

University of St Andrews
Students' Association
Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 2nd February 2021 – MS Teams – 6pm



Present

Member's Name

Position

Dan Marshall	Association President
Tom Groves	Association Director of Events and Services
Amy Gallacher	Association Director of Education
Emma Walsh	Association Director of Wellbeing
Gavin Sandford	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Sophie Tyler	Association Athletic Union President
Morgan Morris	Association Chair
Emily Gilson	Association Alumni Officer
Anna Young	Association Community Relations Officer
Lea Weimann	Association Environment Officer
Georgina Beeby	Association LGBT+ Officer
Ananya Jain	Association BAME Officer
Sophie Bickerton	SRC Accommodation Officer
Joe Horsnell	Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Chloe Fielding	Science & Medicine Faculty President
Abigail Whitefield	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
Jasmine Rodriguez	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer
Maitreyi Tusharika	SRC Member for First Years
Elise Lenzi	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Anna-Ruth Cockerham	SRC Disability Officer
Gabby Kyriakou	SRC Member for Student Health
Tooba Shah	SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation
Kate MacLachlan	Principal Ambassador
Stella Maris	Rector's Assessor

In Attendance

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Apologies for Absence

Jasmine Rodriguez	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer	Present / Apologies	Proxy to Emma Walsh
Anna-Ruth Cockerham	SRC Disability Officer	Present / Apologies	Proxy to Gabby Kyriakou
Jenny Menday	Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer	Absent	
Annie Smith	SRC Member Without Portfolio	Absent	

3. Open Forum

No business.

4. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

4.1. Report of the Athletic Union President

Sophie Tyler (ST) wrote an article for the alumni newsletter, and they have also been working on policies such as the Health and Safety policies for the Athletic Union. They have also been working on the AU's affiliation and reaffiliation, and they are looking into changing the membership structure for Saint Sport and clubs. ST will also be holding open forums this week, which has been difficult because many employees of Saint Sport are on furlough at the moment.

4.2. Report of the Association President

Dan Marshall (DM) has been dealing with accommodation issues and students trying to get refunds, rent reductions, and out of contacts. They said letting agents have been fairly good at ensuring student requests get to landlords, and the landlords have been on a spectrum of very accommodating to quite unhelpful to students. They are some issues with students getting out of contracts, but it has been broadly successful, and DM has drafted letters that students can send to their landlords which should be released in an email soon. DM has also been writing articles for the alumni newsletter. DM has attended meetings about restructuring hall committees alongside Sophie Bickerton (SB) and Stella Maris (SM), which has been positive. DM attended a course last week about good university governance, which addressed what St Andrews could do better with University Court and governance. Last week, they learned the Students' Association will be receiving £16,000 in funding from the Scottish Government, with some conditions attached. If councillors are working on things that are relevant to these conditions, they should let DM know. The Students' Association has also received £1500 from Santander to spend on 'activities that enable, encourage, and engage diversity and inclusion across the University community,' so if councillors have ideas on how to spend this money, they should contact DM.

4.3. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Tom Groves (TG) has been working on society pages of the website and said that the Decorate the Union competition is going well, with voting opening soon for about 30 entries. TG has also been arranging Instagram takeovers.

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

Gavin Sandford (GS) has attended meetings about Can Do and CEED, and the Volunteering group. GS wrote a letter about the Barron as a result of the Joint Councils meeting last week, which has been published on the Students' Association Facebook page. Refreshers Fayre was held last Sunday, which has quiet but only lasted one hour, and societies told GS they found it useful. GS has also been working with TG on society pages and membership links for the website.

4.5. Report of the Association Director of Education

Amy Gallacher (AG) has finished the two postgraduate forums with Abi Whitefield (AW) and has passed the feedback onto the Provost. Both groups highlighted key issues to them, which will allow them to address these issues before the semester progresses. AG attended the LTC Away Day last week, which addressed digital assessment and the future of blended delivery at St Andrews. A project board will look at how exams and classwork will continue in the future, and there should be a new exam platform next year. AG is also working with the Academic Monetary Group on attainment gaps based upon the last exam diet and how that compares to previous years. Based on the data, they will see what changes they should keep post-pandemic. AG is also working through student emails on cancelled courses, dissertation issues, and library access and study space.

4.6. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing

Emma Walsh (EW) has mainly been devoting her time to elections and discussed the major publicity rebrand. This week, EW is conducting interviews for the Elections Committee, and they should have the finalised committee by Thursday. They are also beginning to plan virtual events for elections week and other admin for elections. In terms of wellbeing, EW has attended meetings with Student Services, including the mediation programme that is now running, and actions on the Student Mental Health Agreement.

5. Questions for Association Officers

- 5.1. Questions for Association Alumni Officer
- 5.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Officer
- 5.3. Questions for Association LGBT+ Officer
- 5.4. Questions for Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
- 5.5. Questions for Association Environment Officer
- 5.6. Questions for Association BAME Officer

6. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers

- 6.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer
- 6.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years
- 6.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality

- 6.4. Questions for SRC Disability Officer
- 6.5. Questions for SRC Member for Student Health
- 6.6. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
- 6.7. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President

Joe Horsnell (JH) thanked everyone who has publicised the Study Buddy Scheme. Applications close at 5PM tomorrow (Wednesday 3 February), and they have seen over 350 sign-ups. JH asked councillors to please share the post one last time before applications close.

- 6.8. Questions for SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 6.9. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
- 6.10. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Development Convener
- 6.11. Questions for Principal Ambassador
- 6.12. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 6.13. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

7. Unfinished SRC Business

8. New SRC Business

8.1. R21-01 Motion to promote trade union membership and direct students in employment to support

Dan Marshall (DM) introduced the motion, noting that there are a lot of students in St Andrews who work part-time and at the moment, neither the University nor the Students' Association provides formal advice or guidance to these students. DM often receives emails from students in difficult situations with their employer or who are unaware of their rights at work, and currently the Students' Association can only direct them onwards to other pages where they can receive help. In a lot of cases, this includes Citizens Advice if they need information, but if they want to be represented in the workplace, this usually takes the form of trade union membership because the Students' Association cannot do this kind of advocacy work. This motion would not make the Students' Association a trade union or represent students as employees, but rather it would direct students to places where they can receive support, advice, or advocacy help with a webpage where they can find these resources.

AW asked if this will include signposting for students who work for the Students' Association or University and whether this would be a conflict-of-interest. DM said there are issues if the Students' Association begins to act like a trade union, so they will not do this, but they said students should be aware when they become an employee that they can join Unison Unite or the UCU for representation with a trade union. DM hopes that the webpage they put together will recognise this because many students work for the University or the Students' Association, and if they work for an outside organisation, it would let them know what union they can join. DM said this would not complicate the Students' Association's position as an employer because it already tells its employees this.

Anna-Ruth Cockerham (ARC) motioned to move to debate and ST seconded.

ARC motioned to move to a vote and ST seconded.

With 20 votes in favour, the **motion passed unanimously.**

9. Any Other Competent Business

10. Collaborative Solutions

Not minuted.