



University of St Andrews
Students' Association
Student Services Council
MINUTES

Tuesday 14th April - Student's Association Board Room - 5.20 pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Charlotte Andrews	Association Alumni Officer
Zara Evans	Association Chair
Clare Armstrong	Association Community Relations Officer
Leon O'Rourke	Association Director of Events and Services
Fay Morrice	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Alice Pickthall	Association Environment and Ethics Officer
Sigrid Jorgensen	Association LGBT Officer
Pat Mathewson	Association President
Sarah Thompson	Athletic Union President
Amy Christison	SSC Charities Officer
Alyssa Muzyk	SSC Debates Officer
Lavin Ge Tian	SSC Entertainments Convenor
Tierney Riordan	SSC External Funding Officer
Annabel Romanos	SSC Member without Portfolio
Ipek Ozsoy	SSC Music Officer
Jo Bowman	SSC Performing Arts Officer
Robert Dixon	SSC Societies Officer

There was no business in the open forum.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Athletic Union President

The successful Colour Run event will happen on 22nd April at 3pm at the Sports Centre, in aid of international volunteering projects: tickets available through the Association website.

6.2 Report of the Association Director of Events and Services

Mr O'Rourke announced that the preparations for the Grad Ball is going well and they are ahead of schedule. A STAR Live Lounge event took place in Rectors' last Saturday and he informed that there will be another for the end of the Semester. He also encouraged his successor to continue this initiative next year. Mr O'Rourke announced that interviews for some positions in subcommittees will soon be held.

6.3 Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Tantillo presented a report from Mr Hajda. He gave details of the Teaching Awards and the Proctor's Award and reminded that nominations for both awards close on 17th April.

6.4 Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

Ms Morrice reported that some of the Annual General Meetings for subcommittees are happening this week. She reminded attendees about the Scott Lang dinner that will be held tonight. She commented on the recent success of the On the Rocks events. Ms Morrice also announced that a Volunteer Recognition Scheme will soon be launched to recognise the hard work that students do. She also presented her apologies for not being able to attend some of the past meetings and for leaving early today.

6.5 Report of the Association President

Mr Mathewson announced that great events have been planned for the Alumni Festival that will take place on 17th-19th April. He pointed out that Ms Andrews helped publicise these events and he encouraged everyone to advertise the Alumni Festival as much as possible. He also advised that the Association is collecting information on substandard accommodation for Fife Council and asked members to forward details of any properties they know of that might be of interest to the Accommodation Advocate at nla5@st-andrews.ac.uk.

7. Questions for Subcommittees

7.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Committee

Ms Armstrong amended her report, adding that interviews for posts in the Community Relations Committee will be happening shortly and encourages attendees to publicise them.

7.3. Questions for Association Environment & Ethics Committee

Ms Pickthall added that she is contacting people to ask for ideas for events for Green Week. The committee will soon have their AGM to discuss open positions.

7.6. Questions for SSC Broadcasting Committee

Ms Evans presented a report from Mr Kerr. She said that interviews for Broadcasting Committee will take place on Wednesday 14th April. The committee launched their final edition of Hearing Aid (a musical publication) on the 2nd of April and had it further displayed at the Zine Magazine Fair as part of On the Rocks. The inaugural STAR Live Lounge was held in the Rectors' Cafe on the 11th of April and showcased student music with live broadcasting and recording taking place at the same time. Special thanks were presented to Leon for helping to arrange this. The committee aim to reproduce this event in the future. They also had the mercury award nominated King Creosote come in, do a live set and interview on Sunday. Collaboration with Under Canvas is undergoing in the upcoming music festival, promoting the STAR brand.

7.9. Questions for SSC External Funding Committee

Ms Riordan added that she was in the process of appointing a committee and asked for members to publicise it.

7.12. Questions for SSC Music Committee

Mr Mathewson asked how the preparation for the Alumni festival was going. Ms Ozsoy reported that everything was going well and that student music performances will take place.

7.16. Any Other Competent Questions

Ms Pickthall asked whether the Green Week would clash with any other event. Mr Mathewson stated that a definite calendar is not set yet and suggested that Mr Hajda will be able to give more information on this point.

Ms Heyerick stated that the Postgraduate Committee AGM will be held next week.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New General Business

9.1. J. 15.14 A Motion To Reform Alumni Access to the Union

OWNER: Pat Mathewson

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: April 2016

THIS SSC & SRC NOTE:

- The Association's Strategic Plan holds 'engaging with alumni in a meaningful way' as a core objective of our three year strategy.
- Efforts are currently underway to make a student-driven alumni approach a reality, including the forthcoming Alumni Festival Weekend in April 2015.
- Barriers still exist to the ease with which Alumni can access the union, relying principally on the mechanism of Life Membership.
- Revenue from new and replacement Life Memberships issued in this academic year totalled £145.

- There is an insufficient mechanism for data capture of which alumni are visiting the union.
- The union has until now had no database to verify the authenticity of an alumnus who presents at the door on a given evening. This has now been rectified with the assistance of the Development Office.

THIS SSC & SRC BELIEVES:

- Successful engagement with alumni has the potential to significantly enhance the Association and the delivery of its mission. Furthermore, increased footfall has the potential to support commercial objectives.
- The success of events such as the forthcoming alumni festival weekend will rely on a user-friendly and efficient means of giving alumni access to the Union. The year on year success of these events will be enhanced by robust data capture.

THIS SSC & SRC RESOLVES:

- To Strike Section 3.2.1.2 from the Laws “On payment of the appropriate fee as determined by the SSC.”
- In keeping with licensing laws, to mandate that door staff utilise the new database to verify the identity of alumni in enabling access to the Union.

PROPOSED:

Pat Mathewson	Sarah Thompson	Charlotte Andrew
Association President	AU President	Association Alumni Officer

SECONDED:

Leon O'Rourke	Joe Tantillo	Kyle Blain	Chris MacRae
DoES	DoRep-Elect	DoSDA-Elect	DoES-Elect

Amendments to J.15-14 - A Motion to Reform Alumni Access to the Union

Amendment One

The following clause was added to the resolves:

“3. To mandate the Association Alumni Committee to revisit HLMs and clarify the significance of the award, by the end of this academic term.”

Amended Unanimously.

Proposer: Joe Tantillo **Seconded:** Miriam Chappell

Amendment Two

The following Clause was added to the resolves:

“4. To mandate the DoRep and the DoSDA to look at the Association award system and revamp it by the end of semester one of the next academic year.”

Amended Unanimously:

Proposer: Joe Tantillo **Seconded:** Charlotte Andrew

Amendment Three

Resolves point 2 was amended to change ‘mandate’ to ‘suggest’

Amended Unanimously.

Proposer: Joe Tantillo **Seconder:** Kyle Blain

Mr Mathewson introduced the motion, explaining that after discussions with the University he reached an agreement by which the Association would be given access to a database of alumni. This would allow verification of alumni status on entry, and in turn allow the Association to move away from a system of limited life membership (whether purchased or awarded as an HLM) to allowing all alumni to be life members, as other Associations already did.

Three amendments to the motion had been proposed and passed during the last SRC meeting. Mr Tantillo detailed the content of these amendments. Through Amendment One, a clause was added in order to enhance clarification. Amendment Two also resulted in the addition of a clause. Through Amendment Three, the word 'mandate' in the resolves point 2 was changed to 'suggest'.

Amendment One raised no question and no debate and **passed without dissent.**

Amendment Two raised no question and no debate and **passed without dissent.**

Amendment Three raised no question and no debate and **passed without dissent.**

The amended motion was **adopted without dissent.**

9.2. J.15-15 A Motion to Hold NUS Referendum

OWNER: Elections Committee

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: N/A

THIS SSC & SRC NOTE:

- That the University of St Andrews Students' Association is not presently affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS).
- The referendum held in November 2012 on the question of whether the Association should affiliate to the NUS, which resulted in a vote of 75% against to 25% in favour.
- That in an amendment to the motion initiating the above referendum, the SRC resolved to hold another such referendum in three years' time.

THIS SRC & SSC BELIEVE:

- That the question of whether to affiliate to NUS is best decided by the students of St Andrews by means of a referendum.
- That it should respect the decision of the previous SRC on the timing of this referendum.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

- To hold a referendum on 19-20 November 2015 on the question "Should the University of St Andrews Students' Association join the National Union of Students? Yes or No."
- To request the Students' Association Board (SAB) to commission independent information on the costs of affiliation, to be published as part of the referendum campaign.

- To instruct the Elections Committee to draw up rules for the conduct of the campaign.
- To hold another NUS referendum, regardless of the result, in November 2018.

PROPOSED:

Ondrej Hajda	Director of Representation
Fay Morrice	Director of Student Development and Activities
Sigrid Jorgensen	Association LGBT Officer
Charlotte Potter	Arts/Divinity Faculty President
Katy Rae	Science/Medicine Faculty President
Eleanor Mullin	Arts/Divinity Faculty President-Elect
Louise McCaul	Science/Medicine Faculty President-Elect
Toby Emerson	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Robert Dixon	SSC Societies Officer

Amendments to J.15-15 A Motion to Hold NUS Referendum

Amendment One

The motion was amended to remove point 4 of the Resolves.

“To hold another NUS referendum, regardless the result, in November 2018.”

Passed by 17 to 5.

Proposer: Kyle Blain **Seconder:** Omar Ali

Amendment Two

The motion was amended to remove point 2 of the Believes.

“That it should respect the decision of the previous SRC on the timing of this referendum.”

Amended Unanimously.

Proposer: Omar Ali **Seconder:** Alice Lecointe

Ms Morrice presented details of NUS and of the motion. Although she is not in favour of NUS, she concluded that students should be given the opportunity to choose through a referendum.

Mr Mathewson informed that an amendment was proposed and adopted during the last SRC meeting. This amendment removed point 4 of the Resolves.

Ms Evans stated that Mr Hajda asked in absentia for a recorded vote. The voting was as follows.

Association Alumni Officer	Charlotte Andrew	Aye
Association Community Relations Officer	Clare Armstrong	Aye
Association Director of Events and Services	Leon O’Rourke	Aye
Association Director of Representation	Ondrej Hajda	No

Association Director of Student Development and Activities	Fay Morrice	No
Association Environment and Ethics Officer	Alice Pickthall	Aye
Association LGBT Officer	Sigrid Jorgensen	No
Association President	Pat Mathewson	Aye
SSC Charities Officer	Amy Christison	No
SSC Debates Officer	Alyssa Muzyk	No
SSC External Funding Officer	Tierney Riordan	No
SSC Member without Portfolio	Annabel Romanos	No
SSC Music Officer	Ipek Ozsoy	Aye
SSC Performing Arts Officer	Jo Bowman	No
SSC Postgraduate Officer	David van Brussel	Aye
SSC Volunteering Officer	Julian Valladares Urruela	Aye

Ms Evans declined to give a casting vote.

With 8 members in the affirmative and 8 in the negative, the amendment failed.

In light of the result of Amendment One, Amendment Two had no relevance anymore. It was suggested that the amendment be struck. This amendment therefore **failed**.

Debate on the main body of the motion continued. Mr Mathewson stated that he would favour the referendum if it were brought by student petition. Mr Blain and Mr Tantillo showed agreement with Mr Mathewson's statement. Ms Morrice disagreed and pointed out that students might not be aware of NUS and the Association should offer a referendum to students.

Ms Andrews stated that a referendum should be offered only if students showed interest through a petition. She affirms that the cost of this would be high and she does not find it urgent, as students do not show interest.

Ms Morrice moved to vote. Mr Hajda asked in absentia for a recorded vote. Mr Mathewson asked for a secret ballot. Mr Tantillo seconded.

With 8 members in the affirmative and 8 in the negative, the motion was tied.

Ms Evans exercised her casting vote and voted in the affirmative. **The motion was passed.**

9.3. J.15-16 A Motion to Include Students on Leave of Absence in the Students' Association Elections

OWNER: Elections Committee

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: April 2016

THIS SSC & SRC NOTE:

- That the Elections Committee for the Students' Association Elections 2015 recommended to the Councils to clarify the status of students on a leave of absence as ordinary members of the Students' Association and their eligibility to stand, campaign, and vote for in an election.
- That the Elections Committee recommended that students on a leave of absence who are expected to return in the following academic year are given the same rights of ordinary members of the Students' Association and therefore allowed to stand, campaign, and vote in the Students' Association Elections.

THIS SSC & SRC BELIEVES:

- That the Students' Association should give students on a leave of absence who are expected to resume studies in the following academic year a platform for getting involved.

THIS SSC & SRC RESOLVES:

- To allow all students on a leave of absence to campaign in Students' Association Elections.
- To allow students on a leave of absence who are expected to resume studies at the beginning of the following academic year to stand and vote in the Students' Association Elections.
- To mandate the Elections Committee to come up with an appropriate definition of ordinary membership of the Students' Association and investigate whether the proposed amendment would also necessitate a change in the Constitution of the Students' Association.
- To encourage Sabbatical Officers and staff in the Students' Association to provide appropriate support to all candidates in the Students' Association Elections.

PROPOSED: Election Committee

Ondrej Hajda Director of Representation
Joe Tantillo Director-Elect of Representation

Mr Tantillo presented the motion, the purpose being to clarify the status of students on Leave of Absence. He encouraged councillors to discuss pros and cons in detail. Students on Leave of Absence can participate in the Elections at the moment, but this is not official.

Ms Andrew was concerned that students on Leave of Absence are more likely to not resume their studies.

Mr O'Rourke pointed out that also students that are not currently on Leave of Absence might happen to withdraw from their studies for different reasons.

Mr Cupples stated that it is more likely for students on Leave of Absence to drop their studies. He also pointed out that some students take Leave only for one Semester.

Ms Heyerick asked whether this possibility would be actively encouraged on students on Leave of Absence, if the motion passed.

Mr Tantillo answered that this point is still unsure.

Mr Mathewson pointed out that we would need to ensure that the right support for students resuming their studies is in place.

Ms Bowman stressed that if a student on Leave with mental or stress problems resumed his/her studies, this does not mean that they would still have problems and that these would affect their job.

Mr Blain showed concern for the fact that it would be difficult for students on Leave to go to the Cash Office to take their money back.

Mr Tantillo also pointed out that there is still doubt about how much money students on Leave would be allowed to campaign if they are not here. However, he felt confident that there are ways to solve this problem and come to a decision.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

10. Open Discussion

Mr Mathewson opened a discussion about the idea of introducing a University's centralised catering service for students.

Mr Mathewson asked attendees whether this would be something worth pursuing.

Mr Tantillo expressed his keenness about this idea that resembles the model of dining halls in the US, which work well.

Mr Urruela stated that this would be advantageous for students, especially for those who live far from the centre.

Ms Tian objected that introducing a catering hall might perhaps not be practical and asked how this would be arranged.

Ms Andrews stressed that this would result in a great expense and it should not come prior to more urgent matters. Ms Pickthall questioned about practicalities.

Mr Mathewson advised that he floated the idea at this stage only to see the reactions and gather some feedback.

Ms Bowman suggested that this is probably not the most urgent thing the University needs.

Mr Urruela proposed to organise this dining hall within the Union's building as a compromise.

Ms Armstrong prompted the Association to think about the local businesses that depend on students and for which a University dining hall would be problematic.

Ms Heyerick expressed her satisfaction with the idea, saying that it would be very popular among students.

Ms Heyerick also stressed that there is only one catered Postgraduate Hall, Dean's Court, which only offers about fifty rooms; therefore, a centralised dining hall would be very advantageous to Postgraduate students.

Ms Andrews proposed to seek students' feedback about this idea.

11. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

The meeting adjourned.