conference on 27-29 March.

6.3.2 Noted: Chair re-instates Standing Orders.

7 Dates To Note

7.1 28 February National Self Injury Awareness Day

7.2 2 March Executive/Officers with Specific Responsibilities nominations open

- 7.3 Mark Your Mark campaign -talks by Fiona Hyslop (Scottish National Party) on 5 March; Tommy Sheridan (Solidarity) on 12 March; Nicol Stephen (Scottish Liberal Democrats) on 19 March; Robin Harper (Scottish Green Party) on 9 April. Awaiting dates on Annabel Goldie (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party); Colin Fox (Scottish Socialist Party) and Jack McConnell (Scottish Labour Party).
- 7.4 7 March Women's Group Body Image Campaign
- 7.5 8 March International Women's Day
- 7.6 19 & 20 March SUSA elections take place
- 7.7 5 April Nominations open for Sports Union Executive positions
- 7.8 10 April Make Your Mark Atrium event during day and local candidate hustings in the evening
- 7.9 26 April Sports Union AGM

8 Reports

8.1 Chair of Welfare & Education Committee

- 8.1.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Variety of issues discussed through Welfare & Education Committee. On Monday there will be a Body Image campaign by the Women's Group so please come along and help. There have been lively discussions surrounding the issue of Cheerleaders calendars. Discussion about secular SUSA and inviting religious groups to events. Plan for a walk about campus to ascertain safety issues. Looking to get a group of students together to help talk about the 1st year experience for QAA.
- 8.1.2 Gemma Corcoran: Was a decision taken about secular SUSA?
- 8.1.3 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Was not presented for a decision, just discussion.

8.2 Chair of Services Committee

- 8.2.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): With help from the Ents team, we rebranded 'refreshers' for both the daytime and evening activities. The Commercial Fayre was tricky but did manage to do ok in respect of marketing revenue. There was a large demand for stalls from Clubs and Societies which was good and we managed to spread this over a few days. Continued battle for attendances in the evenings but the staff continue to work hard to provide new approaches for students to enjoy. Notes appreciation to staff and thanks those who helped with Ents flyering. Have been doing groundwork on converting the Media Office into a more open space for students. Working closely with Air3 on Alter:Ego and plans for studio re-development. Working on improving accessibility on SUSAonline and we need more detailed work to determine what is needed. May result in delay to Media Office work but will keep Council updated. Preparation for elections well underway and has redesigned the Elections Handbook. Produced materials for Heads of Departments as well to promote the elections. Recently received results of the NUS Finance consultation on affiliation fees.

If the motion presented by NUS Finance is passed at National Conference, we will pay approximately £12,000 in affiliation fees next year.

8.2.2 Stephen Duff: Will the affiliation fee have to be paid back next year?

8.2.3 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Would only be if our block grant increased and there was an upturn in our income. NUS are reworking the whole system.

8.3 Chair of Student Activities Committee

8.3.1 Student Activities Officer: Committee has been discussing the Clubs & Societies Festival and Awards for this semester. Also considering holding some form of tournament with another University although this is at an early stage. Will keep Council updated.

8.4 Chair of Sports Union Executive Committee

8.4.1 Sports Union President: SU Executive meets more regularly. Have done very well in BUSA knock-outs. As things stand, we are 3rd in Britain although this is likely to drop the way in which it is worked out. Working on arrangements for Final Fling. All the arrangements for the SU Ball are in place as well. We also discussed the motion to be presented later regarding the Commonwealth Games. Sports Union has already approved its support for the Glasgow bid.

8.4.2 Eric Moylan: What happens with the money left over from the Final Fling/SU Ball?

8.4.3 Sports Union President: These events are planned to break even and indeed have funds allocated to support them.

9 Discussion & Decision Topics

9.1 Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014 Bid

9.1.1 Sports Union President: Introduces the motion and outlines bid from Glasgow and the other bids for the Commonwealth Games in 2014. We will have athletes competing and it is a great opportunity. Others can be involved in the event and attend.

9.1.2 Laura Middleton: Why does this need to be a policy? Can't we just say we support it?

9.1.3 Sports Union President: We can do that but if we want to do it as the organisation then it needs approval.

9.1.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Needs to be approved by Council to add the name of SUSU.

9.1.5 Steven O'Donnell: What is the benefit for Stirling?

9.1.6 Sports Union President: It would mean improved facilities that our athletes can make use of and also would mean they would be competing in the climate they are used to.

9.1.7 Campaigns Officer: Could also mean other athletes using our facilities.

- 9.1.8 Andy Combe: It would help make Scotland a better place for Sport.
- 9.1.9 Stephen Duff: Slightly worried about saying this on behalf of all students. What about other students who don't agree?
- 9.1.10 Vice President (Welfare & Education): It is the role of Council to represent the views of students.
- 9.1.11 Iain McOmish: It's the nature of representative democracy.
- 9.1.12 Andy Combe: It's the same with all SUSA policy.
- 9.1.13 Anisa Omar: Is it not better to support a developing country bidding?
- 9.1.14 Equal Opportunities Officer: Yes we should always canvas student opinion.
- 9.1.15 Brig Editor: This would help the economy and the University as a sporting University.
- 9.1.16 Adam Conn: Isn't the plan to build another stadium in the East End? There are 3 major stadiums already, isn't there a danger this could be a white elephant?
- 9.1.17 Sports Union President: The plan I believe is to focus on regeneration. I believe there are plans for a velodrome.
- 9.1.18 Adam Conn: Just thinking about Edinburgh in 1986. It was a disaster and countries boycotted. Wouldn't want it to be a farce.
- 9.1.19 Gemma Corcoran: Countries should be treated as equals. It shouldn't be just about supporting an African country.
- 9.1.20 Noted: Vote on Motion. PASSED.

9.2 Being Realistic about NUS Extra

- 9.2.1 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Introduces motion. Should have attached motion 816 to which this motion refers. Most of the detail however is in this motion. Have been some troubles with Extra but it does have benefits. Want it to be a credible proposal for students.
- 9.2.2 Equal Opportunities Officer: Is there are argument against this?
- 9.2.3 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Problem has been the promotion of non-exclusive discounts which appear to be exclusive. Motion aims to address this and make sure the marketing is clear. Other concern is the £10 cost. Need to emphasis the benefit and ensure students get a lot more for their money.
- 9.2.4 Stephen Duff: NUS should be a service and am happy to have that. However, they are £300M in debt. Glasgow University said that NUS were terrible. There are tons of arguments. We have 2 laptops to show for £30,000.
- 9.2.5 Jesse Blum: Took a straw poll of students in Department. Don't have the card or if they do feel ripped off by it. Don't feel it's worth it.
- 9.2.6 Eric Moylan: Can you clarify what you mean about exclusivity being taken away?

- 9.2.7 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): There is a problem with people just using Uni matriculation card. NUS Extra should be focused on exclusives.
- 9.2.8 Student Activities Officer: Issue of NUS as a whole is for discussion at another time. Personally think that NUS Extra is a good option. It puts money back into SUSU. Not all money goes to NUS. Helps increase campaign funds.
- 9.2.9 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): If students are opposed we need to make sure that what it offers is good. It needs to improve.
- 9.2.10 President: Not about the card in its current format. More about the concept. Must mean something to those that use it.
- 9.2.11 Kay Mitchell: Concerned about exclusivity and students ending up with nothing. Shouldn't have to pay for the privilege.
- 9.2.12 Brig Editor: Every single person I've spoken to has given a venomous reply. It's not done well. Didn't market it well. Should be a tiered system for those who pay. Should always fight for free discounts.
- 9.2.13 Laura Middleton: Disagree about such a choice - opposed to it. Discounts should be free.
- 9.2.14 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Not marketed well. That is the point of this motion - to get it right and deliver on promises. Is NUS Extra run through NUS/NUSSL?
- 9.2.15 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): It's not very clear at the moment who owns it as they produce different materials. Consensus seems to be that it will be NUSSL running it. People don't see the money spent behind the scenes. They also offer competitions and it costs money to implement. It's also important for a national card to be used online and it offers more discount than the original card.
- 9.2.16 Campaigns Officer: Calls procedural motion that the motion now be put.
- 9.2.17 Noted: Vote on procedural motion. PASSED.
- 9.2.18 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): Sums up the motion.
- 9.2.19 Noted: Vote on Motion.
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| FOR: | 16 |
| AGAINST: | 9 |
| ABSTAIN: | 3 |
- 9.2.20 Noted: Motion PASSED.

9.3 UKCOSA Affiliation

- 9.3.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Introduces motion. This is a national body and provides benefits. Provide a support line to get advice on issues for International students. Deal with national issues. The budget has been approved by Finance.
- 9.3.2 President: How long does it run for?
- 9.3.3 Vice President (Welfare & Education): One year.
- 9.3.4 Steven O'Donnell: Can I ask why did SUSU disaffiliate in the first place?

- 9.3.5 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Partly money and because the affiliation would have lapsed and it wasn't renewed. Part of the application to NUS for hardship was based on using funds to affiliate to UKCOSA.
- 9.3.6 Sports Union President: Would urge everyone to support this.
- 9.3.7 Alma Clark: Where do we currently get information from?
- 9.3.8 Vice President (Welfare and Education): There is a University International Adviser. Is just one person.
- 9.3.9 Alma Clark: Would that mean closing this down?
- 9.3.10 Vice President (Welfare and Education): No this means we could get independent and impartial advice.
- 9.3.11 Alma Clark: Can you give an example that would mean this would be better?
- 9.3.12 Vice President (Welfare and Education): On this issue of VISA's and what happens during an appeal. Need to be able to access that advice.
- 9.3.13 Jesse Blum: Canvassed opinion on this and students didn't understand what it was about. Not as good a use as reducing the cost of food and drink in venues. Should we vote for this, we need to promote it.
- 9.3.14 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Agrees on the need for promotion. Have not been affiliated for about 12 years. This comes out of a separate budget to the commercial operations of SUSA. Has no impact on commercial operations.
- 9.3.15 Eric Moylan: It's a good idea. Is there anything in place to secure funding for the future?
- 9.3.16 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Should be, based on the NUS affiliation situation and is now written into the budget. Seems ok for the foreseeable future but may depend on affiliation fee of course.
- 9.3.17 Steven O'Donnell: How will you judge it in respect of value for money?
- 9.3.18 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Need to monitor and assess. Need to make use of the advice they can offer.
- 9.3.19 Alma Clark: Can students contact them directly?
- 9.3.20 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Yes via a dedicated phone line. Would always recommend it being best to come through SUSA in the first instance though.
- 9.3.21 Alma Clark: International students might not know where this help is.
- 9.3.22 Vice President (Welfare & Education): We need to work on this.
- 9.3.23 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): In respect of the finance issue, this would create a mandate for the Vice President (Services & Treasurer) to budget for it.
- 9.3.24 Noted: Vote on Motion. PASSED.

9.4 Accessing Accessibility

- 9.4.1 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Introduces Motion. Previous motion regarding accessibility raised some concerns regarding the practicality of it. Following this, spoke with the President of the Disabled Students Group to formulate a policy which is implementable. For example, Council Notes 5 of this motion only came to light after the 'Right to Read' Information policy motion was presented to Council on 21 November 2006. Need to remember that such an issue cannot be solved overnight and outlined the important role to be played by the Welfare & Education Committee. This also covers Clubs and Societies. It's important we have a policy we can implement.
- 9.4.2 Noted: Vote taken to amend CB4 to replace 'of' with 'or'. PASSED.
- 9.4.3 Noted: Vote taken to amend the 'Further Instructs' heading to 'Instructs'. PASSED.
- 9.4.4 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Issues with some Clubs and Societies mini-sites and the use of scrolling text. Need to talk to them about accessibility.
- 9.4.5 Campaigns Officer: Would it be possible to have our key materials already provided in these formats should someone ask for them?
- 9.4.6 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Pending agreement in writing from the appropriate people it could be done.
- 9.4.7 Jesse Blum: Have been speaking to students regarding this motion. Council Notes 1 there is the cost implication. Council Notes 2 and 3 become redundant and Council Notes 4 could be handled informally.
- 9.4.8 Equal Opportunities Officer: You outlined that this agrees in principle with the 'Right to Read' Information policy yet it said we were breaking laws.
- 9.4.9 Vice President (Welfare & Education): It agrees with what it is trying to achieve. Not the wording or the format. SUSA always aims not to break any laws.
- 9.4.10 Brig Editor: Do I have to produce Brig in size 14 font? Would I be mandated to provide it in Braille?
- 9.4.11 Vice President (Welfare & Education): It states where feasible.
- 9.4.12 Steven O'Donnell: So we are not currently breaking the law?
- 9.4.13 Vice President (Welfare & Education): No but we need to address the website and are actively working on this.
- 9.4.14 President: It is my understanding that there are no cost implications in this for SUSA.
- 9.4.15 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Yes.
- 9.4.16 President: It would be good to have that it writing.
- 9.4.17 Student Activities Officer: Worked on site as web administrator. It's important to make this process happen.
- 9.4.18 Vice President (Services & Treasurer): In respect of SUSAonline we need to look at the club mini-sites.
- 9.4.19 Alma Clark: Do we have to communicate with reps in Braille?

9.4.20 Vice President (Welfare & Education): Most communication will be in class scenarios or via e-mail and as such appropriate software can be used. There is no obligation to print in Braille but do please pass it on if you get a request.

9.4.21 Publicity Officer: Sums up the Motion.

9.4.22 Noted: Vote on Motion. PASSED.

9.5 Election of Women's Officer

9.5.1 President: Working on bringing issue of liberation officers on the Executive Committee back to a Senate and is working on Constitutional amendments to facilitate this. One point of confusion is over the election of Women's Officer and if it should remain as it is at present and voted for by women only. Many on the Executive Committee felt that it should be all students as there is not just the individual remit but the wider role of a Trustee. I spoke to the Women's Group about this issue.

9.5.2 Equal Opportunities Officer: There was a discussion about this at the Women's Group and it was apparent that the group as a whole felt comfortable with the concept of opening it to voting for all as men can have an understanding of women's issues. There was unanimous agreement that it should be opened to all.

9.5.3 Alma Clark: What about a Men's Officer?

9.5.4 President: We're not discussing that issue just now.

9.5.5 Laura Middleton: Remember when the position was moved from Exec down to Council and the referendum which voted in favour of being opened to everyone.

9.5.6 Iain McOmish: It is necessary for it to be cross-campus.

9.5.7 Vice President (Welfare & Education): At present there is nothing de-barring males from standing for election.

9.5.8 President: Need to re-write elements of Constitution.

9.5.9 Catherine Coales: We need to strive for equality.

9.5.10 Steven O'Donnell: Principle of 1 person, 1 vote.

9.5.11 Andy Combe: How many were at the Women's Group meeting?

9.5.12 Chair: There were about 18.

9.5.13 Andy Combe: Is this about the average for a meeting?

9.5.14 Equal Opportunities Officer: Yes.

9.5.15 Noted: President happy to take forward on the basis of the discussion.

10 **Date of Next Meeting**

10.1 Monday 26 March at 18:15 in 2W1.