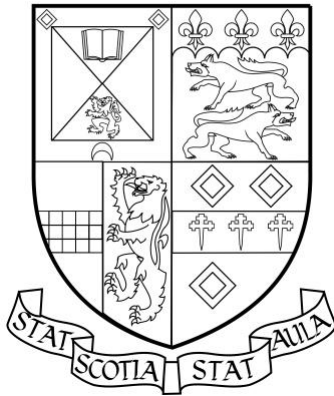


University of St Andrews
Students' Association
Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

1st February 2022 – Microsoft Teams – 6pm



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
Jack Campbell	SRC Alumni Officer
Lucia Guercio	SRC Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Caitlin Ridgway	SRC Gender Equality Officer
Michael Logue	SRC LGBT+ Officer
Capri Mancini	Secretary to the SRC
Emma Craig	SRC Student Health Officer
Sophie Craig	SRC Widening Access & Participation Officer
Caroline McWilliams	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convenor
Zaine Mansuralli	SRC Postgraduate Activities Officer (PG Society)
Abd Alsattar Ardati	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer
Sarah Johnston	SRC Science & Medicine Faculty President

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Chase Greenfield	Academic Representation Co-Ordinator
Rosalyn Claese	Director of Student Experience
Quinn Murphy	
Heather Gore	
Holly McDonald	
Scott Francis	

Absent

Sandra Mitchell
Rhea Soni

Jane Yarnell
Rosanna Johnston
Ananya Jain

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Bhavya Palugudi	Environment Officer	Apologies
Stella Maris	Rector's Assessor	Apologies
AK Schott	Accommodation Officer	Apologies

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. Presentation from the Director of Student Experience

Rosalyn Claase (RC) presented the 'Development of Student Experience strategy'. RC introduced themselves as the Director of Student Experience. The role entails developing a coherent student experience strategy for the university; RC has been identifying emerging priorities for a student experience strategy, based on their observations over the previous months. RC asked the SRC for feedback on the current strategy.

In their presentation, RC noted that the university generally reports high student satisfaction, but that there is a disparity amongst certain groups – such as postgraduate students, and those from less well represented backgrounds. RC noted that student experience is underpinned by their strategic priorities: digital, diverse, entrepreneurial, world-leading, and sustainable. These priorities are then: that students feel well supported; that systems and services are intuitive and accessible; that students feel welcomed and included; that students develop skills and access opportunities that will benefit students in the future.

Sarah Johnston (SJ) – the Science and Medicine Faculty President – asked where the 5 core priorities came from (digital, diverse, entrepreneurial, sustainable, and world-leading). RC answered that the university developed these priorities around 2018; students were involved. RC added that they served as pillars for the university strategy, and that any development projects needed to reflect these priorities.

6. Presentation from the Academic Representation Co-Ordinator

Chase Greenfield (CG) presented on the upcoming student elections. This included key changes to the elections from last year: the elections are now run by staff; the elections bylaws have been revised (including the removal of the SAF, and the removal of credit-weighted voting); the elections portal is being updated; return to in-person/hybrid campaigning; and a new elections website. CG presented the major dates for the election, including the events such as the sabbatical debate and SRC hustings. CG also covered the positions that would be elected: the Sabbatical Officers, SRC members (including the former SAF members that have been added to the SRC), the School

Presidents and Language Convenors, and the two Student Trustees. CG provided guidance for current councillors when talking to prospective candidates; CG said it was important that councillors make it clear whether they are acting as an individual student or as a Students' Association Officer when talking to prospective candidates, and ensuring that private opinions on candidates are not divulged. CG noted that there is a difference between personal endorsements and position-based endorsements, as officially members of the Association must remain neutral regarding the elections – but, as students, members can express opinions as long as they do not use their position to endorse prospective candidates (which also means not using official Association emails in campaigns). CG provided guidance for SRC members who planned on standing for election and re-election, including prohibition of using materials or resources from the current role for campaigning (such as email lists). CG encouraged SRC members to get involved by nudging students to run (which would be done anonymously), to attend the candidate and councillor mixer, and to circulate election information through email and social media. CG referred councillors to the Elections Toolkit, which contains templates and graphics, as well as general election guidance.

Jack Campbell (JC) – the Alumni Officer – asked about the role of the Elections Committee, and what their mandate would be regarding how the election is run and whether they would be policing individual candidates. CG responded that the Elections Committee's remit primarily concerns violations of the elections rules and university policies and laws; they would respond to complaints regarding individuals breaking rules and investigate, but would not be monitoring candidates' social media for infringements. Iain Cupples (IC) – the Student Advocate and HR Manager – noted the difference between what is uploaded to social media versus the elections portal: the Elections Committee would only monitor content uploaded to the portal unless a complaint is issued. IC added that the Committee would be ensuring that candidates adhere to not only the elections rules, but the wider rules concerning student conduct in the Association and the university. IC said that the Elections Committee would not challenge candidates' opinions or policies, unless they breach the principles aforementioned.

7. Open Forum

No business.

8. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

8.1. Report of the Association President

Lottie Doherty (LD) said that they had been working on the Commuter Students Survey report, which will be released tomorrow. LD said that they had attended the University Court. LD also noted that all the sabbatical officers had attended a reference writing workshop, so they can now provide references for councillors in the future. There are no questions for LD.

8.2. Report of the Athletic Union President

Jessica Smith (JS) said that they had been working on committee surveys concerning facility allocation for sports clubs. They also discussed their work on the Sports Awards, and organising a Varsity event for the end of semester two. JS said that the Athletic Union has joined the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind charter, and are working through the foundation level so that they can soon move onto the bronze level; this means looking at ways to support the three strands of healthy living: activity, mental health, and being smoke-free. JS also noted their work on membership restructuring, and the swimming pool. There are no questions for JS.

8.3. Report of the Director of Education

Leonie Malin (LM) said that they had reported to the Academic Monitoring Office on areas of student engagement; they review the Quality Code every year, which LM said that they contributed to alongside the Education Executive team. LM also said that they had scheduled all the school role forums for the semester, and invited councillors to collaborate with the class representatives who have roles in areas such as careers or community events. LM said that they had been working on plans for training the next set of officers, integrating the sustainability representatives into the Sustainability and Curriculum Working Group run by the university. There are no questions for LM.

8.4. Report of the Director of Events & Services

Bella Zeff (BZ) noted significant events since the last SRC meeting, including the cancellation of the Union's Winter Wonderland event because of the weather, and the temporary closing of the Union bars and club nights because of covid restrictions. BZ also noted that their plans for Re-Freshers Week had to be adjusted because of the extension of covid restrictions into semester two. BZ said that they had to make plans for table service in the Union, which they will continue to develop with regards to Saturday nights. BZ discussed their work on a How to Union guide alongside the other sabbatical officers. BZ also noted the Barron and Byre situation, and that the MOU is effectively finalised and ready to go to the board. BZ said that there were positive signs there, with space in the Botanic Garden now available for workshops and storage. There are no questions for BZ

8.5. Report of the Director of Student Development and Activities

Avery Kitchens (AK) noted that they have been working on the Barron and Byre situation, the How to Union guide, as well as working with CEED on workshops. AK said that they have been primarily working on the awards policy for the upcoming awards later in Spring; there will be a new awards ceremony called the Student Excellence Awards, which will include awards for student activities, the EDI, the John Honey award, class representatives awards, postgraduate awards, and representation awards. These will be presented at the Board dinner. There are no questions for AK.

8.6. Report of the Director of Wellbeing and Equality

Anna-Ruth Cockerham (AC) said that they had been working on the university's response to the transphobic and racist hate incidents from the previous semester, noting their complicated feelings towards the university's response and the need for improvement. AC has also been working on the Student Mental Health Agreement – which is a partnership between the university and the Students' Association on a two year cycle, committing to various areas of student mental health and wellbeing, looking at what can be improved. AC noted that they want to involve more student engagement, so that the priorities of the engagement can be set by the student population; AC will be circulating a survey, and running focus groups for this. AC also said that they have been supporting their subcommittees. There are no questions for AC.

9. Questions for SRC Members

- 9.1. Questions for Accommodation Officer
- 9.2. Questions for Alumni Officer
- 9.3. Questions for Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 9.4. Questions for BAME Officer
- 9.5. Questions for Community Relations Officer
- 9.6. Questions for Disability Officer

- 9.7. Questions for Employability Officer
- 9.8. Questions for Environment Officer
- 9.9. Questions for Gender Equality Officer
- 9.10. Questions for LGBT+ Officer
- 9.11. Questions for Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
- 9.12. Questions for Postgraduate Academic Officer
- 9.13. Questions for Postgraduate Development Officer
- 9.14. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 9.15. Questions for Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 9.16. Questions for Secretary to the SRC
- 9.17. Questions for Student Health Officer
- 9.18. Questions for Widening Access and Participation Officer

10. Any Other Competent Questions

11. New SRC Business

11.1. R-22-01 Motion to update the Association Laws and Subcommittee Constitutions

AK introduced the motion. AK said that the motion would update the laws and constitutions for the Association and relevant subcommittees; he noted that it uses pieces of former motions (R-21-12 and J-21-06), and changes some of the sabbatical remits.

With 12 votes for the motion, and 3 abstentions, the motion **passes**.

11.2. R-22-02 Motion to Hold Referenda on NUS Membership

LD introduced the motion. LD said that the Association is not currently a member of NUS, and that there has been referenda on the subject in the past – but there has not been one for quite a while. Students should be allowed to have their say on the Association's membership.

AK asked what the NUS is. LD responded that one can refer to the motion for a summary. LD noted that there are two parts to NUS: NUS UK (or NUS Scotland) and NUS Charity. LD said that NUS run several campaigns and provide a buyer consortium for unions; individual associations can get support for campaigns, and get involved in the NUS' wider work.

With 12 votes for the motion, 1 against, and 2 abstentions, the motion **passes**.

11.3. R-22-03 Motion to increase accessibility to safe and varied gluten-free food in University accommodation, University catering services, and University buildings and Student Association cafés.

Heather Gore (HG), on behalf of Gluten Free St Andrews, was granted speaking rights, and introduced the motion. HG said that the motion is in response to a survey circulated by Gluten Free St Andrews, and a forum that took place this semester, where students with dietary requirements responded; 100% of students with Coeliac disease reported that they had felt ill after eating in university-catered accommodation in halls or in the Association cafes. HG said that the majority of respondents also felt that the gluten-free options were limited, and many said that they would choose to live in accommodation dedicated to those with dietary requirements (if it was an option). HG said that Gluten Free St Andrews believes that all students should have access to safe food, so they are mandating the DoWell, Association President, and Student Health Officer to work with the

university to improve the range of gluten-free food, prevent the contamination of gluten-free food, and introduce better training for the catering staff about Coeliac disease, look at reshaping the accommodation policy to consider allocations based on dietary requirements, and to look into creating a dedicated gluten-free kitchen in a university hall. HG also noted an amendment to Resolves 12, where the Student Health Officer would be responsible for overseeing the progress of the motion, instead of creating a dedicated position on the Wellbeing Subcommittee for dietary requirements.

AK said that it was the bare minimum the Association could do for those with dietary requirements. BZ added that they were gluten free themselves, and that they would happily talk to Gluten-Free St Andrews about increasing provision of gluten-free food in Association services – regardless of whether the motion passes. IC noted the limitations of the SRC regarding what they could do in response to the motion; they identified Resolves 5 of the motion, stating that the SRC can mandate the DoES to discuss gluten-free options with the head of catering, but cannot set the prices in the café themselves. IC said that it may not be possible to sell the gluten-free products at the same price as other options, as the Union pays more for these products.

The motion was **passed without dissent**.

11.4. R-22-04: Motion to create an International Students' Officer

AC introduced the motion. The motion mandates the creation of an International Students' Officer for the SRC. AC noted that the SRC previously had an International Students' Officer, but the role was retired as it was thought that the BAME officer would take on the responsibilities. Since then, the BAME Students Network has been created, and the BAME Officer focuses more on incidents of inequality and racism; AC added that the current political climate has changed what is needed for international students, citing Brexit as a particular example, and should be further represented as a cohort.

With 13 for the motion, 1 against, and 1 abstention, the motion **passes**.

11.5. R-22-05: Motion to amend the Societies Committee structure

AK introduced the motion amends the Societies Committee structure to a more efficient model where there will be two general members as opposed to advisor positions for the key officeholders, as well as taking away the carve-up positions that are traditionally in the committee from the SRC and the former SAF. AK also noted the introduction of a new officer – the Projects Officer – who would be in charge of society awards and society mixers.

The motion was **passed without dissent**.

12. Any Other Competent Business

13. Collaborative Solutions