



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 23th September 2014 – School II, 7pm

Present

Charlotte Potter	Arts/Divinity Faculty President
Joseph Tantillo	Association Chair
Zara Evans	Association Community Relations Officer
Leon O'Rourke	Association Director of Events and Services
Ondrej Hajda	Association Director of Representation
Fay Morrice	Association Director of Student Development & Activities
Madeline Belt	Association Environment & Ethics Officer
Fallon Sheffield	Association LGBT Officer
Iain Cupples	Education Researcher
Sarah Thompson	President of the Athletic Union
Katy Rae	Science/Medicine Faculty President
Sarah Gimont	SRC Accommodation Officer
Darya Smirnova	SRC Education Officer
Roddy McGlynn	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer & Welfare Officer
Lydia Bowden	SRC Employability Officer
Walt Andrews	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Sium Ghebru	SRC Member for Racial Equality
Jo Boon	SRC Member for First Years
Omar Ali	SRC Member for International Students
Verity Baynton	SRC Member for Private Accommodation
Alexandre Ciric	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Tania Struetzel	SRC Postgraduate Convenor
David Norris	SRC Wellbeing Officer
Bryony Shepherd	Principal Ambassador

In Attendance

Michael Telfer	Minutes Secretary
Caroline Magee	The Saint
Ali West	Ordinary Member

Absent

Pat Mathewson	Association President
Mel Turner	SRC Member for Mature Students
Alasdair Maclennan	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Pat Mathewson President of the Association

Family Business

The apologies were accepted without dissent.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Council were distributed by electronic mail on the 17th of September 2014. With no objections made within the specified time, the minutes were adopted by electronic mail.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. Open Forum

There was no business in the open forum.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

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

Ms Morrice informed the Council that Society training would take place the following day and on the Friday. Ms Morrice stated that training for the Councils had taken place on the previous Saturday.

6.2. Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Hajda stated that spots were still available for the Mental Health training course. Mr Hajda stated that over 20 people had registered their interest the previous week but there were still spots open and that those who are interested should contact him. Mr Hajda stated that he would contact those who had registered with more information the following day.

Mr Hajda reported that SRC and SSC training had taken place the previous Saturday with a six hour training session the day after for School Presidents. Mr Hajda stated that Class Rep elections were taking place and that, by 5pm Friday, 350 people would need to have nominated themselves. Mr Hajda requested that all members help advertise the positions as the Class Reps were to be at the core of his plans for Educational Representation.

Mr Hajda reported that the next day, there was to be an Academic Council meeting, which he would attend in place of Mr Mathewson.

Mr Hajda stated that on Friday there was an event organised, called Interconnect, to take place in the Purdie Building Theatre B, concerning careers for women in science. Mr Hajda recommended that those interested attend.

Mr Ali asked when the campaigning for Class Reps would begin.

Mr Hajda answered that the voting period would be from Monday the 29th until Friday that week, and campaigning could begin as soon as nominations closed.

6.3. Report of the Association Director of Services

Mr O'Rourke reported that entertainment was continuing to do well, in terms of attendance figures, with Friday's Karaoke night going from strength to strength. Mr O'Rourke stated that some sponsorship has been secured for the night. Mr O'Rourke stated that the Pub Quiz night, hosted by Kyle Blain, had been very successful. Mr O'Rourke added that the previous Friday night had not been as successful as anticipated though they were hoping to continue the good work from Fresher's week and the past week throughout the year.

6.4. Report of the Association President

There was no report from the Association President.

7. Reports of Officers

7.1. Joint Report of the Arts/Divinity Faculty President and Science Medicine

Ms Potter stated that she and Ms Rae would attend the Academic council the following day and there were a few discussion points: international student admissions; the use of casual teaching staff; and university governance. Ms Potter stated that the, regarding University governance, funding bodies were now looking for equality in admissions and also in appointments. Ms Potter stated that they wanted to mandate a 50:50 split on things, bringing up some of the schools which were somewhat unequal. Ms Potter stated that they felt like this was an unnuanced way to tackle gender inequality.

Ms Rae stated that the University was looking at international admissions with a view to increasing them. We'll be talking about whether that's a good thing or not, whether they can cope, and what kind of stresses that would place on the student body.

Ms Rae stated that, regarding casual contracts, they would be discussion PGR tutors, guest lecturers, and others on casual contracts.

Ms Rae stated that in terms of class reps, interdisciplinary positions had been introduced, such as for Great Ideas modules and they were looking at advanced information for modules and honours entry.

Ms Evans asked whether the discussion on international relations would take in to account pressures on the town in, for example, accommodation and traffic.

Ms Gimont echoed that accommodation was a major issue.

7.2. Report of the Association Community Relations Officer

Ms Evans reported that there had been three community council meetings over the summer, two of which she had been able to attend, both of which had gone well.

Ms Evans reported that she had been looking at the Zero Tolerance campaign initiated the previous year, and how to extend that in to the town, as well as a subsidised bike-light scheme and innovative ways of tackling noise issues in the town.

7.3. Report of the Association Environment & Ethics Officer

Ms Belt reported that she had restarted the twitter account over the summer, had met with the transition team when she got back, and organised the Hall Environment Officer elections, with their training to be the following day.

Ms Belt stated that there were still positions on her subcommittee, to be filled with a member from each Council. Ms Belt added that there were other vacancies too, which members should advertise.

Ms Belt reported that she was working towards clarifying the remits of Transitions, her committee, and Ethics, so as to eliminate confusion.

Ms Belt reported that she was discussing Keep Cups with the university, to clarify why they were not available.

Ms Belt reported that she had met with the Environment & Ethics Officer from Aberdeen University, who had suggested some ideas that she might pursue.

7.4. Report of the Association LGBT Officer

Ms Sheffield reported that the Society had had a successful Freshers week, with over three hundred sign-ups. Ms Sheffield stated that 150 people had attended the bonfire, which the Police had briefly attended, and subsequently complimented them on the behaviour of those in attendance.

Ms Sheffield reported that the Society had a Loyalty Card scheme, which would allow those who attended 5 events to get a free Winter Ball ticket.

Mr Sheffield reported that the EGM was to take place on the coming Monday to elect three new people to the committee.

Ms Potter asked when Panti would be coming to St Andrews.

Ms Sheffield answered that the event would be after RAG Week but the exact date was to be confirmed.

7.5. Report of the Athletic Union President

Ms Thompson reported that Freshers Week had been a success, with the Give-it-a-Go events well attended, helped by the weather that day. Ms Thompson stated that the colour run had been a big success, with over 300 people in attendance.

Ms Thompson reported that she was working with Admissions on a Sport Admission Policy, trying to make that more accessible.

7.6. Report of the Science/Medicine Faculty President

Ms Rae stated that she had nothing more to add to the joint report given earlier.

7.7. Report of the SRC Accommodation Officer

Ms Gimont reported that first the Senior Student meeting had taken place, and they had discussed what their current problems were and their upcoming issues. Ms Gimont stated that she had a meeting with RBS in the near future.

7.8. Report of the SRC Education Officer

Ms Smirnova reported that she had had a meeting with the library with Mr Hajda, Ms Rae, and Ms Potter, and received updates about what was happening there. Ms Smirnova stated that she had met with School Presidents and discussed the Study Space Project, which some expressed interest in. Ms Smirnova stated that she had a meeting with Jane Brooks from ELT coming up to discuss the proof reading scheme.

Mr Ali asked if he would be able to attend the meeting and what date it was on.

Ms Smirnova answered that he could but that the date was still to be decided on.

7.9. Report of the SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer

Mr McGlynn reported that he had been in contact with an anti-sectarianism charity, who wanted to come and discuss what they were doing.

Mr McGlynn reported that they were pressing ahead with an EqualOps magazine, and that Postgraduate Students had put together an anthology of their work.

Mr McGlynn reported that the committee would be meeting with the University's Equality and Diversity Officer to discuss links.

7.10. Report of the SRC Employability Officer

Ms Bowden reported that she was engaged in planning for Enterprise Week in Week Four, the publicity for which would be released at the end of the current week.

Ms Bowden reported that she had met with the Career's Centre and CAPOD to plan for the Career's Conference at the end of the Christmas Break.

Ms Bowden reported that she was meeting with someone from the Career's Centre to discuss funding for an Arts Career Festival next week.

Ms Potter asked what would be showcased at the arts career festival.

Ms Bowden answered that it was to be organised with Ben Anderson, and would look at smaller organisations like NGOs and not just the normal graduate schemes. Ms Bowden stated that the festival would be around the 28th of March but that was not set in stone. Ms Bowden requested that those with ideas share them with her.

7.11. Report of the SRC External Campaigns Officer

Mr Andrews stated that Pints and Protests was the following evening, and they would be sitting around discussing student activism. Mr Andrews stated that he was still in the process of reaching

out to student activists and see what they wanted to be involved in, and then bring those ideas to the committee.

Mr Andrews stated that the only major campaign ongoing was the Labour Society's campaign against zero hour contracts. Mr Andrews stated that Daniel Johnston had had a petition for a while but that before anything was written, motions-wise, they would have a consultation. Mr Andrews stated that there was nothing major happening on that front at the moment but there were some complaints around people not getting enough hours in DRA.

Ms Rae asked what the connection between the Labour Society and any other outside organisations was.

Mr Andrews answered that they were affiliated to the Labour Party.

7.12. Report of the SRC Member for First Year

Ms Boon reported that she had set up a twitter account to advertise events. Ms Boon stated that Freshers week had been very good, with many students emailing her with questions. Ms Boon reported that she would be taking part in a one-on-one mentoring scheme, initially to help students with matriculation issues but other problems as the term progressed. Ms Boon stated that she was focussing on being visible at the moment.

7.13. Report of the SRC Member for Gender Equality

Ms Newman reported that she had been working on the Zero Tolerance Campaign, and had almost checked off The Vic. Ms Newman requested that anyone with contacts at other establishments either pass those details on or use them to help with the campaign. Ms Newman stated that if anyone else would like to help, she would like to 'off load' some establishments to others.

7.14. Report of the SRC Member for International Students

Mr Ali reported that the first event had been a big success with over 220 people in attendance. Mr Ali stated that the feedback about the event had been very positive. Mr Ali stated that that many people from cultural societies had spoken to him and conveyed that they felt as though there was not enough communication between the different societies. Mr Ali stated that he was looking at a forum for those societies to help with that.

Mr Ali reported that he had been contacted by the senior student from DRA who thought that a new position for International Students should be created there and in all the other residencies. Mr Ali stated that would allow there to be a better grassroots network across the University.

Mr Hajda asked if asked whether the Senior Student in DRA has said whether the position there would be new.

Mr Ali said that they had said it should be across the board but it would be a new position in DRA.

Mr Hajda stated that the position had existed in DRA before.

Mr Ciric stated that he could give Mr Ali the details of all of the other representatives.

Mr Ghebru asked what form the forum for cultural societies would take.

Mr Ali answered that it would be an informal way to get them together to organise co-hosting events and such.

7.15. Report of the SRC Member for Mature Students

There was no report from the Member for Mature Students.

7.16. Report of the SRC Member for Private Accommodation

Ms Baynton reported that she was looking at rerunning the events which were successful the previous years. Ms Baynton added that she was looking at creating an online space for reviewing agencies, which would function better than a name-and-shame approach. Ms Baynton stated that she was getting emails from Postgraduate Students looking for accommodation in St Andrews.

7.17. Report of the SRC Member for Racial Equality

Mr Ghebru reported that he was in the process of organising Black History Month for October. Mr Ghebru stated that the schedule for the first two weeks was nearly completed and the publicity was nearly finished.

7.18. Report of the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

There was no report from the Member for Students with Disabilities.

7.19. Report of the SRC Member for University Accommodation

Mr Ciric reported that the whole accommodation team was working well together, as well as there being good communication between the team, the senior students, and also amongst the senior students themselves. Mr Ciric stated that he had an upcoming meeting with RBS.

Mr Ciric reported that he would be visiting a few halls to get the word out about the Hall Champions League and also meeting with those who were responsible for running the events to confirm bits and pieces of scoring

Mr Hajda asked when the Senior Student forum would be.

Mr Ciric answered that the first one had been the previous Friday, and he was looking for another in three weeks. Mr Ciric stated that they would be held in the different halls.

Mr Hajda asked if Mr Ciric had made any progress on the training for hall committees and the mental health training.

Mr Ciric answered that all of the halls should be aware that at least one member should receive the mental health training.

Mr Hajda asked that Mr Ciric follow up with the halls.

7.20. Report of the SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation

The position of Member for Widening Acces & Participation was vacant.

7.21. Report of the SRC Postgraduate Convenor

Ms Struetzel reported that there had been successful freshers, with some events having to move venue due to high attendance figures. Ms Struetzel stated that the inductions for PhDs and Masters Students had taken place and there was a high number very keen to join the Post Grad Society as a result.

Ms Struetzel reported that they had been running a survey of those Masters students who had just submitted a dissertation and they would be producing a report in due course.

Ms Struetzel stated that the class rep elections were happening soon and they were looking to elect around 85 of them. Ms Struetzel stated that she was working on promoting that.

Ms Struetzel stated that she was going to senate the following day, meeting with the Learning and Teaching committee the following week, and also with RBS to discuss Postgraduate community issues. Ms Struetzel stated that she was also going to meet representatives from the library to discuss issues about the following summer.

7.22. Report of the SRC Wellbeing Officer.

Mr Norris reported that he had had a busy time so far as semester one was all go for the committee, and shag week in week five. Mr Norris stated that all sorts of events were going on and things were going nicely. Mr Norris stated that Raisin was in three weeks and, given the University was taking a harsh line on the issue, the committee has decided to take a relaxed approach to try and prevent a backlash.

Mr Norris reported that Mr Hajda would be taking the lead on the *Take Care* campaign around exams.

Mr Norris reported that the committee had taken someone on to do PR for them and requested that any creative individuals who wanted to help out come forward.

7.23. Any Other Competent Reports

There were no other competent reports.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New General SRC Business

9.1. J. 14-6 - A Motion to Amend the Association LGBT Committee Constitution

THIS SRC AND SSC NOTE:

1. The current Association LGBT Committee's Constitution contains a number of inconsistencies and requires that any change in the membership of the Association LGBT

Committee non-executive officers to be passed by both Councils and the Students' Association Board.

2. The LGBT Committee approved the proposed changes at their meeting on Thursday 18 September.

THIS SRC AND SSC BELIEVE:

1. The Association LGBT Committee will benefit from creating a core of executive officers (President – Association LGBT Officer, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Welfare Officer, and Campaigns & Publicity Officer) and allow the Executive to approve the creation of non-executive officers as required.
2. The proposed changes will decrease the administrative burden on the Councils.

THIS SRC AND SSC RESOLVE:

1. To strike the Association LGBT Committee's previous Constitution (Chapter 16 of the Laws) and replace with the attached text.
2. To rename the "Association LGBT Committee" to "Association LGBT Group", informally known as "Saints LGBT".
3. To report amendments to effect the following changes to the Laws to SAB with the recommendation that the same do pass.

Chapter Sixteen: Association LGBT Group (Saints LGBT)

Motto: The official motto of the society shall be: ‘Libertas, Aequalitas, Sodalitas’, translated from the Latin as ‘Liberty, Equality, Fellowship’.

Mission Statement: The University of St Andrews Students’ Association Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transperson Association Group (‘Association LGBT Group’ or the ‘Saints LGBT’) will exist with the purpose of providing all possible support and resources for the student body and will endeavor to foster a sense of social inclusion. Such support and resources will be accessible to the entire student body, regardless of their sexuality, gender, age, ethnicity, religious beliefs, political stance, educational background or social class. The Group is opposed to any form of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; be that homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, transsexual, transgender or other. It further commits itself to alleviating, and where possible eliminating, the effects of the existence of such prejudice.

1. Name

The official name of the subcommittee shall be: ‘The University of St Andrews Students’ Association Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transperson Association Group (hereafter known as the ‘LGBT Association Group or the ‘Saints LGBT’).

2. 2. LGBT Executive (the ‘Executive’)

2.1. Membership

2.1.1 Association LGBT Officer

2.1.2 Will have final responsibility for all matters pertaining to the running of the Group

2.1.2. Will chair General Meeting and meetings of the Executive

2.1.3. Will liaise with the Association officers as appropriate

2.1.4. Will assist and support all other Executive and non-executive Officers in performing their duties

2.1.5. Will have access to the Group email account and have the responsibility for its operation, upkeep and for granting access to LGBT Executive members

2.1.6. Will be a signatory for the Group’s bank account

2.1.2. Vice President

2.1.2.1. Will chair meetings of the Executive in the absence of the Association LGBT Officer

2.1.2.2. Will assist and support all other Executive and non-executive Officers in

performing their duties

1.2.3. Will chair the Social Subcommittee and be overall responsible for organizing social events

2.1.2.4. Will have access to the Group email account and have the responsibility for its operation

2.1.3. Secretary

2.1.3.1. Will keep a copy of all correspondence

2.1.3.2. Will write correspondence not directly relating to the remit of other Executive members

2.1.3.3. Will keep and update the minutes and will be responsible for appropriate distribution of the minutes to the rest of the Executive and non-executive Officers

1.1.3.4 Will have access to the Group email account and have the responsibility for its operation
2.3.5. Will hold a copy of the constitution

2.1.4. Treasurer

2.1.4.1. Will keep the accounts of the Group

2.1.4.2. Will ensure that Group budget is submitted correctly and punctually

2.1.4.3. Will deal with such affiliations and subscriptions as the Executive may deem appropriate

2.1.4.4. Will coordinate fund raising and sponsorship for the society

2.1.4.5. Will be a signatory for the Group's bank account

2.1.4.6 Will have access to the Group email account and have the responsibility for its operation

2.1.5. Welfare Officer

2.1.5.1. Will take responsibility for all welfare and counseling issues

2.1.5.2. Will liaise with other welfare providers as appropriate

2.1.5.3. Will ensure that welfare, information and guest speaker meetings are correctly organized

2.1.5.4. Will assist the Campaigns & Publicity Officer with welfare-orientated campaigns where deemed necessary

2.1.5.5. Will chair the Welfare Subcommittee and be overall responsible for organizing welfare events

2.1.5.6. Will have access to the Group email account and have the responsibility for its operation

2.1.6. Campaigns & Publicity Officer

1.6.1. Will be responsible for preparing publicity for other Executive and non-executive members

2.1.6.2. Will liaise with other LGBT societies regarding such social events as they may be planning and keep the Executive informed, in an effort to build links with other LGBT groups

Will hold a copy of the constitution 2.1.7. Director of Representation

2.2. Remit of LGBT Executive is to act as a steering group for the Group, and to supervise the day-to-day running and administration of the Group.

2.3. The Executive should meet at least once a fortnight.

2.4. Every member of the Executive shall prepare a written report prior the Annual General Meeting.

3. Non-Executive Officers

3.1. The Executive can approve a creation of other non-executive Officers as required.

3.2. Non-executive Officers can be invited to the regular meetings of the Executive at the discretion of the Executive.

3.3. All non-executive positions shall be advertised to the student body and elected at a General Meeting.

4. Membership

4.1. The membership of the Group shall consist of all the matriculated students of the University except those who have exercised their right to opt out under the terms of the Education Act 1994.

5. External Affiliations

5.1. The Group shall be affiliated to IGLYO (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organization)

6. Elections and General Meetings

6.1. All Executive members, barring the Association LGBT Officer and the Director of Representation, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Group.

6.2. The Annual General Meeting of the Group shall be held between weeks eight and ten of the Candlemas semester.

6.3. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held between weeks two and four of the Martinmas Semester.

6.4. Additional Extraordinary General Meetings can be called by the Association LGBT Officer, or three or more members of the LGBT Executive.

6.5. Two-weeks' notice must be given to all members of a General Meeting, with details of the business to be discussed agreed to date. Any proposed business must be submitted at least three working days in advance.

7. Finance

7.1. The finances of the Group shall be run in accordance with the guidelines set down by Management Accountant

7.2. The Group shall have one bank account

7.3. In accordance with current charities regulations, the authorised signatories for this account shall be the Association LGBT Officer, Treasurer and up to two nominees of the Students' Association Cash Office.

7.4. Subsequent signatories may be added or removed with joint approval of the Director of Representation, Association LGBT Officer and Treasurer.

8. Constitution

8.1. A copy of this constitution shall be available at every General Meeting of the Group.

The motion was proposed by Ms Sheffield and seconded by Mr Hajda.

Ms Sheffield introduced the motion as such: this motion is not as complicated as it looks, tried to make the constitution more pliable so that every year different non-executive positions can be put on and taken off with only a core executive group retained. The name has also been changed from Association LGBT Committee to the LGBT Group, and executive committee is called the executive. There will be an ebook created to help guide each new committee in organising themselves. The main aim here is to reduce paperwork and make it easier to change positions.

Without dissent, the motion was adopted as presented.

9.2. R. 14-7 - Motion to Provide for the Co-option of the SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation

THIS SRC NOTES:

1. A casual vacancy exists in the office of SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

1. To co-opt a new SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation at a meeting of the SRC on 7 October 2014.
2. To mandate the Director of Representation to advertise the same.
3. To express its gratitude to Daniel Granville for his service as SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation.

The motion was proposed by Mr Hajda and seconded by Mr McGlynn.

Mr Hajda introduced the motion as such: this is actually an R motion, Daniel Granville has stepped down from his position. This motion asks me to advertise the position and then, in week four, the SRC will co-opt a new member for Widening Access & Participation. The job description is non-existent, there are only tiny things in the laws which describe it but I am keen to make it bigger. The position will be advertised in the Wednesday memos, the email to all students, and in the Association's general media.

Without dissent, the motion was adopted as presented.

9.3. J. 14-8 - A Motion to Add Hearing Aid to the Aims of St Andrews Radio

THIS SSC NOTES:

1. Hearing Aid has been a part of STAR for two years but has no official place in the Laws.
2. The aims of STAR as stated in the Association Law (Chapter 21, Section 1.3) state that STAR is established to provide additional broadcasting services as should become desirable in the future.

THIS SSC BELIEVES:

1. As a subcommittee, the parameters established for Hearing Aid as an extension of St Andrews Radio fit within the existing constitutional bounds.
2. Placing Hearing Aid in the constitution establishes the publication as an official entity of STAR.

THIS SSC RESOLVES:

12. Add in Chapter 21 of the Laws a new §1.4 to read as follows:

1.4.To provide a medium for music journalism (Hearing Aid)

1.4.1. Hearing Aid is an online and print music publication that focuses on local and international music trends while simultaneously providing an outlet for the students of St Andrews to express their love for all types of music.

The motion was proposed by Mr McDonald and seconded by Mr O'Rourke.

Mr O'Rourke introduced the motion as such: I don't know much about the society itself but STAR thinks that music journalism is part of their remit. The Press Play society has tried to affiliate as a music journalism society with an online platform. For them to affiliate, when STAR has been doing similar things, we need to pick one or the other, so we propose to put this in the laws.

Ms Morrice stated that, from a societies point of view, she did not believe that it came under the broadcasting remit and they were not happy for STAR to do that, and if we take journalism as broadcasting, that could spread quite far.

Mr Ali asked what Ms Morrice meant.

Ms Morrice answered that the aim of the subcommittee was to be a radio broadcaster but Hearing Aid was a magazine and those were not the same thing. Ms Morrice stated that to play Devil's Advocate, as someone in charge of societies, they wanted to see more of them.

Mr Ali asked whether they should not support STAR since it would be a waste of time to fund two similar things and STAR would be likely to continue regardless.

Ms Morrice stated that was not how it should work and that if they were told to stop producing the magazine they should do so.

Mr Ali asked whether Ms Morrice thought they should not produce the magazine.

Ms Morrice answered that she did.

Mr Hajda stated that they had been approached from a society who produced a music journalism magazine. Mr Hajda stated that if the motion were adopted, their affiliation process would stop.

Ms Struetzel asked that the external group be elaborated on.

Ms Morrice answered that they were called Press Play.

Mr Andrews asked whether there was a precedent for this sort of conflict of interest between subcommittees and societies.

Mr Cupples answered that they tried to avoid such conflicts and they tried to make sure subcommittees were focussed on what their constitutional aims were. Mr Cupples stated that they had to be careful not to duplicate activities as it wasted resources.

Ms Sheffield asked if the number of specialised societies would not be restricted if STAR continued to expand their activities.

Mr Hajda answered that that was not necessarily bad but that it would have to be remembered that STAR would be expanding in to print.

Ms Struetzel asked if there was the possibility of bringing the two groups together or if there were some politics that would prevent that.

Ms Morrice answered that they both already had committees but that it was not impossible.

Mr Ali stated that they both have brands and are established. Mr Ali asked how would funding work if they were collaboration.

Ms Morrice answered that Press Play would effectively have to become part of the subcommittee.

Ms Potter asked who Hearing Aid were.

Mr Ali answered that it was a committee of STAR, the magazine came out in print in limited numbers, once a month. Mr Ali added that it was subcommittee of STAR with an online version and committee underneath them.

Ms Potter asked what, if they were a subcommittee, they were doing.

Mr Hajda answered that the issue was they were not official.

Mr Cupples stated that it was not currently one of their aims or objectives but STAR want it to be one. Mr Cupples stated that, strictly speaking, they shouldn't be doing it as it wasn't one of their aims and objectives, which wasn't to say that there were actually breaking any rules.

Mr Ali asked who outlined the aims and objectives.

Mr Cupples answered that their aims and ojectives were proposed by the SRC and SSC, and then approved by those bodies and the board.

Mr Ali asked if the broadcasting officer could deal with this.

Mr Cupples answered that it would have to go to SSC too, and they were likely better able to deal with this issue.

Mr Ali moved that consideration of the motion be postponed until week 4.

Mr Andrews seconded.

The motion was postponed without dissent.

9.4. J. 14-6 - A Motion to Promote the Expansion of the University Accommodation Bursaries

THIS SRC NOTES:

1. Affordable accommodation is an area of high importance for prospective students.
2. 15% of first year students receive some kind of financial aid on paying their hall fees.
3. 38% of returning students receive financial aid on paying their university accommodation costs (where applicable).
4. 18% of accommodation costs are covered by the average bursary.
5. Given the housing market and the relative length of degrees at the University, housing is a considerable cost for the average student at St Andrews.

THIS SRC BELIEVES:

1. Affordable housing is one of the most pressing issues for the entire student population of St Andrews.
2. University housing should be an important route for affordable housing to be offered to students.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

1. To lobby the University not to change their way of determining which returning students are admitted back into halls.
2. To mandate the Accommodation Team to work with the Development Office to implement an expansion of the current accommodation bursary program.
3. That the Accommodation Team should investigate additional ways of making housing more affordable.

The motion was proposed by Mr Ciric and second by Ms Gimont.

Mr Ciric introduced the motion as such: I've been in contact with people from the development office, a few alumni groups, and found that the best way to increase the amount and number of university bursaries was through the development office. Had some back and forward with the people in the development officer, though it would be a good idea to have this motion to be able to present this and make it clear the whole student body was behind more bursaries and support.

Ms Rae asked what was meant with the statement that 15% of students received support, whether it was from the government or some other body.

Mr Ciric answered that it meant that the bursaries they were discussing were from the University via the development office.

Mr Hajda asked whether Mr Mathewson had seen the motion.

Mr Ciric answered that he had emailed Mr Mathewson but had not heard back.

Mr Hajda asked if the development office had seen the motion.

Mr Ciric stated that they had not and asked whether Mr Hajda thought they should.

Mr Hajda answered that he thought they should later on.

Mr Ciric stated that all the motion did was to say that the SRC is behind more support and also that the SRC should be involved in this.

Mr Andrews asked whether expansion meant more bursaries for students, or more money in each bursary.

Mr Ciric answered that it was general and whatever the development office thought was best, the number, value or both. Mr Ciric added that he only wanted to further discussion with this motion.

Mr Ghebru asked why they would not want to change the admission process.

Mr Ciric stated that the streamlined version was that there was a shortlist of 10-15 people who had contributed to hall in first year and therefore were guaranteed a spot. There were then an additional 10 or more spots that were open for applications.

Mr Ghebru asked if that process was likely to be changed.

Mr Hajda answered that they were planning to change it but it would be a positive change, trying to open spots for more returning students.

Mr Ciric stated that he had not been aware of that and asked whether Mr Hajda that that point should be changed.

Mr Hajda answered that he did as the current wording advocated for the status quo while not all changes had to be bad.

Mr Hajda moved that resolving clause one be struck and the motion renumbered as appropriate.

Mr Ciric second the motion.

The motion was amended without dissent.

Ms Rae stated that she found the wording of the clause regarding the percentage of students receiving support to be confusing.

Mr Ciric moved that the motion be amended to strike clause one and insert '15% of first year students receive support from the University in order to cover their accommodation costs.'

Ms Rae seconded.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Mr Hajda stated that it should also be noted that the Union also maintained a bursary fund.

Mr Cupples suggested that another resolving clause could be added to state that the SRC supported the continuation of the bursary.

Mr Hajda moved that a third resolving clause be inserted stating ‘The SRC resolves to maintain support for the association accommodation bursaries.’

Mr Ciric second.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Ms Baynton stated that clause three of the ‘notes’ section was vague and should probably be reworded along the lines of clause 1.

Mr Ciric moved that noting clause 1 be struck and replaced with ‘38% of students receive bursaries from the University to help cover accommodation costs’.

Ms Baynton seconded.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Mr Hajda asked what Mr Ciric’s team were planning to do to tackle accommodation costs.

Mr Ciric answered that Ms Gimont and he would be talking with the director of RBS the following Tuesday and that would be one of the important points of discussion.

Mr Hajda stated that there had previously been discussion about bursaries being extended to cover private accommodation and asked if Mr Ciric would be pursuing that.

Mr Ciric answered that his current priority was University Accommodation Bursaries and that, looking at the wording of the second clause, looking at bursaries feel underneath that point.

Without dissent, the motion as amended was adopted.

10. Open Discussion

10.1. SRC Reform

There was a twenty minute open discussion.

Mr Hajda asked how many people had read the report.

Around half of the members showed their hands.

Mr Hajda asked how many were happy with the motion.

A smaller number showed their hands.

Mr Hajda stated that in the SRC meeting two weeks hence, the first proposal for reform would be put forward. Mr Hajda stated that the plan was for there not to be a vote at that meeting but for it to be voted on at the SRC meeting two weeks after that.

Mr Ali asked if this report would be converted to a motion.

Mr Hajda answered that it would be, but not in its entirety and that he wanted to remove a number of things.

Mr Andrews noted that there were a lot of steps in the motion and asked what points Mr Hajda would be going through.

Mr Hajda answered that he would discuss only a few of them but everyone was welcome to raise certain points.

Ms Struetzel stated that, from a PG point of view, she was the only one on the SRC and she would appreciate the extra support.

Mr Andrews asked whether the general representatives would be elected at large or in separate races.

Ms Morrice answered that the plan was for a large election. Ms Morrice stated that she had raised her concerns before but that she was worried that there were positions that would be lost that, while they don't necessarily do much now, could be important in future.

Ms Sheffield stated that she understood the concept of having untitled representatives but worried that with so many there was nothing to make people do what they were supposed to.

Mr Ali stated that some of the ideas behind losing roles weren't really true as the officers have a detailed remit and all the lost titles would be delegated out at the start of the year.

Mr Hajda stated that his understanding of the report is that no role would be lost bar the merging of the Part Time Rep and Mature Student Rep. Mr Hajda added that Mr Woodhouse's proposal would mean the retention of all the equality positions.

Mr Ghebru stated that his initial concerns had been about the loss of those positions but that now it would seem like those positions would be kept with more people to back them up.

Mr Hajda asked whether people wanted limited constituencies, for them to be elected by all, or some other combination.

Mr Andrews stated that there were two questions there, having them there and having them elected by all students.

Ms Sheffield asked whether the LGBT position would be removed from the SSC.

Mr Hajda stated that there was no clear outline but that the general idea was that it would be there.

Mr Cupples, in answer to Mr Andrews, stated that the Education Act 1984 made it a legal duty that major positions were to be elected by all students. Mr Cupples stated that, unhelpfully, the law had never defined what a major role was. Mr Cupples stated that position in St Andrews had always been that since anyone could be carved up to board, all positions were considered to be major positions. Mr Cupples stated that some universities had limited numbers of equality positions open only to certain people but most universities had cross-campus ballots so as not to run afoul of the act.

Mr Hajda asked if the room that the proposal was a good idea for keeping all representatives present.

The room largely agreed.

Mr Hajda asked whether the room thought the positions should be elected from the whole student body.

Mr Andrews asked whether the act dealt only with voting or whether standing was also covered.

Mr Cupples answered that it referred to both.

Mr Hajda stated that the issue with limiting the constituencies or those who could stand would be with self-identification. Mr Hajda stated that, for equality's sake, it was better to keep it open.

Ms Morrice noted that for some of the roles, such as for Students with Disabilities, it would be possible to become a part of the constituency part way through the year but that you would have initially been denied the vote.

Ms Potter stated that there was already a degree of self-identification at the University, with some people choosing not to vote in certain elections as they did not consider it their place.

Mr Cupples stated that self-selection was witnessed a lot and, when paper ballots were still used, many would decline certain ballot papers.

Ms Sheffield stated that with the LGBT elections, there were both a lot of allies at the University as well as a student body who were engaged with the election.

Mr Hajda stated that the general consensus seemed to be for campus-wide elections.

Ms Struetzel asked whether people thought the postgraduate elections should be restricted or also open to everyone

Ms Morrice answered that she thought it would be nice that everyone should be elected by everyone and that the two communities should stop being divided. The less division the better.

Ms Sheffield stated that she was concerned that 50 people would be too large a group since the currently much smaller number still disagreed on a lot of things and it would be difficult to reach a consensus.

Mr Hajda stated that he thought the better idea was to define a role for the SRC and then build the numbers up rather than starting with a number and working to define a role.

Ms Sheffield asked whether there should be an executive SRC and non-executive SRC.

Mr Hajda answered that many university's functioned like that, with the full body sitting several times a semester with 50-100 people in attendance, voting on important policies and giving instruction on what they do.

Ms Morrice stated that she liked that idea.

Ms Sheffield echoed Ms Morrice's sentiments.

Ms Smirnova stated that having such a large group could work if not all attended every meeting.

Mr Ali stated that some of the biggest gains from the SRC meetings was seeing what everyone was up to and, if not everyone were in attendance, how would that be retained. Mr Ali suggested emails detailing the activities might help as a fortnightly meeting of that many people was not feasible.

Ms Gimont stated that emailing was not a good way of communication.

Ms Morrice stated that, in follow up to Mr Ali's point, if every officer attended the executive meeting they would find out what was happening and then could share that with their committees, whilst still retaining fact-to-face communication.

Mr Hajda stated that his personal opinion was that he didn't want to create a further tier, an officer's committee, but he'd love that it met a little less regularly, once a month, and discussed major policy decisions, with the committees, as imagined, being bigger and more active, with greater devolution of power. Mr Hajda stated that he wanted the committees to pass motions, be binding, but reviewable by the SRC at large.

Mr Ali asked if the proposal would basically see the SRC turned in to SSC.

Ms Morrice answered yes, and noted that the SSC was a more functional body.

Mr Hajda stated that they wanted the equality reps on the SRC.

Ms Evans stated that there would be a slight issue with the motions themselves as it wouldn't necessarily be obvious that some officers had an interest in them and would not be there to discuss it.

Ms Sheffield stated that the committee meetings could be open to everyone to come and vote.

Mr Hajda stated that if a subcommittee passed a motion it would be possible to have a 'starring' system where the motion would come before the SRC but it wouldn't necessarily have to discuss the motion. Mr Hajda stated that would lower the demand on the larger body.

11. Any Other Competent Business

11.1 Announcements

Mr Tantillo announced that the Councils' photo would be taken at 5pm on Saturday and everyone should have received an email about that, including the dress code.

Mr Tantillo announced that he was forming a committee to help with the 'That's Union' Campaign and those interested should email him.

Mr Tantillo requested that everyone turn notifications on for the Facebook group so everyone would be aware of new things posted to the group.

Mr Hajda announced that class rep elections were happening and requested that everyone push that as they required a lot of people.

The meeting adjourned at 2044.