



# University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

## AGENDA

28th January 2025 – Large Rehearsal Room – 18:00

Present

Name	Position
Cam Brown	Association President
Hitanshi Badani	Director of Education
Catriona Martin	Director of Student Development and Activities
Luke Baird	Association Chair
Jack Kennedy	LGBT+ Officer
Alexander Chun	Gender Equality Officer
Caitie Steele	Societies Officer
Jack McNealy	Accommodation 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
Lola Chirico	Student Health Officer
Nathaniel Rice	Widening Access and Participation Officer
Milo Hill	Director of Events & Services
Callum Irvine	Postgraduate Research President
Jay Martin	Disability Officer
William Evans	Postgraduate Taught President
Olivia King	AU President
Emily Bannister	Arts and Divinity Faculty President

## In Attendance

Natalie Bates	Change Consultant
Isabel Kagoo	Student Councils' Intern
Robert Moran	Student

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Naomi Smith, Caitlin Ridgway, Nuttaricha Ngarmskullert

### **3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting**

Meeting minutes adopted without dissent

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

#### **5. Open Forum**

Caitie Steele (Societies Office) raises an issue with the One Union Awards Ceremony, but she is asked to bring this topic up during Open Discussion.

### **6. Reports of Sabbatical Officers**

#### 6.1. Report of the Association President

Cam Brown (CB) welcomes officers to the penultimate meeting of the SRC and expresses his desire to organize a special meeting next month. He provides updates on accommodation fees for halls next year. CB was able to negotiate half the increase of what the university was proposing. He notes that there will be changes to way the accommodation awards are given out next year. CB lets officers know that he will be providing an update on the Save Our Universities Campaign soon. There will also be student representation on the University Court soon. CB notes big changes coming next year in light of the Union space review. He also shares that the Union has secured funding for this year and the next two years, which are huge wins for the Union as it shows the university's commitment.

Emily Bannister (Arts and Divinity Faculty President) asks which students will be on University Court? CB responds that it will probably be a sabbatical officer due to the short notice of the interim position.

#### 6.2. Report of the Athletic Union President

Olivia King (OK) starts by listing recent achievements. St Andrews rowers placed second at a competition in Monaco. This year marks 10 years of Aldi's sponsorship of the Rugby Club. It is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zambia Project and there will be a gala soon to celebrate this achievement. The proceeds from the Sinners Club nights has been used to purchase a bus there. OK is working on an initiative to ensure that Wednesday afternoons are free for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Athletic Union is also undergoing a facilities audit to see how facilities are being used to ensure that everyone can access the facilities they need.

#### 6.3. Report of the Director of Education

Hitanshi Badani (HB) notes a new project that she has been working on AI policy and practice. The approach that she is taking is from a student's perspective pushing for more clarity on the AI policies and from a teaching perspective ensuring that the policies are reflective of students' rights. She also asks that officers promote the teaching awards that are coming up soon. HB informs officers that the library will close at 10pm on weekends due to staff shortages. She has told the University that this is a massive inconvenience for students and has asked that during busy periods like deadline season that they extend hours.

Alexander Chun asks a question about the vacancy at the library. HB responds that the staff position requires qualifications, so students are not able to fill the vacancy.

#### 6.4. Report of the Director of Events & Services

Milo Hill (MH) notes that they have spent the last 2 months planning and executing refreshers week. Additionally, planning for St Patricks Day, Grad Ball, and the board dinner has commenced.

#### Report of the Director of Student Development & Activities

Cat Martin (CM) expresses appreciation for being a part of AU Board and Project Zambia. She also notes that Refreshers Fayre will be held on Sunday Feb 2 and a map will be sent out in advance of the event. Additionally, volunteer of the semester nominations were incredible and CM states that it was wonderful to see the achievements of all of the volunteers. She has also been working on bringing the entirety of society training online. So far, they have found good software and are working on putting together foundational and supplementary modules. CM is also organizing an in-person induction day in April called "Got a Day" which will include sessions led by Got Consent and Got Limits.

Taasia Thong asks if subcommittees can get a stall? CM responds that all subcommittees are guaranteed a stall, but stall numbers haven't been finalized yet.

#### 6.5. Report of the Director of Wellbeing

### 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

Plant-based motion will be addressed next meeting.

## 9. New SRC Business

### 9.1. R-25-09 Motion to change from Sabbatical Officers to Executive

The motion is introduced by CB in response to questions from the University about defining what a Sabbatical Officer is and what is the Executive Team in light of the Change Programme. The purpose of this motion is to bridge the language gap between the University and the Union.

Motion passes with all in favor.

### 9.2. Democracy Review Update

Natalie and CB provide an update on the Democracy Review. CB notes that they are trying to implement what they can before the elections. They are working with Natalie and the senior management team on define the sabbatical role job description and updating the laws. Natalie asks officers if it would be helpful to organize drop-in times for officers to come by and ask questions about the Democracy Review. She lets officers know that she will pick some dates and times for both in person and hybrid options for meetings.

Thomas Carey (TC) asks if it would it be possible to have a timetable on when the SRC are going to be talking about law changes? Natalie responds that she will follow up with TC via email.

## 10. Open Discussion

Caitie Steele (CS) reintroduces the issue with the One Union Awards. She notes that the Societies Committee is very unhappy that no one is listening to their frustrations with the organization of the event. After speaking with societies, CS feels that the general response is that the societies are unhappy with the One Union Awards. Hitanshi Badani (HB) provides contexts by stating that over the summer, the sabbatical officers discussed combining the major awards ceremonies (EduRep, Student Excellence, and Societies Awards) into a single event so it would save time and money. Cat Martin (CM) notes that there is a working group for the One Union Awards for students to provide input on the event.

Thomas Carey asks if societies are saying they are not happy with this event, then why would the Union go ahead with the event? CM responds that no information has formally gone out about it because the working group is still organizing the logistics. The group, however, is always happy to hear student views.

CS asks if the event is promoted and student opinion is unchanged, will this event be reconsidered? HB responds that the merger happened because they felt it would be nice to have all sectors of representation together learning about what each one is doing.

Phoebe Rickard (PR) asks CS how many societies have been consulted about the event? CS responds that they haven't sent out a formal survey but will be happy to do so.

Daria Gusa (GS) asks if the problem is that people won't feel special if there is a combined ceremony with multiple awards in one night? CS agrees and highlights that the ceremony will be longer so there won't be as much attention and recognition given to the societies.

Callum Irvine (CI) notes that from a postgrad perspective, they don't see a lot of the other representatives and there isn't a big enough postgrad rep cohort to have their own ceremony. Having one event means that all the postgrads can get together to celebrate and see what their peers are doing in the representation space. Cam Brown (CB) emphasizes that no awards ceremony has been cancelled. He has been working with the events team to finalize the schedule for the evening. CB also notes that any extra funds that is left over from the allocated budget for the event will be reinvested in representation initiatives. Emily Bannister (EB) states that academic rep awards lasted around twenty minutes last year so a combined event would not necessarily mean be a very long ceremony. PR emphasizes that it doesn't make sense to separate key areas of student representation. They feel it would be a lovely opportunity to showcase all aspects of the student experience which are heavily intertwined. CS feels strongly that there should be more of a connection between School Reps, EduComm, and SRC before having a combined event. Maybe next year, the Union can work towards bringing together different reps and cultivating these relationships. They believe that students should

be celebrated by those that understand what they are being celebrated for. Natalie concludes this discussion by noting that the clear problem is communication, so she will organize a meeting with Caitie and Archie to discuss the awards event further.

**11. Any Other Competent Business**

CB floats the idea of offering small number of Honorary Life Memberships (HLMs) to alumni that have helped with union affairs and student representation.

Taasia Thong (TT) asks if the International Students Committee has been confirmed in the laws? Luke Baird (LB) responds that the SSG passed it but it hasn't been touched since so they have informally decided that she can continue for the foreseeable future.

Alexander Chun (AC) floats a potential sports initiative to find gym buddies for disabled individuals to access the gym.