



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

AGENDA

17th September 2024 – Large Rehearsal Room – 18:00

Present

Name	Position
Cam Brown	Association President
Hitanshi Badani	Director of Education
Caitlin Ridgway	Director of Wellbeing
Catriona Martin	Director of Student Development and Activities
Olivia King	Athletic Union President
Luke Baird	Association Chair
Jack Kennedy	LGBT+ Officer
Alexander Chun	Gender Equality Officer
Caitie Steele	Societies Officer
Lauren Cook	Disability Officer
Emily Bannister	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Jack McNealy	Accommodation Officer
Naomi Smith	Environment Officer
Lillie Shipman	Community Relations Officer
Keegan Shimaitis	Charities Officer
Thomas Carey	Employability Officer
Amanda Cao	Carers, Commuters, Mature and Flexible Learners Officer
Manya Dutt	BAME Officer
Taasia Thong	International Students' Officer
Daria Gusa	Alumni Officer
Rob Johnston	Music Officer
Louise Anderbjork	Performing Arts Officer
Phoebe Rickard	Science and Medicine Faculty President
Nuttaricha Ngarmskullert	Secretary to the SRC
Lola Chirico	Student Health Officer
Nathaniel Rice	Widening Access and Participation Officer
Milo Hill	Director of Events & Services

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Advocate (Education) / HR Manager
Isabel Kagoo	Student Councils' Intern
Elizabeth Blakeslee	Student
Edith Osborne	Student
Trinity Gortschacher	Student
Isaac Pickrum	Student
Joanna Barrow	Student
Cole Schubert	Student
Stanley Mottram	Student
Robert Moran	Student
Stella Maris	Rector

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to withdraw motion 9.1 adopted without dissent

Motion to move 9.5 to after 9.2 adopted without dissent

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

PG President

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. Open Forum

6. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

6.1. Report of the Association President

Cam Brown (CB) commends a successful Freshers Week. He also mentions how ongoing negotiations with the University about a block grant has resulted in a secured grant. The grant is nearly double the amount of previous grants. The significantly increased funding means that the Union can hire more staff. He notes that there are two advocacy staff positions now available on the website.

6.2. Report of the Athletic Union President

Olivia King (OK) reports that the summer handover was a smooth transition. Over the summer, she worked on updates to existing policy, SharePoint for sports team, and creating initiation policy that needs to be formally passed by AU Board. She also noted membership price changes but reaffirmed that Freshers, W1, W2 are free for all students so there has been substantial turnout. The Sports Fayre was also successful collecting feedback. Finally, Scottish Varsity Rugby match against University of Edinburgh will be in Edinburgh this Saturday and OK encourages all students to attend.

6.3. Report of the Director of Education

Hitanshi Badani (HB) informs about university policy changes. Deadlines can now be set during independent learning week which is a non-negotiable policy from the university. She hopes to improve volunteer recognition by increasing value of Honorary Life Membership. HLM recipients will hopefully have access to the library physical spaces as well as online resources. HB is current working with School Presidents to improve Midsemester evaluations. She also notes that Educomm meetings will be on Wednesdays. The last policy she mentioned is that tuition fee can be expected to change every year in line with inflation. Finally, the Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) will be discussed later in the meeting and Class Rep nominations have opened.

6.4. Report of the Director of Events & Services

Milo Hill (MH) emphasizes a successful Freshers week, noting that reopening of Club 601. They noted the Week 1 push for events went out yesterday and upcoming events such as SafeWord Bop and FrightNight.

6.5. Report of the Director of Student Development & Activities

Cat Martin (CM) commends a successful Freshers Fayre. The Fayre had over 200 stalls to meet the incredible demand from student societies. It was also the first Freshers Fayre to be held in the Union since the 601 renovations. CM thanks the Societies Officer and Societies Committee for assisting with organizing efforts. CM notes that the St Andrews Volunteering service received over 200 sign ups and emphasizes efforts to establish the Graduates Attribute Portal as the volunteering portal.

Daria Gusa (DG) asked a question about logging hours retrospectively on the volunteering portal. CM responded that students must provide evidence for larger block hours such as pictures, emails, etc. This will operate on good faith so students will largely be trusted to submit their hours without questioning.

6.6. Report of the Director of Wellbeing

Caitlin Ridgway (CR) mentions working on ongoing projects regarding resources on the sexual health page for abortion access and unplanned pregnancies. Another ongoing project mention is continuing to support student sex workers. CR has also been working on an Activism Guide which includes information about safety, protest policy, etc. CR attended a conference in London, over the summer, on drugs and alcohol reduction and is committed to implementing welfare based rather than zero toleration policies. Finally, CR noted that the first meet up of the equality committee happened last week and preparation for raisin has begun.

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 Charities Officer
- 7.6. Questions for Community Relations Officer
- 7.7. Questions for Disability Officer
- 7.8. Questions for Employability Officer
- 7.9. Questions for Environment Officer
- 7.10. Questions for Gender Equality Officer
- 7.11. Questions for International Officer
- 7.12. Questions for LGBT+ Officer
- 7.13. Questions for Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
- 7.14. Questions for Postgraduate Academic Officer
- 7.15. Questions for Postgraduate Activities Officer

- 7.16. Questions for Postgraduate Development Officer
- 7.17. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 7.18. Questions for Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 7.19. Questions for Secretary to the SRC
- 7.20. Questions for Societies Officer
- 7.21. Questions for Student Health Officer
- 7.22. Questions for Widening Access and Participation Officer

8. Unfinished General Business

9. New SRC Business

~~9.1. R-24-01 Motion to standardise email practice~~

9.2. R-24-02 Motion to establish a Safe Nights Out Campaign for 2024-25

Motion is introduced by Caitlin Ridgway (CR) and is informed largely by increased student response. In 2021, there was a big push on night life safety after numerous spiking incidents. This motion, if passed, would create a larger SRC campaign that would allow more resources to be put towards spiking reductions through increased support and training for initiatives such as Ask for Angela. CR also notes that the campaign would highlight the importance of intersectionality when looking at spiking reduction strategies. This campaign could also be promoted around town.

No questions. No debate. Motion passes with all in favor.

9.5 Discussion on the Rector situation, Rector assessor, and rector role within SRC

Discussion starts by officer providing information about the University's case against the Rector and her subsequent dismissal from her role. The Rector then addresses the SRC and answers questions from officers.

The Chair proposes the motion to move in camera. The motion passed with all in favor.

The discussion focuses on questions regarding the role of various University entities as well as the University's investigation into the Rector. The Association President expresses his intent to take the concerns of the SRC to the Rector and the Court and then come back with an updated plan.

9.3. Student Partnership Agreement Consultation (see SPA Consultation Document)

Association Chair proposes motion to move ex camera. Motion passes with all in favor.

Hitanshi Badani (HB) introduces the Student Partnership Agreement (SPA), a document which outlines the relationship between the Students Association and the University. HB is tasked with writing the document and asks for feedback from SRC officers and subcommittees about their experience as student representatives working with university staff. Discussion follows regarding various practices, conduct, and issues that officers want to flag for HB for the SPA.

Jack Kennedy (JK) emphasizes the overwhelming stress that many student representatives experience in their roles. JK also notes that some student representatives also have part time jobs that can add to this stress and encourages HB to include this in the form and SPA.

Amanda Cao (AC) discusses the barriers they have encountered in their role. They feel that because there are no members of staff dedicated for commuters, it has been difficult to contact various university staff members in different departments. Since these communications are slow, students are left hanging without their queries resolved. AC notes that it feels like staff members are waiting for a student forget about queries rather than solving the issue.

Thomas Carey (TC) agrees with AC that the bureaucracy of the University has impeded quality of services.

Alexander Chung (AC) notes confusions regarding the different wellbeing services.

Naomi Smith (NS) feels that many committees do similar things and suggests grouping some of these committees together.

Taasia Thong (TT) is the International Students Officer and emphasizes the need for a subcommittee as they currently represent over 4,000 students without any additional support.

Daria Gusa (DG) notes that providing resources for staff members to help them better understand SRC roles may improve communication between SRC officers and the university.

Emily Bannister (EM) feels that staff need to fulfill their end of the bargain and respond to officers rather than waiting for their tenure to be up.

HB thanks officers for their input and encourages them to fill out the SPA form.

9.4. SSG Carve-up (just need final tally)

Louise Anderbjork & Jack Kennedy ran with no opposition

10. Open Discussion

CR reminds that there will be a free period products giveaway this week

AC notes that there will be an upcoming CCMFL EGM

IC reminds officers that there will be an upcoming mandatory antisemitism training for all SRC officers soon and an email will be sent with more information.

HB reminds officers to encourage friends, peers, subcommittees to share information about Class Rep Elections

11. Any Other Competent Business