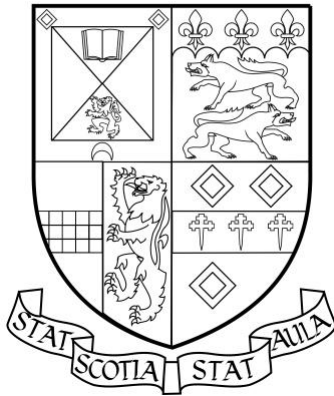


University of St Andrews
Students' Association
Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 1st March 2022 – Microsoft Teams – 5pm



Present

Member's Name	Position
Lottie Doherty	Association President
Leonie Malin	Association Director of Education
Bella Zeff	Association Director of Events and Services
Anna-Ruth Cockerham	Association Director of Wellbeing
Avery Kitchens	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Jessica Smith	Association Athletic Union President
Alasdair Richmond	Association Chair
Lucia Guercio	SRC Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Ananya Jain	SRC BAME Officer
Jane Yarnell	SRC Disability Officer
Caitlin Ridgway	SRC Gender Equality Officer
Michael Logue	SRC LGBT+ Officer
Capri Mancini	Secretary to the SRC
Zaine Mansuralli	SRC Postgraduate Activities Officer (PG Society)
Abd Alsattar Ardati	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer
Sarah Johnston	SRC Science & Medicine Faculty President
Emma Craig	SRC Student Health Officer
Sophia Craig	SRC Widening Access & Participation Officer

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Daisy Pollock-Gray	Student Councils Intern
Zoe Jackson	
Tara King	
Cara Shepherd	
Joseph Daly	

Absent

AK Schott
Rosanna Johnston

Rhea Soni
Bhavya Palugudi
Sandra Mitchell
Stella Maris

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Caroline McWilliams	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convenor	Apologies
Laura Connies-Laing	Societies Officer	Apologies
Jack Campbell	SRC Alumni Officer	Apologies

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. Open Forum

No business.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1. Report of the Association President

Lottie Doherty (LD) reported that they have been working in relation to the recent strikes, including meetings with Leonie Malin (LM), the Proctor, and UCU members. They discussed communication with students regarding the strikes, as well as how they can get involved and show support. LD had also met with UCU members in a different context with regard to the rallies and the picket lines. LD added that the relevant information and updates were being shared on social media and in sabb emails. LD also attended the NUS and UCU rally in Edinburgh with Anna-Ruth to show support for striking staff, as well as celebrate the launch of a new report by NUS covering student financial information and affordability. LD had also been working on sustainability strategies, which included a meeting with Green Impact at the Student Union, covering recent campaigns and how the online workbook can reflect these initiatives. LD attended ESB meetings where they discussed the university's strategy review. LD had also been working with Community Relations on bringing back and expanding Community Action Day, including introducing online alternatives so that students worldwide can contribute. LD had met with the VP students activities and DUSA (Dundee University Student Union) regarding accommodation issues, and gathering relevant data to work on a campaign so that students can access affordable accommodation where they study. There are no questions for LD.

6.2. Report of the Athletic Union President

Jessica Smith (JS) reported that they have been working on the Sports Awards. They discussed their work on the budgets for the next year, noting that things had changed because of the membership restructure. JS said that they had also been working on the procedures and good hand-over documents for the next year. JS mentioned that Varsity with the University of Stirling would be happening at the end of the month. They added that they had been working on Sinners with their Events Intern. JS noted that they have been working with the clubs involved in a large, recent sports event, as well as setting up for big end of year events, as teams work towards getting promoted, noting that league deadlines were coming up. JS mentioned that they had been working on a Saints Values project, which were being made public on the website. There are no questions for JS.

6.3. Report of the Director of Education

Leonie Malin (LM) discussed their work participating in the reviews for the School of Chemistry; they are preparing for reviews of Student Services, the School of Music, and the School of Biology. LM had also contributed to the Main library refurbishment project planned for the summer, which will cover the lowest and ground floor, expanding bathrooms, cafes, and study spaces. LM also attended National Education Officer Network meetings, as well as beginning a review with the Exec Team on the school role system, and potentially redeveloping training for future academic representatives. LM had also created content for social media with regard to the upcoming student elections. LM noted that there was a recent policy change regarding lecture capture, which will be mandatory for schools in future. There are no questions for LM.

6.4. Report of the Director of Events & Services

Bella Zeff (BZ) noted that covid restrictions had lifted more, which allowed the club to reopen. BZ discussed their recent work on restructuring the pricing of club nights in the future. They had also been working with Saints LGBT+ to organise a LGBT+ club night every other week – noting the success of the 2 events run already. BZ had also been working with JS and the AU to make Sinners more distinct, and catering for more AU clubs. BZ was also working on a whole building event for St Patricks Day whole building event, for which they are collaborating with the Irish Society. BZ added that there would be two graduation balls over the summer. BZ had also been working with their subcommittees, discussing staff support for Ents, as well as Mermaids' upcoming Fringe proposal. There are no questions for BZ.

6.5. Report of the Director of Student Development and Activities

Avery Kitchens (AK) introduced John, who was sitting in on the meeting as a part of their visit from Minnesota State University. AK discussed their work with careers and CEED on volunteering and skills development initiatives, ensuring it was more streamlined and relevant for students; they added that there would be upcoming meetings to develop a skills pathway to ensure that training was robust. AK had been working with the Director of Student Experience on the student experience strategy, and making sure that student voices were heard. AK also discussed their work with societies on the upcoming reaffiliation process in May, and finding a solution for the mess issues with the societies cupboard. AK also mentioned that the award season was coming up, noting that the Student Excellence nominations were open. There are no questions for AK.

6.6. Report of the Director of Wellbeing and Equality

Anna-Ruth Cockerham (AC) discussed their work with Emma Craig and a representative from Nightline, meeting with the moderator of the Church of Scotland on student mental health. AC had also attended an Equally Safe committee meeting, looking at gender based violence – such as spiking

incidents – with representatives from Police Scotland; AC raised the issue around students who felt like they had been dismissed by the police or have had difficulty reporting incidents to the police, and the barriers students faced. AC had also been working with the Lifelong and Flexible Learners forum, particularly looking at the support available for commuter students, as well as general support for the committee. AC noted that they had concluded the student mental health survey, which will be finalised and written up. AC also discussed their work with NUS Scotland, discussing strategies for mental health support in Scotland, and the marketing for the resources that they provide. AC mentioned that they had been reviewing feedback related to the report and support tool in relation to non-academic misconduct, including putting flow charts together to explain the reporting process. Additionally, AC had been providing support and information on air tagging. AC had also been working on the Student Services review with the University. AC added that they had been working with LD on the strike solidarity work, with a particular focus on the Four Fights. AC wanted to draw attention to the excellent work of their subcommittees, including the Wellbeing subcommittee who were working on the upcoming Wellbeing Week, the Gender Equality Officer's work on Gender Equality Week, and Saints LGBT+ with Queerfest. There are no questions for AC.

7. Questions for SRC Members

- 7.1. Questions for Accommodation Officer
- 7.2. Questions for Alumni Officer
- 7.3. Questions for Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 7.4. Questions for BAME Officer
- 7.5. Questions for Community Relations Officer
- 7.6. Questions for Disability Officer
- 7.7. Questions for Employability Officer
- 7.8. Questions for Environment Officer
- 7.9. Questions for Gender Equality Officer
- 7.10. Questions for LGBT+ Officer
- 7.11. Questions for Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
- 7.12. Questions for Postgraduate Academic Officer
- 7.13. Questions for Postgraduate Development Officer
- 7.14. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 7.15. Questions for Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 7.16. Questions for Secretary to the SRC
- 7.17. Questions for Student Health Officer
- 7.18. Questions for Widening Access and Participation Officer

8. Unfinished General Business

9. New SRC Business

- 9.1. R-22-06 Motion to Support Ukraine

Zaine Mansuralli (ZM), the Postgraduate Activities Officer, introduced the motion. ZM delivered the following speech:

Councils, the invasion of Ukraine is wrong. There is no excuse for wars of conquest. There is no excuse for the killing of civilians and there is no excuse for robbing a sovereign people of their right to freedom and self-determination. This is something that has been said by people across the world since the invasion commenced last week, but it needs to be said as often as possible. The Putin regime has bet on two things: they have bet on the Ukrainian

people giving them an easy victory, and they have bet on an apathetic response from the international community. The brave Ukrainian people have not given them the first thing, and we must all do our utmost to make sure that we, as the international community, do not give them the second. We have a clear responsibility and obligation here to support the Ukrainian people and also bear in mind that there are many Ukrainians, Russians, and others directly impacted by these events. Among our student community, who we have an obligation to support and stand in solidarity with, this motion helps us do this. The motion empowers the Union to act. It empowers us to work with students and to work with charities such as the British Red Cross, Come Back Alive, United Help Ukraine, and many others that are doing their utmost to prevent suffering in Ukraine and support the Ukrainian people in their fight against fascist oppression and aggression. If we pass this motion, we send a clear signal to our fellow students who are impacted by this directly in Ukraine, or are otherwise threatened by the Putin regime, that we stand by you. We say to those students who spoke so powerfully at the vigil yesterday, or who organised today to gather donations and send them directly to the people of Ukraine, that we stand by you. We support you and we will help you. We say to the university and to the government, and to other bodies that are in the power to do more than we can to directly support the Ukrainian people, you must do more. And we say to all Ukrainians: Slava Ukraine. It is absolutely imperative that the council passes the motion so that we can all do everything that we can to support the Ukrainian people during this horrific time.

There are no questions.

The motion **passed without dissent**.

9.2. R-22-07 Motion to Update the Association Laws and Subcommittee Constitutions to Include Postgraduate Positions

LM introduced the motion. This is a revised version of a motion proposed last semester. LM described the main goals as updating sections of the Association laws to better reflect the differences in the undergraduate and postgraduate academic representative structures, as well as to include the postgraduate academic roles in the Education Subcommittee and PG Society constitutions.

There are no questions.

AC proposed amendments to the motion:

Amendment A:

Add to believes: While the PAF Officers (Commuting and Distance Learning, Graduate Teaching, Part-Time, and International) have been termed academic representatives, their written remits and the likely focuses of their work are not within the remit of the Education Subcommittee (for example, working on broad inclusion work, strike solidarity, commuting support, Student Services, etc.).

The PAF Officers would be better placed with broader remits, rather than being restricted purely to “academic interests”.

AC said that their proposed amendments were related to the limits of what the motion currently termed as the Postgraduate Academic Forum officers. AC said that the role descriptions provided in the motion suggested that their interests are primarily non-academic. This includes potential contact with Student Services. AC suggested that they would be better represented by their remit if they were not restricted exclusively to academic interests.

Amendment A is **approved**.

Amendment B:

Add to notes as Point 5: The SRC Lifelong and Flexible Learners Subcommittee represents the interests of commuting and distance learning students, and part-time students.

Amend believes Point 4 to strike the Distance Learning and Commuting Officer and Part-Time Officer: Adding the PG International Officer (remits in Appendix 3), the Postgraduate Representative from the Accommodation Subcommittee, and the Postgraduate Representative from the Lifelong and Flexible Learners Subcommittee to the Postgraduate Subcommittee will ensure there is increased communication on PG representation across the Association.

Add to believes as Point 6 and 7: The remit of the PAF Distance Learning and Commuting Officer PAF Part-Time Officer and the Postgraduate Representative from the Lifelong and Flexible Learners Subcommittee have total overlap.

It would be more beneficial for the postgraduate representative of commuting and distance learning students, and part-time students to sit on the Lifelong and Flexible Learners Subcommittee to ensure they best collaborate on projects to support these students already ongoing.

Amend Resolves Point 5 to strike the PAF Distance Learning and Commuting Officer: Update the Postgraduate Subcommittee constitution (Appendix 4) to include three PG Officers, namely the International Officer (extended role descriptions in Appendix 5), PG Rep from the Accommodation Subcommittee, and PG Rep from the Lifers Subcommittee as members.

Add to Resolves as Point 6: Retire the PAF Distance Learning and Commuting Officer and the PAF Part-Time Officer at the end of this term, to be replaced by the representative from the Lifelong and Flexible Learners Forum.

AC suggested that the original motion allows for a duplication of roles, citing the PAF Commuter and Part-Time students representatives which encroaches on the Lifelong and Flexible Learners forum. AC said that postgraduate students already engaged well with the Lifelong and Flexible Learners forum, because of their represented interests. AC said it was an unreasonable duplication, and the two new roles should be retired, leaving the role of the Lifelong and Flexible Learners forum representative. LM contested Point 6, on retiring these 2 roles at the end of the semester. LM said that these concerns need to be discussed with the PG academic convenor who is not here today; it should be a collaborative process to ensure proper consultation. LM proposed that Amendment B should be amended to 'review to retire'. AC did not accept LM's amendment of Amendment B.

LM proposed a vote on adding the word 'review' to Amendment B:

Resolves as Point 6: Review the retirement of the PAF Distance Learning and Commuting Officer and the PAF Part-Time Officer at the end of this term, to be replaced by the representative from the Lifelong and Flexible Learners Forum.

With 8 in favour, 6 against, and 2 abstentions, the amendment to Amendment B **passes**.

Sarah Johnston (SJ) asked how the officers were elected and when. AC answered they have an AGM, and can be elected alongside other PG reps in the Postgraduate elections.

With 13 votes in favour, and 2 abstentions, Amendment B **passes**.

The motion **passed without dissent**.

9.3. Adoption of the Minutes from the SRC Meeting on the 28th of September

The minutes were adopted.

9.4. Adoption of the Minutes from the SRC meeting on the 26th of October

The minutes were adopted.

10. Open Discussion

11. Any Other Competent Business

IC reminded the council of the candidate mixer tonight, which will happen in 601 in the Union.

AK said that nominations for the Student Excellence Awards had opened, covering 1st – 18th of March. 6 awards were advertised, and the Proctor's award will be added.

ZM thanked for passing the motion and the support from those in the production of the motion. ZM said that fundraising and important work could now begin. ZM added that subcommittees could donate towards Ukraine.

SJ said that the Teaching Awards were now open. SJ encouraged nominations for outstanding members of staff.

John Wolcock from Minnesota State University, introduced himself. He works as the assistant director of student activities, advising on student government and the university's societies and sororities.

Alasdair Richmond thanked everyone at the SRC for their work this year.

AC proposed to dissolve the SRC before elections, which was seconded by LD.