



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council Student Services Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 17 September 2013 – Venue 2, 7.00pm

Present

Sophie Kelly	Arts/Divinity Senate Representative
Maxwell Baldi	Association Chair
Sadie Hochfield	Association Community Relations Officer
Daniel Palmer	Association Director of Events and Services
Edward Woodhouse	Association Director of Representation
Kelsey Gold	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Dominyka Urbonaite	Association Environment & Ethics Officer
David Norris	Association LGBT Officer
Scott Schorr	Association Postgraduate President
Chloe Hill	Association President
Iain Cupples	Education Researcher
Pat Mathewson	Rector's Assessor
Peter DaBell	Science/Medicine Senate Representative
Scott Taylor	SRC Accommodation Officer
Ondrej Hajda	SRC Education Officer
Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer
Callum Bryce	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Joshua Carlton	SRC Member for First Year
Ali West	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Fay Morrice	SRC Member for Disabilities
Melissa Turner	SRC Member for Mature Students (co-opted, with Ross Quinn, following J11)
Anna Kennedy-O'Brien	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Ben Anderson	SRC Member for Widening Access
Joseph Tantillo	SSC Charitable Development Convenor
George Parker	SSC Charities Officer
William Lord	SSC Debates Officer
Stephanie Ekanayaka	SSC Design Team Convenor
Maia Krall-Fry	SSC Film Production Officer
Robert Dixon	SSC Member for Societies Elections
Emily Dick	SSC Member for Societies Grants
Keith Cordrey	SSC Member without Portfolio
Anna Merryfield	SSC Music Officer
David Patterson	SSC Performing Arts Officer
Courtney Lewis	SSC Societies Officer

In Attendance

Lucy Keen The Stand
Laura Abernathy The Stand

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Caroline Rhoads SRC Member for International Students
Ruth Cunningham SRC Member for Private Accommodation
Fiona Woodhall SSC Entertainments Convener
Soraya Walli SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities

3. New General Joint Business

3.1. J. 9 – Motion to Create a Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group

Strike §5.4.1.7 in Chapter Two, replace with the following, and renumber accordingly:

5.4.1.7. Staff-Student Council Representatives

5.4.1.7. Arts/Divinity Faculty President

5.4.1.8. Science/Medicine Faculty President

Insert a new 5.5 in Chapter Two, and renumber accordingly:

5.5. Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group

5.5.1. *Membership* – The Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group shall include the following members:

5.5.1.1. SRC Education Officer (Convener & Chair);

5.5.1.2. Association President;

5.5.1.3. Director of Representation;

5.5.1.4. Association Postgraduate President;

5.5.1.5. Arts/Divinity Senate Representative;

5.5.1.6. Science/Medicine Senate Representative;

5.5.1.7. SRC Member for Widening Access;

5.5.1.8. Arts/Divinity Faculty President; and

5.5.1.9. Science/Medicine Faculty President.

5.5.2. *Remit* – The Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group shall:

5.5.2.1. Ensure consistency in the Students' Association delivery of academic representation across all levels;

5.5.2.2. Instill confidence within the student representatives on the Academic Council to fully advocate the student perspective;

5.5.2.3. Inform student representatives on the Academic Council with sufficient information to fully advocate the student perspective; and

5.5.2.4. Inform student representatives outwith the Academic Council on the proceedings of the body in a timely and regular manner.

5.5.3. *Meetings* – The Advisory Group shall meet no less than three days in advance of every meeting of the Academic Council.

5.5.4. *Structure* – The Advisory Group shall act as a subsidiary body of the SRC Education Committee.

Proposed by Mr Woodhouse, seconded by Mr Hajda

Mr Woodhouse introduced the motion as such: the core problem in student-led education advocacy is that there are two separate bodies: the School Presidents and the SRC Education Committee. Due to old regulations, the SRC Education Officer doesn't sit on the former. By establishing SOAC, and meeting with it in advance of University Academic Council meetings, the Education Officer can coordinate opinion and have input.

No Objections.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Having previously been reviewed by the Association Board, the amended laws were thenceforth in effect.

3.2. J. 10 Motion to Split the Position of SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer

Starting at Page 24:

1.1.12. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer

1.1.13. SRC Wellbeing Officer [and renumbering accordingly]

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4.1.3. Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer

4.1.4. External Campaigns Officer

4.1.5. Wellbeing Officer [and renumbering accordingly]

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5.5. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer

The SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer shall have special responsibilities for those areas concerning equal opportunities and welfare and shall:

5.5.1. Convene and chair meetings of the SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Committee

5.5.2. Liaise with Student Services.

5.5.3. Coordinate his/her activities with the Director of Representation.

5.5.4. Attend any relevant University welfare **equal opportunities** committees **or working groups** as requested.

~~5.5.5. Compile and edit the Welfare Handbook and Raising Weekend Handbook, amongst others, in coordination with the Director of Representation and the Design & Marketing Officer. [and renumbering accordingly]~~

5.5.6. Implement SRC policy on matters relating to ~~student welfare~~, and run regular campaigns on topics including alcohol awareness, Raising Weekend, personal safety, employment rights and student equality **equal opportunities, student diversity, university accessibility; run regular campaigns on these topics; and assist his/her committee members in the running of their own campaigns and events.**

5.5.7. Work in close coordination with minority group **and interfaith** representatives.

5.5.8. Be responsible for having minutes kept of Equal Opportunities & Welfare Committee meetings, passing them to the Association Chair, and filing them in the General Office and online.

5.5.9. Inherit the title of SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer.

5.6. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Committee

5.6.1. Membership:

5.6.1.1. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer (Convener & Chair)

5.6.1.2. Director of Representation

5.6.1.3. SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

5.6.1.4. SRC Member for International Students

5.6.1.5. SRC Member for Mature Students

5.6.1.6. SRC Member for Part-Time Students

5.6.1.7. SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities

5.6.1.8. SRC Member for Widening Access

5.6.1.9. **Association LGBT Officer**~~Student Services Representative (non-voting)~~

5.6.1.10. **SRC Wellbeing Officer**~~Nightline Representative (non-voting)~~

5.6.2. Remit

The SRC Equal Opportunities & ~~Welfare~~ Committee shall:

5.6.2.1. Formulate and ensure the execution of SRC policy on student ~~welfare~~ **diversity and equal opportunities**;

5.6.2.2. Provide a medium for minority **and interfaith** groups to be properly represented; and,

5.6.2.3. Ensure that matters relating to equal opportunities ~~and student welfare~~ are brought to the attention of the SRC.

5.6.3. Meetings

The SRC Equal Opportunities & ~~Welfare~~ Committee shall meet every fortnight and other times when necessary.

5.7. SRC Wellbeing Officer

The SRC Wellbeing Officer shall have special responsibilities for those areas concerning student wellbeing and shall:

5.7.1. Convene and chair meetings of the SRC Wellbeing Committee;

5.7.2. Liaise with Student Services;

5.7.3. Coordinate his/her activities with the Director of Representation;

5.7.4. Attend any relevant University welfare or wellbeing committees as requested;

5.7.5. Compile and edit student resources on wellbeing at University and also specifically on Rasin Weekend and other subjects deemed suitable by the Officer, in coordination with the Director of Representation and the Design & Marketing Officer;

5.7.6. Act on SRC policy on matters relating to student wellbeing, and

run regular campaigns on topics including alcohol consumption, Raising the Bar Weekend and other University traditions, personal safety, mental health, and sexual health; and

5.7.7. Be responsible for having minutes kept of Wellbeing Committee meetings, passing them to the Association Chair, and filing them in the General Office and online.

5.8. SRC Wellbeing Committee

5.8.1. Membership:

5.8.1.1. SRC Wellbeing Officer (Convener & Chair);

5.8.1.2. Director of Representation;

5.8.1.3. SRC Equal Opportunities Officer;

5.8.1.4. SRC Member for Students with Disabilities;

5.8.1.5. SRC Member for Mature Students;

5.8.1.6. Association LGBT Officer;

5.8.1.7. Student Services Representative (non-voting);

5.8.1.8. Nightline Representative (non-voting); and

5.8.1.9. Invited representatives (non-voting).

5.8.2. Remit

The SRC Wellbeing Committee shall:

5.8.2.1. Formulate and ensure the execution of SRC policy on student wellbeing;

5.8.2.2. Promote positive student mental health and encourage positive behavior relating to sexual health and personal safety, through regular campaigns; and

5.8.2.3. Ensure that matters relating to student wellbeing are brought to the attention of the SRC.

5.8.3. Meetings

The SRC Wellbeing Committee shall meet every fortnight and other times when necessary.

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1.1.12. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer

1.1.13. SRC Wellbeing Officer

1.1.14. SRC Member for International Students

Proposed by Mr Woodhouse, seconded by Ms Mohamud.

Mr Woodhouse introduced the motion as such: the object of this motion is to come up with a more substantial commitment from the committee on welfare. This would increase the commitment from the Equal opportunities committee and create a Welfare Committee, modelled on the old Student Affairs Committee.

Mr Norris question what the extra commitment would be from other officers.

Mr Woodhouse responded that the meeting would be every other week.

Mr Norris questioned whether the meetings would be offset.

Mr Woodhouse responded that that would be for the committees to decide.

Mr Cordrey asked whether the position would be the successor to Ms Mohamud's current position.

Mr Woodhouse responded that Ms Mohamud wouldn't have to run again.

Ms Lewis questioned what constituted welfare.

Mr Woodhouse responded that mental health, sexual health, and personal safety would fall within the remit of the Welfare Officer. The officer would aid in running events such as Sexual Health Awareness week and Mental Health Week.

Mr Hajda added that this was creating a new position and that, in the past, they'd experienced problems filling the positions. He then asked if there was a plan in place to fill these positions.

Mr Woodhouse responded that the Equal Opportunities and Welfare position was always well respected and that there had been multiple applicants for the position in the past. He stated that he had spoken with people previously who had expressed interest in the new positions.

Ms Mohamud added that Equal Opportunities and Welfare had a lot to cover and, by splitting the position, each officer could focus on their specific portfolios and liaise with other organisation, such as Nightline.

Ms Lewis highlighted that some organisation had already been asked to come forward and work with the officers and then asked whether other organisations would need to wait to be asked or whether they could come forward.

Mr Woodhouse responded that, practically, it would work both ways.

Ms Morrice asked for clarification that new positions were being created.

Mr Woodhouse said that was correct.

Mr Morrice said that that wouldn't solve the problem of filling all of the positions.

Mr Woodhouse stated that these positions are often filled easily.

Mr Norris asked how much extra work would be demanded of the members of the new committees. Would it be the responsibility of the officers or the committee members to do the extra work.

Mr Woodhouse asked for an example.

Mr Norris gave the example of LGBT running SHAG week and asked whether that would increase the Welfare committee's workload.

Mr Woodhouse stated that the expectation was that this would reduce the workload.

Mr Anderson, stating that he was totally in support of the motion, said that time constraints might leave him not able to fulfil the role.

Mr Norris stated that he was still wary of the extra work. Highlighting his already large workload, he said that extra work might make it unworkable.

Ms Hill clarified that, currently, Mr Norris served on the Equal Opportunities and Welfare committee. This proposal would increase the members of that committee so that work could be spread more thinly. With more people on the committee, the workload would be reduced for each member.

Mr Baldi asked if there were any more questions.

Mr Baldi asked if there were any objections to the motion.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

3.3 J. 11 Motion to Create the Position of SRC Employability Officer

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1.1.13. SRC External Campaigns Officer

1.1.14. SRC Employability Officer *[and renumber accordingly]*

...

~~1.1.19. SRC Member for Part Time Students~~ *[and renumber accordingly]*

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~~5.6.1.6. SRC Member for Part Time Students~~ *[and renumber accordingly]*

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Adding, after §5.8.3 (Meetings of the SRC External Campaigns Committee).

5.9. SRC Employability Officer – The SRC Employability Officer shall primarily work to represent student opinion on services and support relating to employability and career skills and shall:

5.9.1. Work with relevant sabbatical officers on relevant areas and other projects mandated by the SRC;

5.9.2. Serve as a primary student liaison with the Careers Centre;

5.9.3. Work with the SRC Education Officer on the intersection of learning and teaching with employability;

5.9.4. Work with the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer to ensure equal opportunities for all students in receiving support on employability from the Careers Centre and the University more broadly;

5.9.5. Liaise with the Association's subcommittees and affiliated societies to build connections between extracurricular activity and employable skills; and

5.9.6. Be responsible for having minutes kept of SRC Employability Committee meetings, passing them to the Association Chair, and filing them in the General Office and online.

5.10. SRC Employability Committee

5.10.1. Membership

5.10.1.1. SRC Employability Officer (Convenor & Chair);

5.10.1.2. Director of Representation;

5.10.1.3. Director of Student Development & Activities;

5.10.1.4. Postgraduate President, or his/her designate from the elected Postgraduate Committee;

5.10.1.5. SRC Education Officer; and

5.10.1.6. Invited representatives (non-voting).

5.10.2. *Remit* – The SRC Employability Committee shall be responsible for supporting the SRC Employability Officer in meeting his/her objectives.

5.10.3. *Meetings* – The SRC Employability Committee shall meet whenever mandated by the SRC or called by the SRC Employability Officer. There shall be at least one meeting per semester.

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~~6.2.4. SRC Member for Part Time Students [and renumber accordingly]~~

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1.1.13. SRC Employability Officer *[and renumber accordingly]*

...

~~1.1.16. SRC Member for Part-Time Students~~ *[and renumber accordingly]*

Proposed by Mr Woodhouse, seconded by Ms Gold.

Mr Woodhouse introduced the motion as such: this motion would create the position of SRC Employability Officer, a campaign promise of his, and also eliminate a 'loophole' of sorts whereby the position of SRC Member for Part-time Students was not filled at the last election and not noticed.

Ms Hill noted that employability was currently within the Association Director of Student Development and Activities' remit but that there was no budget for it. As such, the position currently entailed liaising with the Careers Centre and ensuring that they were doing their job. The idea of this amendment was to improve the Association's work on employability.

Ms Gold stated that there needed to be an increased focus on making students aware of opportunities and not just helping students who knew what they wanted to do.

Ms Lewis asked how this would differ from individual schools holding career fairs.

Ms Gold answered that this position of Employability officer would allow the SRC and the Schools to better coordinate their efforts and that there was no expectation of this role revolutionising the delivery of Employability services but, instead, of improving them.

Ms Turner stated she was concerned that a position that represented a part of the student body was going to be removed. Highlighting her experience as a mature student, and in how she only discovered the existence of SRC Member for Mature Students through her own research, she wondered whether any attempt had been made to advertise the position to part-time students.

Mr Woodhouse stated that he hadn't but the fact that no one had come forward, the election had not been held and no one noticed, and that such little fanfare surrounded the position, it was hard to support the continuing existence of the position.

Ms Turner queried whether they had attempted to fill the position.

Mr Woodhouse stated that it had not been a priority for the SRC.

Mr Cupples, making general points about the position of Member for Part-time Students, stated that while the position had been held by part-time students it had also been held by full-time students. For the past three years the position had been held by full-time students and, that despite their best efforts, it would not be possible for them to adequately understand the problems faced by part-time students. He also highlighted that in some years where the position had been actively advertised to part-time students it had not been filled. Stating that their may well be good reason for that – that part time students might primarily identify with their families or their job – it still had not been filled.

Ms Turner, acknowledging that while mature students might not always be willing to fill the position of Member for Mature Students, she had found the position through her own research and wanted to be involved. To remove the position for part-time students without advertising the position, without checking that no new student wanted the position, would be wrong.

Ms Urbonaite stated that she was aware of a room that part-time student could use and queried whether the position had been advertised there. Stating that she personally knew part-time students, she raised concern that their representation was being removed without giving them a chance.

Mr Woodhouse stated that the intention was not to remove representation from part-time students and hoped that they would find adequate representation through other members.

Ms Urbonaite asked which officer would be responsible.

Mr Woodhouse stated that it was Ms Mohamud's, and his, responsibility to ensure that all students were adequately represented.

Mr Norris stated that, as many part-time students will be mature students, it might be possible to merge the positions of SRC Member for Mature Students and SRC Member for Part-time Students.

Mr Woodhouse suggested that, as not all mature students would be part-time and not all part-time students would be mature, it might not be the best solution.

Mr Hajda asked when the time frame was for filling the two positions.

Mr Woodhouse expressed his desire that they be filled before the end of the semester.

Ms Dick queried what proportion part-time students were of the student body.

Mr Cupples responded that he wasn't sure precisely but that it was quite small and suggested that that was perhaps the reason it was difficult to fill the role. He also highlighted that, equally, their small number might be a good reason for their being represented.

Mr Schorr proposed an amendment to 5.9.2

5.9.2 Serve as a primary student liaison with the Careers Centre, Knowledge Transfer Centre, and CAPOD;

Seconded by Ms Lewis.

Mr Schorr, justifying the amendment, stated that not many students were aware of the Knowledge Transfer Centre and that it would be good for the officer to raise awareness. Additionally, it was stated that CAPOD had many interesting programmes that the officer could promote.

Ms Hill stated that the officer could not be the liaison as the Education Officer already had that role.

Mr Woodhouse expressed doubt as to whether it would be fair for a part-time officer to take on that role as he worked with CAPOD on a daily basis and was aware of the required commitment.

Ms Gold stated that it was a good amendment, as it did not state the Officer would be the primary liaison but merely 'a' liaison.

The question was called on Mr Schorr's amendment, and objection was noted.

A Roll call vote was held in the Students' Representative Council:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly	X		
Association Community Relations Officer	Sadie Hochfield	X		
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer	X		
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold	X		
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite	X		
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris			X
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr	X		
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
President of the Athletic Union	Jess Walker			
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell	X		
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor	X		
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda	X		
SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	X		
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce			X
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli			
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton			X
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West			X
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads			
SRC Member for Mature Students				
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham			
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice	X		
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien	X		
SRC Member for Widening Access	Ben Anderson	X		

With 13 members in the affirmative and 2 in the negative, the amendment was adopted in the Students' Representative Council.

A roll call vote was held in the Student Services Council:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Association Community Relations Officer	Sadie Hochfield	X		
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer	X		
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold	X		
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite	X		
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris			X
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr	X		
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
SSC Broadcasting Officer	Oscar Swedrup			X
SSC Charities Officer	George Parker	X		
SSC Debates Officer	William Lord	X		
SSC Film Production Officer	Maia Fray	X		
SSC Member for Societies Elections	Robert Dixon	X		
SSC Member for Societies Grants	Emily Dick	X		
SSC Member w/o Portfolio	Kieth Cordrey	X		
SSC Music Officer	Anna Merryfield			X
SSC Performing Arts Officer	David Patterson	X		
SSC Societies Officer	Courtney Lewis	X		
SSC Volunteering Officer	Fay Holland			

With 13 members in the affirmative and 2 in the negative, the amendment was adopted in the Student Services Council

The council concurring, the amendment was adopted.

Mr Schorr proposed an amendment to include a section numbered 5.9.7 reading:

5.9.7 Liaise with the Vice-Principal (Enterprise and Engagement) to communicate Students' Association interests in the formation of University Enterprise programmes and policies;

Seconded by Robert Dixon.

Mr Schorr stated that he felt it was important there be a student voice in the formation of these policies.

With no objection, the motion was amended.

Mr Schorr proposed an amendment to include a section numbered 5.9.8 reading:

5.9.8 Communicate student intellectual property concerns and opinions to The University, and University Intellectual property concerns and opinions to The Students' Association;

Seconded by Robert Dixon.

Mr Schorr stated that there were a lot of Postgraduate working on projects that could be commercialised and that this could be one point of contact for addressing their concerns.

Ms Gold stated that this was beyond the scope of this role. It was also stated that the remit was a framework and that the officer was free to do more but caution should be exercised in extending the role before it had been filled.

Ms Lewis queried how this differed from the role of liaising with the Knowledge Transfer Centre (KTC).

Mr Schorr responded that the KTC primarily dealt with University issues surrounding Intellectual Property and that there should be someone to communicate Students concerns.

Ms Lewis responded that there was already a liaison with the KTC.

Mr Palmer stated that he felt it was beyond the capability or time commitments for a student to do be dealing with Intellectual Property (IP).

Ms Hill highlighted that, with the possible exception of Mr Cupples, there was no one qualified to deal with IP.

Mr Woodhouse asked of Mr Schorr whether he thought that adding this role would make the council more able to deal with IP issues.

Mr Schorr responded that he thought it would and that many people speak to him about the issue but that it wasn't part of his remit.

Ms Hill said that by stating that students already contact him, the role might not be necessary.

Mr Schorr responded that it wasn't part of his remit.

Ms Hill answered that many students wouldn't know to go to the website to find the Employability officer or, even, that it would be part of employability.

Mr Schorr highlighted that it did form part of self-employment for those who wish to found start-ups.

Mr Norris asked Mr Cupples for his perspective on the issue.

Mr Cupples responded that, while he wasn't an expert on IP, finding a way to represent student views might be beneficial.

Ms Urbonaite added that she didn't think this was the correct remit.

Ms Mohamud stated that she thought it better to have fewer roles and larger remits as there were already a lot of people to contact.

The question was called on Mr Schorr's amendment and an objection was noted.

A roll call vote was held in the Students' Representative Council:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly			X
Association Community Relations Officer	Sadie Hochfield	X		
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer		X	
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold		X	
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite		X	
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris		X	
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr	X		
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
President of the Athletic Union	Jess Walker			
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell			X
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor		X	
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda		X	
SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud		X	
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce		X	
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli			
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton		X	
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West		X	
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads			
SRC Member for Mature Students				
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham			
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice			X
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien		X	

With 2 members in the affirmative and 14 in the negative, the motion failed in the Students' Representative Council

A roll call vote was held in the Student Services Council:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Association Community Relations Officer	Sadie Hochfield			
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer		X	
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold		X	
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite		X	
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris		X	
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr	X		
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
SSC Broadcasting Officer	Oscar Swedrup		X	
SSC Charities Officer	George Parker			X
SSC Debates Officer	William Lord		X	
SSC Film Production Officer	Maia Fray			X
SSC Member for Societies Elections	Robert Dixon		X	
SSC Member for Societies Grants	Emily Dick		X	
SSC Member w/o Portfolio	Kieth Cordrey			X
SSC Music Officer	Anna Merryfield			X
SSC Performing Arts Officer	David Patterson			X
SSC Societies Officer	Courtney Lewis		X	
SSC Volunteering Officer	Fay Holland			

With 1 member in the affirmative and 11 in the negative the motion failed in the Student Services Council.

The councils concurring, the motion failed.

Mr Schorr proposed an amendment to include a section numbered 5.9.8 reading:

5.9.9 Advocate for Student start-up interests and activities within The Students' Association;

Seconded by Ms Gold.

Mr Schorr justified the amendment on the grounds that the University wanted to see the Association more involved in Enterprise, and more Students starting businesses and that this role would be a great point of contact for them.

Ms Gold added that there was a lot of interest in enterprise from societies and that this would be a good for helping them to coordinate their activities.

Mr Norris raised concern that this might be confusing the roles of the two Councils and their respective funding and that the Association shouldn't be funding student initiatives.

Ms Gold clarified that the position would not be involved in funding student initiatives but would instead be about bringing in speakers and organising events to help people who wanted to start a business.

Mr Patterson stated that it would be good for people who wanted to start a business but who didn't know who to talk to.

The Question was called on Mr Schorr's amendment. Hearing no objections, the amendment was adopted.

Mr Cordrey moved that the question on J. 11 be divided into distinct questions on creating the position of SRC Employability Officer and eliminating the position of SRC Member for Part Time Students.

The question was ordered divided.

Mr Baldi asked if there were any objections to accepting J.11 except as it pertained to part-time students.

With no objections, J.11 was accepted except as it pertained to Part-time Students.

Mr Baldi stated that the question was of striking the position for part-time students from the SRC.

Ms Hill stated that she thought it was important that the SRC be slimmed down but, on the basis that the election wasn't run and that hadn't been highlighted, it might be wrong to remove the position at this stage.

Ms Turner stated that she felt the removal of a position on the SRC, one that represented a part of the student body, was a bit mad. She reiterated that, as a mature student, it was nice to know there was a voice but that it was difficult for mature and part-time students to take these positions up.

Ms Lewis stated that, though she wasn't on the SRC, she recognised the challenges faced by part-time students would be unique. She raised a parliamentary inquiry as to what effect the positions remaining vacant would have.

Mr Baldi answered that it wouldn't affect quorum or other procedural requirements.

Ms Courtney responded that, in that case, it might be best to retain the positions and have a push to try and fill the role and then re-visit the question after the elections.

Mr Cupples agreed, adding that it seemed to be the feeling of the room that the discussion be deferred until a later meeting.

Mr Baldi asked whether there was support for deferring the question.

There were no objections.

Mr Baldi asked whether it should be deferred indefinitely.

There were no objections.

The question was deferred indefinitely

4. New General SRC Business

4.1. Co-option of the SRC Member for Mature Students

Mr Woodhouse stated that the proposal here was to co-opt two people to the Students' Representative Council and for them to share the position of SRC Member for Mature Students. The two members will generally have the same privileges as other members but voting rights will only extend to one member at a time.

Mr Norris queried how they would vote.

Mr Woodhouse responded that only one of the two would have voting rights on a motion at a time. That right can't be transferred or shared within one motion. Both, however, would have speaking rights.

Mr Norris asked what would happen if there was vocal disagreement between the two members.

Mr Woodhouse answered that that would result in the vote being considered as spoiled.

Ms West questioned whether there was precedent for job-sharing.

Mr Baldi responded that there was precedent with affiliated societies.

Ms West questioned what, if there was a precedent for sharing this position, prevented two or more people from running in elections for, for example, sabbatical positions.

Mr Woodhouse answered that that possibility hadn't been addressed but that it could be revisited in advance of future elections.

Mr Baldi responded that, while in theory this would set a precedent, the default position would be for one person per position.

Ms Hill stated that, while it wasn't referred to as job sharing, it wasn't uncommon for committees, for example on woman's issues, to have a vote on other committees. She also added that while there was nothing to stop two people running for the same position, the default position would be unaffected.

Ms Turner stated that she, and Mr Quinn, had brought this proposal to Mr Woodhouse and Ms Hill as both of she and Mr Quinn had external commitments and by job sharing the position they could increase the likelihood that a member would be able to attend the meetings.

Ms Turner nominated herself and Mr Quinn for the position of SRC Member for Mature Students.

Ms Hill seconded the nomination.

With no objections, Ms Melissa Turner and Mr Ross Quinn were co-opted to the position of SRC Member for Mature Students.

4.2. R.4 Motion to Support a Motion to Stop Playing ‘Blurred Lines’ By Robin Thicke in Students’ Association Venues

This Students’ Representative Council Notes:

1. That there has been much controversy over the song ‘Blurred Lines’ due to its lyrics; not because of their explicit nature, but because they blatantly condone and rationalise attitudes towards female students that are regressive and unacceptable
2. That Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) has recently taken the decision to ban the song from their venues; as part of a wider push to stop the normalisation of “lad culture” within their union and
3. That it is the jurisdiction of the Student Services Council to set policies relating to events and services within the Students’ Association.

This Students’ Representative Council Believes:

1. That the Students’ Association has an obligation to ensure that all of its members feel welcome and safe in the Students’ Association’s venues; and
2. That the song promotes a normalisation of a misogynistic and disrespectful attitude that is inconsistent with and an offence to the values of the Students’ Association.

This Students’ Representative Council Resolves:

1. That the Student Services Council should establish a policy to stop the playing ‘Blurred Lines’ in Students’ Association venues.

Proposed by Ms West, seconded by Ms Hill.

Mr Baldi clarified that only those people who were members of the Students' Representative Council could vote on R.4 and, similarly, only those who were members of the Student Services Council could vote on S.5.

Ms West introduced the motion by first highlighting the recent news that the Edinburgh University Students’ Association (EUSA) had banned the playing of Blurred Lines by Robin Thicke as part of its moves to combat lad culture on campus. Said motion did not outright ban the song but did prohibit the song from being played at events. Ms West stated that the songs lyrics went against the protection culture that the Association tried to engender and, as such, if the song made people feel uncomfortable – which it seemed to do – it should be banned.

Ms Hill stated that she had received emails from other Associations that informed her that they intended to ban the song from their venues and move that Sub-TV remove the song from its playlists. Sub-TV had responded that they would remove the song if 10% of their clients banned the song. Speaking on the actual motion, she said she was concerned about the Students' Representative Council appearing dictatorial and banning things which it didn't like but that there was a difference between banning rude songs and songs which have legal issues such as this one which states that there are blurred lines surrounding sexual consent.

Mr Norris argued that, while he was in a strange position by virtue of being neither a woman nor involved in lad culture and that he did appreciate the offensive nature of the song as LGBT people are often the subject of discrimination in music, that unless a specific point in the song could be pointed to, banning this song might lead to a long list of banned songs.

Ms Mohamud added that while this song was offensive, many songs were much worse, for example, Get Low. She queried where the line would be drawn.

Mr Mathewson requested expediency in the debate and then agreed that the song was disgraceful. He then posed the question of whether or not this was the worst song in the Top 40 or whether this would eliminate lad culture. Answering himself, he stated that he doubted it and that this debate was a distraction from tackling the real issue.

Ms Hochfield added that, as elected representatives, banning songs was a slippery slope to begin down.

Ms Morrice highlighted that other things that she considered to be more offensive were allowed to take place in the building, for example, Boxing.

Mr Da Bell suggested that those people involved in 'lad culture' would not typically listen to this kind of song and that it was unlikely someone would hear the song and then decide to rape someone.

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien asked whether the councils were being caught up in a media storm.

There was no answer.

Ms Hill stated that there must be a line and that the line should be drawn between being offensive and promoting rape.

Ms West agreed with Ms Hill and added that she viewed the position that just because other songs were worse, or rapeier, than this one it therefore shouldn't be band, as a fallacy. She also highlighted that this motion was about supporting other Universities in stamping out lad culture by making this an issue.

Mr Carlton stated that he viewed this as both a small and large step and clarified that he thought this was a small step to stopping sexism but would send out a large and really good message at the same time.

Mr Patterson stated that it wasn't the job of the Students' Representative Council to censor creative content. Listening to a song will not make people go out and rape. Effecting real changes requires real action. Ripping every page three from the papers in Tesco is more likely to have an effect than this.

Mr Swedrup added that censorship was a slippery slope and asked for clarification as to whether this ban would prevent STAR from broadcasting the song. In the past they band songs as being offensive. Hip Hop was categorised as offensive and banned before a certain time. What then happened was the musical diversity of STAR was damaged. He also stated that he didn't agree that getting media attention was the best way to deal with sexism and that there must be better methods and then suggest that, if the motion were just a media ploy, then it should be rethought.

Ms Hill stated that this motion was being brought forward as she had been contacted by people who were unhappy that this song was still being played in the building. We're not here to police what people are doing, particularly the SSC, but to ensure that this is a

building that people want to come to. Whoever said that we shouldn't be doing this, that's wrong, that's the opposite of what we should be doing.

Mr Mathewson suggested that the biggest news if this motion were defeated would be that it was tabled in the first place and that the general perception would be that the motion was crazy. He then raised concerns that this motion was just paying lip service to the issue and not tackling it in a substantive way.

Ms Hill requested that Mr Mathewson apologise for characterising a motion as mad when it was students that had asked that it be brought forward.

Mr Mathewson apologised for his inflammatory rhetoric.

Ms Kelly queried whether this ban would apply only to Sub-TV or whether other groups would be banned from playing the song, for example, Don't Walk or FS.

Ms Gold raised a point of information stating that neither Don't Walk nor FS were affiliated societies.

Ms Lewis suggested that, with over 100 societies, it wasn't realistic for 13 people to police their actions unless it was brought to their attention. If someone were to complain, then they should be made to stop but, in agreement with Ms Hill, the Students' Representative Council was not in place to police people.

Mr Norris stated that it was a small step towards tackling the rights of women but a large step towards opening the door for censorship. He asked whether this would set a precedent for religious groups stopping the LGBT society from playing songs that they found offensive.

Mr Woodhouse stated that censorship already existed within the society. Mermaids, for example, was forbidden from promoting violence and Hong Pao society must provide communications in English. He then clarified that the line was drawn at promoting violence, not at causing offence.

Mr Norris argued that the censorship this motion proposed was far wider than the examples give. And also that there were songs which were far worse, which, for example, promoted killing gay people but that he didn't want to see them banned.

Ms Hill clarified that the song wasn't going to be banned because it was offensive but because it promoted sexual violence.

Mr Norris stated that they were equivalent at times and that he didn't think the song promoted sexual violence and then referenced that many verses were centred on asking for consent.

Ms Turner questioned where this interpretation had come from or whether there had ever been any statement about the song promoting rape.

Ms Hill answered that the artists had released a statement that there are blurred lines but they could say that as they were married.

Mr Anderson quoted Robin Thicke as saying "we tried to do everything that was taboo. Bestiality, drug injections, and everything that is completely derogatory towards women."

Ms Turner stated that he wasn't saying it was a rape song.

Ms West responded that she understood why Ms Turner would raise that point but, equally, no one was going to confess that they'd written a rape song. Ms West then stated that they weren't here to debate the lyrics but for the people who had said that this song was damaging to their experience in the Union.

Mr Schorr stated that there was content which can clearly be perceived as promoting violence and that he found it disturbing that a lot of the men's positions in the room had been to defend laddish culture. He stated his preference for people feeling safe over creative content that promoted violence. Quoting from the song 'Everybody get up; I hate blurred lines; I know you want it' he then added if we let that be played we are saying that we're allowing students to draw the line rather than let the law define it.

Mr Norris moved that the question of R4 be considered.

Ms Hill seconded.

With no objections, the previous question was ordered.

Hearing objections, a roll call vote was taken in the Students' Representative Council:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly		X	
Association Community Relations Officer	Sadie Hochfield		X	
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer		X	
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse	X		
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold		X	
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite			X
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris		X	
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr	X		
Association President	Chloe Hill	X		
President of the Athletic Union	Jess Walker			
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell		X	
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor		X	
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda		X	
SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud		X	
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce	X		
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli			
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton	X		
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West	X		
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads			
SRC Member for Mature Students	Melissa Turner		X	
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham			
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice		X	

SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien		X	
SRC Member for Widening Access	Ben Anderson		X	

With six members in the affirmative and 13 in the negative, the motion failed in the Students' Representative Council.

4.3 En Banc Consideration of R.5 Motion to Provide for the Co-Option of the SRC Wellbeing Officer, R.6 Motion to Provide for the Co-Option of the SRC Employability Officer, R. 7 Motion to Provide for the Co-Option of the SRC Member for Part Time Students

R.5 Motion to Provide for the Co-Option of the SRC Wellbeing Officer

THIS SRC NOTES:

1. At its meeting of 17 September 2013, the SRC created the office of SRC Wellbeing Officer.
2. A casual vacancy exists in the newly created office of SRC Wellbeing Officer.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

1. To co-opt a new SRC Wellbeing Officer at its regular meeting of 24 September 2013.
2. To stay the effective date of said co-option until Motion J. 10 has been ratified by the Students' Association Board.
3. To mandate the Association Director of Representation to advertise the same.

R.6 Motion to Provide for the Co-Option of the SRC Employability Officer

THIS SRC NOTES:

1. At its meeting of 17 September 2013, the SRC created the office of SRC Employability Officer.
2. A casual vacancy in the newly created office of SRC Employability Officer.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

1. To co-opt a new SRC Member for Employability Officer at its regular meeting of 24 September 2013.
2. To stay the effective date of said co-option until Motion J. 11 has been ratified by the Students' Association Board.
3. To mandate the Association Director of Representation to advertise the same.

R. 7 Motion to Provide for the Co-Option of the SRC Member for Part Time Students

THIS SRC NOTES:

1. A casual vacancy in the office of SRC Member for Part Time Students.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

1. To co-opt a new SRC Member for Part Time Students at its regular meeting of 24 September 2013.
2. To mandate the Association Director of Representation to advertise the same.

Without objection, the Council agreed to consider the motions en banc.

Without objection, the motions were adopted.

5. New General SSC Business

5.1. Motion to Stop Playing 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke in Students' Association Venues

This Student Service Council Notes:

1. That there has been a great deal of controversy over the song 'Blurred Lines' due to the problematic nature of its lyrics and its promotion of the objectification of women
2. That the Students' Association has an obligation to ensure to the best of its ability that all members of the student body are made to feel safe during Union events
3. That Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) has recently taken the decision to ban the song from their venues as part of a wider push to stop the normalisation of "lad culture" within their union,

This Student Service Council Believes:

1. That the Students' Association has an obligation to ensure that all of its members feel welcome and safe in the Students' Association's venues; and
2. That the song promotes and condones a view of women that is inconsistent with and offensive to the stated values of the Students' Association.

This Student Service Council Resolves:

That it is the policy of the Students' Association that 'Blurred Lines' will not be played publicly at any event hosted within the Students' Association.

Ms Hill proposed the motion

For lack of a second, the motion was not put before the council.

6. Any Other Competent Business

6.1 Announcements

Mr Woodhouse announced that Students' Representative Council Member training would be on Saturday, 22 September in Venue 1 from 1pm until 5pm. Tea, Biscuits and perhaps lunch and dinner will be provided so Members should keep the time either side of the training free.

Mr Woodhouse announced that Student Services Council members training had not yet been scheduled.

Mr Woodhouse announced that anyone with accessibility issues should email him with details.

Mr Woodhouse announced that anyone with website difficulties should email him.

Mr Patterson announced that he was organising a paintballing trip, as social convenor of both councils, and that those interested should inform him.

Mr Woodhouse announced that he was scheduling a weekly meeting for those who fell within his remit and that they should email him schedules of when they were free.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 20:51.