



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

MINUTES

Held by videoconference, Tuesday 11th August 2020, 4pm

Present

Member's Name

Position

Joe Horsnell	Arts/Divinity Faculty President
Luke Simboli	Association Alumni Officer
Morgan Morris	Association Chair
Anna Maria Young	Association Community Relations Officer
Amy Gallacher	Association Director of Education
Tom Groves	Association Director of Events and Services
Gavin Sandford	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Emma Walsh	Association Director of Wellbeing
Lea Weimann	Association Environment Officer
Georgina Beeby	Association LGBT+ Officer
Dan Marshall	Association President
Sophie Tyler	Athletic Union President
Papa Obeng	Rector's Assessor
Ananya Jain	SRC Member for Racial Equality
Gabrielle Kyriakou	SRC Member for Student Health
Anna-Ruth Cockerham	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
Annie Smith	SRC Member Without Portfolio
Ana Maria Neferu	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer
Anna Rose Harris	SSC Broadcasting Officer
Amy Feakes	SSC Charities Officer
Zaine Mansuralli	SSC Debates Officer
Edward Spencer	SSC Design Team Convener
Ryan Delaney	SSC Entertainments Convener
Toni Valencia	SSC Member Without Portfolio
Ally Addison	SSC Music Officer
Martin Caforio	SSC Performing Arts Officer
Sam Ross	SSC Postgraduate Officer
Cara Nicholson	SSC Volunteering Officer

In Attendance

Iain Cupples

Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Avery Kitchens	SSC Societies Officer	Apologies
Jenny Menday	Association Lifelong and Flexible Learning Officer	Apologies
Tooba Shah	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation	Apologies

3. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings

- 3.1. SSC Minutes from Tuesday 11th February 2020
- 3.2. Joint Councils Minutes from Tuesday 25th February 2020
- 3.3. SRC Minutes from Tuesday 4th February 2020

These minutes were **approved**.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

None

5. Open Forum

No business

6. Updates from the Most Recent Board Meeting

- 6.1. SRC Senior Officer

Joe Horsnell (JH) relayed details of the extraordinary meeting of the Students' Association Board (SAB) held on 24th June 2020 to discuss the ongoing situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Association's activities. SAB's discussions had focused on the temporary building closure, staff furlough, and plans and preparations for September. There had been another extraordinary meeting on 13th July 2020 focused on a response to publishing of the accounts of survivors of sexual assault and harassment in St Andrews: this had considered reporting procedures, training for staff, information sharing with the University and other issues.

- 6.2. SSC Senior Officer

Absent.

7. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

- 7.1. Report of the Athletic Union President

Sophie Tyler (ST) said that the Athletic Union (AU) were presently planning in-person events for Orientation Week, but these would be dependent on possible government restrictions. Work was ongoing on virus mitigation measures for those participating in sport but at present it appeared likely that national competitions would proceed.

7.2. Report of the Association President

Dan Marshall (DM) reported working closely with the University on preparations for September, getting COVID-19 guidance to students, preparations in halls of residence and looking at transport issues. It was anticipated that such work would continue and develop through the semester. Raising Weekend would be moved to semester 2 in hopes that it could proceed safely. DM would be working with the University to try to create employment opportunities for students where possible collate information about vacancies and advertise them, given the expected reduction in term employment available.

7.3. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Tom Groves (TG) reported that work was progressing with the management and sabbatical team on plans to reopen the building, and finding the right ways to use the space available, bearing in mind social distancing requirements. TG was also working on 'Countdown To St Andrews' – the public launch would be this week. There would be about 100 Union events in all. TG was working on some virtual events for Orientation Week and would explore what else was possible following the Scottish Government update due on the 20th August. TG was working with the new Music Officer and the Director of Student Development and Activities to get Music Is Love working.

7.4. Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

Gavin Sandford (GS) had been working on developing the virtual Freshers' Fayre: this had been a lot of work but would be essential and was now almost ready to go. GS had also been working on the Book and the Orientation app, the latter with Student Services. GS emphasised that although the AU were able to do some in-person events, at this time none were planned for the Association – the team would try to put some on, but there was a requirement to adhere to government and University guidance and to properly risk assess any potential activities. Virtual events would also include students not in St Andrews and those still in quarantine.

7.5. Report of the Association Director of Education

Absent.

7.6. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing

Emma Walsh (EW) updated Councils on the issues with the 'St Andrews Survivors' Instagram account. EW was in confidential contact with those running the account and was working with them to improve responsiveness to reports of sexual assault and harassment in the Association and the University. EW was also working with Student Services in anticipation of student loneliness and isolation due to COVID-19 restrictions becoming a problem.

8. New General Joint Business

8.1. J 20-10 Motion to allow for Design Team interviewed positions

Edward Spencer (ES) introduced the motion, noting that there had been issues getting a suitable Vice-President replacement after a resignation. The switch to interviewed positions had been considered last academic year but was now imperative to ensure the Design Team could function.

The motion was **passed without dissent**.

8.2. J 20-11 A motion to create the BAME Students' Subcommittee as a new Subcommittee of the Students Association

Ananya Jain (AJ) introduced the motion. AJ noted that there was a lot to do in the area of BAME representation in the University and the Association, but that the remit of the SRC Member for Racial Equality was limited and they lacked support structures. This meant that action could be slow or ineffective sometimes. There was a need to create a structure that would allow lasting change, and go beyond a 'checkbox' approach.

The floor was opened to questions. Anna-Ruth Cockerham (ARC) asked about the proposed position of Afro-Caribbean Society liaison, noting that there was no equivalent position for other societies. ARC raised the issue of reports of racial abuse against Asian students as an example of a major issue that might suffer from an excessive focus on black student issues.

AJ explained that an informal network focusing on BAME issues already existed, doing work on black student issues, and that this had been a driving force behind establishing the committee. Papa Obeng (PO) noted that black students were the most underrepresented group in the student body, with particular welfare concerns, and that the University wanted to focus on the black student experience. PO believed this would not be at the expense of other groups, who should have significant representation on the subcommittee. AJ noted that there was also a societies officer position with a remit to form links with other groups.

ES asked how overlap with other subcommittee remits would be handled? AJ responded that wherever possible, the BAME network would seek to have someone sit on other subcommittees to provide a voice for BAME students.

Gabrielle Kyriakou (GK) asked if the subcommittee would be choosing interviewed members for this semester? AJ acknowledged that this was not clearly outlined in the motion, but the aim would be to get people in place as soon as possible, prior to the beginning of the semester if possible.

ARC asked about the number of positions and what could be seen as overlapping remits. AJ noted that the committee would just be starting out and there would be time to review and consolidate: however AJ felt most of the positions had separate roles, and it was important not to be reductive – there was not a single BAME experience. AJ accepted that there was some overlap with the Design Officer, Marketing Officer and Photography Officer roles but there was a lot of work involved and the post holders would be volunteers. ES asked why a Design Officer was required when the Design Team was there to support subcommittees? AJ replied that there would be a significant amount of work to tight deadlines involved in launching the subcommittee and establishing a programme of activities initially. This could be kept under review. TG noted that a design position was not unusual on subcommittees. As for the size of the committee, a comparison was drawn with LGBT+ (15 positions vs 19 on BAME).

There was debate on moving forward the review date, with members arguing that a review date sooner than the end of the year would not allow time for a proper assessment. The committee agreed to leave the existing review date in place.

DM proposed an amendment that the Education Officer should liaise with the Director of Education and Faculty Presidents rather than sit on Education Committee. JH seconded. This amendment was **passed without dissent**.

EW proposed an amendment to change references to 'line manage' in the motion to 'oversee' – Iain Cupples (IC) explained that this was important to maintain a clear distinction between staff and volunteer positions, which was recognised as good practice by the charity regulator. GS seconded the amendment. The amendment **passed without dissent**.

Concerns were again raised about links with the Afro-Caribbean Society: Councils acknowledged the value of this link in establishing the committee but some members were concerned to ensure that the link did not become too embedded and that accountability of committee members did not become an issue. It was recognised that there was a commitment to review. ARC proposed an amendment to 6.135 to add the following text: 'this year, followed by a self-nomination process in years onwards'. ZM seconded. ST objected to this amendment. GS expressed the view that the existing commitment to review was sufficient. After discussion, ZM proposed to amend the amendment to read: 'this year, subject to a consultation in years onwards', seconded by ARC. TG moved to vote on this amendment. This amendment **did not pass**.

ARC then withdrew the original amendment and proposed instead to add point 6 to the 'Resolves' section, to read: 'There will be subject to a public consultation prior to the review of the Laws'. ST and DM moved to vote on this amendment. The amendment **did not pass**.

GS moved to vote on the motion as amended, seconded by Martin Caforio (MC). The motion as amended **passed**.

8.2 J20-12 A Motion to update the Music Committee's (MusFund) Constitution

8.3 J20-13 A Motion to instate a name change for the Music Is Love (MiL) Subcommittee

Ally Addison (AA) presented these two items. AA explained that the name 'Music Is Love' was perceived as unprofessional to external agencies and was unpopular with students. In addition, the Music Committee had struggled recently and was seeking to reinvent itself. A name change and revised constitution, setting out concrete aims, would be a good basis to relaunch the committee.

The motion was **passed without dissent**.

9. New General SSC Business

9.1. Co-option of one SSC Member and one Association representative to the Museums Student Advisory Panel

GS explained the background of a request by the MSAP for student input, and what the role would entail. The floor was then opened for nominations.

For the SSC position:

Zaine Mansuralli (ZM) self-nominated, Sophie Tyler (ST) seconded.
Martin Caforio (MC) self-nominated, Gavin Sandford (GS) seconded.
Anna Rose Harris (AH) self-nominated, Gavin Sandford (GS) seconded.

For the Association position:

Zaine Mansuralli (ZM) self-nominated, Sophie Tyler (ST) seconded.

A poll was held online and results were tallied after the meeting: Martin Caforio and Zaine Mansuralli were duly elected.

10. New General SRC Business

10.1. Co-option of one SRC Member to the Rectors Election Committee

Anna-Ruth Cockerham (ARC) self-nominated, Gavin Sandford (GS) seconded.

A poll was held after the meeting and Anna-Ruth Cockerham was duly elected.

11. Any Other Competent Business

No business

12. Collaborative Solutions

Not minuted