



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

MINUTES

Tuesday 6th November 2018 – Large Rehearsal Room - 6.00pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Gianluca Giammei	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Olivia Sutton	Association Alumni Officer
Sneha Nair	Association Chair
Morgan Morris	Association Community Relations Officer
Alice Foulis	Association Director of Education
Adam Powrie	Association Director of Events and Services
Jamie Minns	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Nick Farrer	Association Director of Wellbeing
Lauren Davis	Association Environment Officer
Sarah Ramage	Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
Paloma Paige	Association President
Fiona Murray	Athletic Union President
Emma Thompson	Principal Ambassador
Camilla Duke	Rector's Assessor
Alisa Danilenko	Science/Medical Science Faculty President
Lucy Allatt	SRC Accommodation Officer
Avery Kitchens	SRC Member for First Years
Isabella Smith	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Emily Muller	SRC Member for Students With Disabilities
Ciara McCumiskey	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
Robyn Wells	SRC Member Without Portfolio

In Attendance

Auguste Navickyte	Refugee Action St Andrews
Eva McNabney	Refugee Action St Andrews
Jenna Brooks	Refugee Action St Andrews
Jioh Kim	Refugee Action St Andrews
Tashi Tahir	Refugee Action St Andrews
Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Caitlin O'Reilly	The Saint

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Passed without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	
Zelda Kotyk	Association LGBT+ Officer	Apologies
Ashley Clayton	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener	Apologies
Courtney Aitken	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer	Apologies
Tomasin Animashaun	SRC Member for Racial Equality	Absent

3. Open Forum

No business.

4. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

4.1. Report of the Association Director of Education

Alice reported that a focus group had been held on Monday the 12th about student experience in the Large Rehearsal Room. As part of the tenth year of the Booker Prize Project, there would be a talk by past winner Graeme Burnet in the Buchanan Theatre on 28 November at 5:30pm.

4.2. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing

Nick reported that a second round of condom distributor training had now been completed. The Wellbeing Committee would be doing an awareness week on Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): this would include selling supplements outside the Union Building, a paintalong session, a walk to the Botanic Gardens and a collaboration with the Pub Quiz on Sunday. Nick was also looking at the elections, reviewing rules and looking for ways to drive up turnout. He was in discussion with Citizen's Advice about possible collaborations. He had finished a final draft of the Member for the Wellbeing Committee position on SRC. The School President for Physics and staff in the School had held a School Wellbeing Day, which was excellent. Finally, training for the Ask Angela campaign was provisionally booked for December.

4.3. Report of the Athletic Union President

Fiona was preparing for the AU 'town hall' meeting, and asked members to please consider attending. The AU had decided not to run fixtures during Independent Learning Week in future, after having to reschedule many fixtures. Money from development funds was being allocated. Fiona was working on an AU policy on non-student members, with the aim of capping the percentage of any club made up of non-students. She was also reaching out to smaller clubs to discuss boosting membership.

4.4. Report of the Association President

Paloma said that Lucy would talk more about Accommodation Week in her report, but highlighted that the how To Rent Guide was now available online and on the shelves at Reception, featuring a pull-out property checklist. Representatives from the proposed new purpose-built student residence in town would be available for discussions with students tomorrow, Thursday and Friday in the piazza or in the Main Bar. Paloma would also arrange focus groups including both Councils members and non-Councils members. SRC were informed that the Association was now officially working with the Marks Out Of Tenancy website – members should leave reviews and encourage their friends to

do so also, as a good base of reviews was essential. A survey would be distributed to all students on locked and converted bedrooms in private properties in the HMO-restricted area.

4.5. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

The Halloween all-building event was held last week: this was the first all-building event of the year, and had sold out. Adam was looking at feedback on the event with an eye to improvements before the Xmas all-building event.

Bop numbers remained high (over 900 last week). This week's Bop would be on a High School Musical theme. Themes for the rest of semester 1 were already decided, but ideas for themes next semester would be welcome.

Availability for commercial spaces can now be viewed on the online booking system. Events planning booklets were available from the sab office to provide advice for those planning events. The building would be decorated for Christmas soon. Adam was planning Refreshers' Week.

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

The University Challenge first round trials were now finished: callbacks would be soon. From next semester, there would be tours of the Union building on admissions days – thanks were due to the ambassadors. The Volunteer Portal was working well and the first volunteer had achieved platinum status. Last Tuesday, Jamie had attended a meeting with MSPs about employability and enterprise at the Scottish Parliament.

5. Questions for Association Officers

5.2 Questions for Association Community Relations Officer

Morgan reported on the commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI to be held at the West Sands. A poem would be read and stories told as well as a portrait created in sand. The organisers were looking for students to attend in gowns. Morgan encouraged members to attend and share the event.

5.4 Questions for Association Lifelong Learning Officer

The Lifers AGM would be held at 5.30 on Monday.

6. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers

6.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer

To date Accommodation Week was going very well, with around 300 students turning out for the first event and high attendances expected for How To Rent talks. A reprint of the How To Rent guide might be needed.

6.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years

6.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality

A trial of sanitary bins in men's toilets in the Union building would be undertaken: it was hoped to use this to persuade the University to spread the idea across University buildings. The Reclaim The

Night event on 24th November will be run as a collaboration between several societies: members were encouraged to attend.

- 6.4. Questions for SRC Member for Racial Equality
- 6.5. Questions for SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
- 6.6. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
- 6.7. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 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

The Fife Health Board would meet in December. Various lobbying activities including written testimonies and emails to members of the board were planned: contact Camilla for details.

- 6.13. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

7. Unfinished SRC Business

8. New SRC Business

- 8.1. Motion for Equal Access

Tashi Tahir spoke as the proposer of the motion. She spoke about the current situation regarding refugees and asylum seekers, and about her personal experience being classified as international student, as an asylum seeker. The fees were unaffordable, and scholarships were hard to find. Tashi's own status was resolved in time to enable her to study, but many other students and prospective students were not so lucky. Tashi drew attention to wide support for this campaign nationally – 75 other university student unions, associations and guilds were in support as well as NUS, and there was support also in the press and from academic staff. 500 students had signed the petition at St Andrews, including elected representatives.

The chair moved to questions. Fiona asked why the number of proposed bursaries was set at five? Tashi acknowledged that this was an arbitrary number, but felt it was a good starting point.

Paloma asked about discrepancies between the heading of the petition and the title of the motion, reading these out to the room.

Adam Powrie asked about Scottish institutions that supported the motion: Tashi replied that these details were available on the web. Nick asked about point 12, where it referred to the 'executive team', and whether this was meant to refer to the Executive Committee or to the SRC? Tashi confirmed it was intended to refer to the Executive Committee. Adam Powrie asked if the reference to 'publicise equal opportunities policies' was intended to refer to the Association website as well as the University website? Tashi confirmed that it was.

Camilla asked if there were templates of what other universities have done and information about that? The SRC was informed that there was a table on the website for the STAR (Student Action for Refugees) network. Emma asked if the bursaries would solely be for students seeking asylum in the UK? This was confirmed. Ciara also asked for clarification if this was specifically for Scottish-resident asylum seekers: Tashi said that it was intended to apply to those seeking asylum anywhere in the UK.

Paloma asked about bursaries and classification for fees. It was understood that the aim was to get the University to provide financial assistance, but would that consist of a full bursary? Was it important what the fee was determined to be in that case? Tashi said that it was: Nick made the point that a reclassification of the fee was significant because it would affect more than just the five successful applicants. The issue of accommodation costs was also discussed. Tashi said that the aim of the motion was to achieve at minimum a reduced tuition fee such that students in this position would not be charged international fees: but that it hoped to go further and establish bursaries to help such students address the costs of study.

Tashi made the point that it was important to be inclusive. The term 'refugee' is equated to someone having refugee status, but needs to be understood as wider. PP asked if that meant we were talking about refugees, or people seeking refugee status? Tashi said that she meant both.

Adam said that ultimately this would come down to the University making a decision, but that many others had made that decision. He noted that the proposal would fit with the University's proposed strategic plan, in that it would be a concrete way to achieve diversity, as set out in point 4.6 of that plan.

Ciara asked if there was a more descriptive title for the motion? Jamie suggested point 11 might be more suitable title, to lobby the University to remove financial barriers. He proposed an amendment to change the title to 'Motion to Lobby the University of St Andrews for Equal Access to Education for Forced Migrants'. This was seconded by Adam Powrie and **passed without dissent**.

Jamie also moved to amend points 12 and 13, 12 to 'representatives of SRC', 13 to 'SRC'. This was seconded by Morgan and **passed without dissent**.

Nick proposed amending point 11a 'seeking asylum' to add the words 'in the uk' after 'seeking asylum'. This was seconded by Emily and **passed without dissent**.

Jamie, seconded by Adam, moved to vote on motion. Paloma objected she wanted further discussion on point 11b. Paloma said she felt it was important not to set a minimum number on this. Nick said that in campaigning, we could be more ambitious and aim for a higher number, but that it was useful to be specific also. Adam asked about numbers that other Universities had given? Tashi replied that one institution had given 20. Emily agreed that a minimum number was important, as without that clear expectation from the Association, the University might offer a lower number. Alice asked about a rationale for the number of 5, as she felt it would be important to explain this in making a case to the University. Robyn noted that the StAR website gave a figure of 3 undergraduate and 2 taught postgraduate bursaries at Edinburgh University, while Glasgow University offered 4. Jamie asked whether, if the University agreed to classify students as home students, they would be eligible to apply for home student scholarships? Tashi replied that many such scholarships would be inadequate to help students in these circumstances. Robyn suggested changing 'at least five' to 'aim to offer five'? Tashi responded that an ambitious target was good: we may not succeed but we should aim for this. Adam clarified that the petition clearly indicated that five was an aim, not a guarantee? Tashi confirmed this.

Robyn proposed amending the motion so that the text 'offer at least five' would instead read 'aim to offer five'. Adam seconded. Alice objected on the grounds that the amended wording was not strong enough. The amendment was voted on a show of hands:

For - 3, against – 13, abstention – 1. The amendment was **not passed**.

Jamie moved to vote on the motion again, seconded by Nick. There was no opposition to moving to vote. The motion was **passed without dissent**.

9. Any Other Competent Business

None

10. Collaborative Solutions

Not minuted

SRC + ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Association Alumni Officer – Olivia Sutton

Nothing to report.

Association Community Relations Officer – Morgan Morris

It is been a quiet week within Community Relations, we have been planning Community Relations Week along with St Andrews Day. Volunteer sign-ups for St Andrews Day are coming out soon so please watch out and encourage all your friends to offer a couple of hours on December 1st. We have a community council on Monday. We are also going to be promoting the WW2 commemorations on West Sands Beach as part of a series by Danny Boyle - so watch out for that as it is going to be a very special event. Thank you.

Association Environment Officer – Lauren Davis

Nothing to report.

Association LGBT+ Officer – Zelda Kotyk

Queer Academia will have had happened and it should have gone well. We are doing a lot of planning for Glitterball, Transfest and starting for Queer Fest. We are also looking at how to be more political and have some great ideas thus far.

I'm working on a survey about experiences of homophobia and transphobia as there has been an increase of transphobic and homophobic remarks/ hate being directed at students and the subcommittee and others.

Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Sarah Ramage

As I'm sure many people are aware problems experienced by students in receipt of Universal Credit have been highlighted on social media. Discussions are taking place to look into this in more detail.

The Lifers EGM has been scheduled for Monday 12 November at 5.30pm and is open to all students. We are hoping to appoint a secretary and treasurer at this meeting.

A group of Lifers attend the union run Halloween event and had a great time. It was fab to get dressed up and forget about deadlines for the night.

SRC Accommodation Officer – Lucy Allat

Accommodation week is here! The how to rent guides have been delivered and are looking great, there is an addition of a pull out section of a property checklist which should be really useful for people going to view housing and flats. There is a total of 14 events happening over the week including hall drop ins and how to rent talks! Monday is the housing farye, it already has over 200 people interested on the facebook event ! Really proud of what my committee and i have done, lets hope the hard work pays off!

SRC Member for First Year – Avery Kitchens

Nothing to report.

SRC Member for Gender Equality – Isabella Smith

Nothing to report.

SRC Member for Racial Equality – Tomisin Animashaun

No report submitted.

SRC Member for Students with Disabilities – Emily Muller

This week I had a phone conversation with the person who will be assessing my grant. I don't get the sense that he fully understood the importance of communication from a disability lens which was concerning, but I hope for the best! Nothing else to report at this time.

SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Ciara McCumiskey

Things are picking up in the world of Widening Access and Participation. The steering/working group that I chair is about to be relaunched. Our first port of call is looking at who is applying to bursaries and how successful they are and also looking at the problems happening with Universal Credit and the way that it is causing problems for some lone parents that are studying. If anyone has any burning opinions about either of these things or something else related to my role, drop me an email and pop along to a meeting of the steering group!

Arts/Divinity Faculty President –Gianluca Giammei

This week, Alisa and I have organised when to meet with the ID reps and told them how to gather feedback from their classmates. We will meet on Monday to make the agenda for Tuesday's SSCC. I am also helping some schools setting up their mentoring schemes!

Science/Medicine Faculty President - Alisa Danilenko

The physics and astronomy wellbeing day went well this week, we are hoping to be able to apply the same model to other schools.

Myself and Gianluca will be running the ID4000 SSCC this week, and starting work on the ELIR write up.

SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener –Ashley Clayton

No report submitted.

SRC Postgraduate Development Convener –Courtney Aitken

This week the Postgraduate Development Committee reconvened. Plans for the next round of Innovation Grant applications are currently being made. Looking forward to reviewing postgraduates' ideas for conference and transferable skills development. CAPOD, with some postgraduates, held a Masters programme information event for undergraduate students last Wednesday to great success. St Leonard's College celebrated the commemoration of St Leonard on Sunday. It's been a busy week!

Principal Ambassador – Emma Thompson

We completed our final UG Visiting Day of the year, with over 500 prospective students and their families attending. Throughout the semester, we had over 2600 students attend, across 5 Visiting Days. On November 14, we will have our PG Visiting Day, with 100 visitors expected.

Widening Access and Participation projects have continued on, and we look forward to welcoming mentees to St Andrews in the coming months!

We have begun thinking about next semester's Visiting Days, so if anyone is interested in getting involved with them, please be in touch.

Rector's Assessor – Camilla Duke

The Rector was in town during Week 6 for the October Court Meeting, during which we approved the final University Strategy, which has now been published. We had a successful visit, meeting with the Sabbs, the Rector's Committee, and other students and members of the community. The Rector's Committee also recently welcomed two new members after our interview process. We are also continuing our work with the Students' Association and Willie Rennie MSP on the GP out-of-hours campaign, which is coming to its final weeks.

SRC Member Without Portfolio – Robyn Wells

Nothing to report this week

