



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

MINUTES

Tuesday 31st January 2017, Board Room, 6 pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Aine Bennett	Association Community Relations Officer
Sigrid Jorgensen	Association Chair
Mariya Simeonova	Association Environment Officer
Robert Aston	Association Equal Opportunities Officer
Lewis Wood	Association LGBTQ+ Officer
Charlotte Andrew	Association President
Taryn O'Connor	Director of Events and Services
Jack Carr	Director of Representation
Caroline Christie	Director of Student Development and Activities
Lottie Haswell-West	SSC Arts Festival Convener
Charlotte Flatley	SSC Broadcasting Officer
Beckie Thomas	SSC Debates Officer
Francis Newman	SSC Employability Officer
Hannah Jacobs	SSC Entertainments Officer
Jamie Minns	SSC Member Without Portfolio
Alasdair Milne	SSC Music Officer
Annabel Ekelund	SSC Performing Arts Officer
Ariana Brighenti	SSC Postgraduate Officer
Pia Szabo	SSC Societies Officer

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Alex Bruns	Societies committee

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to add the following item:

9.1 Elections committee carveups

With this amendments the agenda was **adopted**.

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2. Apologies and Absence

Member's Name	Position	
Ben Peddie	Athletic Union President	Apologies
Kristen Tsubota	SSC Charities Officer	Apologies
Sarah Rodway-Swanson	SSC Volunteering Officer	Apologies
Rebecca Ryce	Association Alumni Officer	Absent
Taylor Almeraz	Design Team Convener	Absent

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To be circulated.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

None

5. Open Forum

There was no business in the open forum.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Association President

Rectorial elections would be held in October. Sessions were planned after the spring break for students who wanted to identify and approach suitable candidates.

There would be a forum on preparations for Brexit by the University on 7th February in STAge at 5:15pm. The Principal, Proctor and Master would attend. Tickets would be free but booking was required.

Fife Council elections would be held in March. Voter registration drives were planned and lobbying of candidates over the HMO ban (to be reviewed in June) and other student issues would take place.

There had been a two-day meeting with sabbaticals and senior staff from the SA and AU on closer co-operation: any initiatives from subcommittees in this area would be welcome.

Finally, Charlotte offered congratulations to all involved on a successful Refreshers' Week.

6.2 Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mental Health Awareness week would run in week commencing 13th February.

Nominations for elections would open on 20th February. The aim was to increase turnout back over 50% and to achieve this encouraging nominations for a strong field of candidates was important. Members were urged to encourage students to nominate and stand in the

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elections. Jack was asked about incentives for voting: he noted that he had completed a strategy document for the elections and would share this with members shortly. He was also asked whether any consideration had been given to terminology, eg using the term 'student government' instead of 'councils'. Jack said that some consideration had been given to this but it might require changes to the Laws.

The University had announced that it would be one of only two HE institutions in Scotland so far to participate in the new Teaching Excellence Framework. Many students' unions in England and Wales were opposed to their institutions participating because in those areas there would be a link to fees, but this was not an issue for St Andrews as a Scottish institution. However, the University considered it important to participate for reputational reasons.

7. Questions for Subcommittees

7.4 Association LGBTQ+ Committee

Only 20 tickets were left for dRAG Walk. Glitterball tickets would go on sale on Saturday. Many Queerfest events to come.

7.5 Association Equal Opportunities Committee

Lifelong learning forum planned for 23rd February. 16th February would be the 'Introspect' gallery.

7.6 SSC Postgraduate Committee

The PG Ball had generated a surplus that would now be used to subsidise other PG socials and events. A pizza party was planned to try to generate PG candidates for the upcoming elections.

7.7 SSC Broadcasting Committee

The 16 hour broadcast for RAG week had been a big success and hit its targets.

7.11 SSC Debates Committee

There would be a Town & Gown debate next Thursday on the HMO ban in the town centre, and also an LGBTQ+ debate the following week. Some constitutional changes for Debates might be necessary to reflect national initiatives on affirmative action.

7.14 SSC Performing Arts Committee

Fringe proposals would be considered tomorrow.

7.15 SSC Societies Committee

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The committee wanted to push the grants pot as there was money left to distribute. Planning for the Societies Awards was in process.

7.18 SSC Member without Portfolio

There would be a councils social on Thursday.

8. Unfinished General Business

None.

9. New General Business

9.1 Elections committee carveups

Two vacancies existed as previous SSC carveups had stood down. Jack explained the duties for the benefit of Council members.

Aine Bennett proposed herself, seconded by Pia Szabo. Robert Aston proposed himself, seconded by Caroline Christie. No further nominations were received and no objections raised to either nomination, so Aine and Robert were duly appointed to the Elections Committee.

10. AOCB

Handover documents were due for 2nd February at 5pm and annual reports by 9th February at 5pm. Any proposed changes to the Laws were due by 9th February at 5pm. Joint Councils would meet on the 14th – the meeting would begin early at 5pm for a question time with prospective candidates for the elections.

11. Collaborative Solutions

No discussion.