



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 7th October 2014 – School II, 7pm

Present

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
Lydia Bowden	SRC Employability Officer
Walt Andrews	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Jo Boon	SRC Member for First Years
Annie Newman	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Omar Ali	SRC Member for International Students
Mel Turner	SRC Member for Mature Students
Alasdair MacIannan	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
Verity Baynton	SRC Member for Private Accommodation
Alexandre Ciric	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Nicola Kennedy	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
Tania Struetzel	SRC Postgraduate Convenor
David Norris	SRC Wellbeing Officer

In Attendance

Michael Telfer	Minutes Secretary
Ali West	Ordinary Member
Josh Gumbley	WAP Co-option
Rachel Tam	WAP Co-option
Lauren Waters	WAP Co-option
Nicola Kennedy	WAP Co-option
Alexander Phillips	WAP Co-option

Absent

Charlotte Potter	Arts/Divinity Senate Representative
Bryony Shepherd	Principal Ambassador
Roddy McGlynn	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
Sium Ghebru	SRC Member for Racial Equality

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr Tantillo proposed that the order of the day be suspended and the reports given after the new business had been completed.

The agenda was amended without dissent.

The agenda was adopted, as amended, without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Charlotte Potter	Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Field Work for Dissertation
Sium Ghebru	SRC Member for Racial Equality	Black History Month Event
Bryony Shepherd	Principal Ambassador	No Reason Given

The apologies were accepted without dissent.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Students' Representative Council held on the 23rd of September 2014 were distributed by electronic mail on the 6th of October 2014. With no objections made within 24 hours, pursuant to Standing Orders §7.2.2, the minutes were adopted by electronic mail.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. Open Forum

There was no business in the open forum.

9. New General SRC Business

9.1. Co-option

Mr Mathewson stated that, traditionally, when there's a co-option, the individual candidates were not discussed on their merit, but instead their co-option was considered only on their speech and the questions they answered. Mr Mathewson stated that differed from a normal election in that each person would have discussions about the different candidates before concluding who was the best choice.

Mr Mathewson proposed that the rules be suspended to allow the discussion of the merits of candidates after they had all given their speeches and answered questions.

Ms West stated that she thought the motion was a terrible idea.

Mr Tantillo asked that those without speaking rights not speak.

Ms Morrice stated that she thought the idea was terrible.

Mr Tantillo recognised Ms West.

Ms West stated that she thought it was already intimidating enough for people to come and deliver a speech and be asked questions, and knowing that they would then be discussed would only add to how intimidating that was.

Mr Norris asked what the feeling was amongst those intending to run was.

Those intending to run indicated that they were uncomfortable with the idea.

Mr Mathewson withdrew his motion.

Mr Tantillo stated that those nominated would have three minutes to deliver a speech, with two minutes for questions. Mr Tantillo stated that any time not used up in the speech would be added to the time limit for questions. Mr Tantillo stated that Mr Cupples would then explain the voting system that was to be used before the vote was held.

Mr Josh Gumbley Nominated himself.

Mr Tantillo seconded his nomination.

Ms Nicola Kennedy nominated herself.

Mr Tantillo second her nomination.

Mr Alex Phillips nominated himself.

Mr Tantillo second his nomination.

Mr Amer Reza nominated himself.

Mr Tantillo seconded his nomination.

Ms Rachel Tam nominated herself.

Mr Tantillo seconded her nomination.

Ms Lauren Waters nominated herself.

Mr Tantillo seconded her nomination.

All candidates, except Mr Gumbley, left the room.

Mr Gumbley delivered a speech and answered questions from Ms Turner, Ms Evans, and Mr Andrews

Mr Gumbley left the room and Ms Kennedy returned.

Ms Kennedy delivered a speech and answered questions from Ms Turner, and Ms Evans.

Ms Kennedy left the room and Mr Phillips returned.

Mr Phillips delivered a speech and answered questions from Mr Ali, Ms Newman, Mr Andrews, and Ms Turner.

Mr Phillips left the room and Mr Reza returned.

Mr Reza delivered a speech and answered questions from Mr Mathewson and Ms Struetzel.

Mr Reza left the room and Ms Tam returned.

Ms Tam delivered a speech and answered questions from Ms Morrice and Ms Turner.

Ms Tam left the room and Ms Waters returned.

Ms Waters delivered a speech and answered questions from Ms Evans, Mr Andrews, Ms Turner, and Ms Newman.

Ms Waters left the room.

Mr Cupples explained the voting system which was to be used to co-opt the SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation.

A vote was held to co-opt the new SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation.

In the first round, Ms Kennedy had 9 votes, Mr Gumbley 7, Mr Reza 2, Ms Waters 2, and Mr Phillips 1. With the least votes, Mr Phillips was eliminated and the second preference vote redistributed. In the second round, Ms Kennedy had 9 votes, Mr Gumbley 8, Mr Reza 2, and Ms Waters 2. Due to the tie, Mr Reza was eliminated as he had the fewest second preference votes. On redistribution, Ms Kennedy had 9 votes, Mr Gumbley had 8, and Ms Waters 4. With the least votes, Ms Waters was eliminated. On redistribution of the votes, Ms Kennedy had 12 votes, and Mr Gumbley had 9. With the most votes, Ms Kennedy was duly elected as the SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation.

Mr Tantillo thanked all the candidates for running for the position and congratulated Ms Kennedy on winning the election.

9.2. J. 14-9 A Motion to Amend the Constitution of St Andrews Radio

Mr O'Rourke introduced the motion as such: we went over this last time but postponed it until today. In the SSC a few matters were discussed and the motion amended, the rest of the motion remains the same, and makes a few small changes to reflect the current set up.

Ms Struetzel asked if there had been a similar conversation at the meeting of the SSC as had been had at the previous SRC.

Mr O'Rourke stated that there had been a conversation but there was the belief that a separate entity should not affect how the Association operated, since it was conceivable that other events and activities might have to be cancelled in that case.

Ms Morrice stated that the reason the change was made was that there was the belief that the printing of the magazine fell outside the 'broadcasting' brief.

Mr Andrews asked whether the motion would prevent Press Play from affiliating.

Ms Morrice answered that it would not.

The motion was adopted as presented.

9.3. J.14-10 - A motion to Amend the Charities Campaign Constitution to Include a Cap on Nominated Charities

Mr Blain presented the motion as such: every year the campaign raises money for three nominated charities; there is a student-body wide election for the charities. One local, national, and one international charity is chosen each year. This year, Families First, Macmillan, and MSF are our charities. The thing we want to change is that the same charities are consistently chosen, and have been for five years or more. We used to have six charities but the constitution was changed two years ago to reduce that number, but even then the same charities were selected continuously. This motion was adopted by our executive committee, the proposal is that no charity, once chosen, can be chosen again for two years.

The motion, as presented, was adopted without dissent.

9.4 J.14-11 - A Motion to Amend the Laws to Create a More Effective Discipline Policy

Mr Norris presented the motion as such: unless the student body take a more active role in curbing discipline issues, the University will cut their support for Raisin. I know people are aware that it will be a nightmare if that happened. We now want to take a reactive policy so that we can take this motion and present it to the community council, university and such as evidence that we're trying. This change will allow members to be disciplined for damaging relations between the community and the Association.

Mr Cupples this change really only just makes explicit that damaging community relations is something that you can be punished for. The problem that Mr Norris alludes to is that, even with those incidents taking place in the building, it is still difficult to prove, on balance of probability, that it happened. In the community, it would be even more difficult, though not impossible. As I understand it, this is us sending a message to students and the community that their behaviour will be taken seriously.

Mr Norris stated that the University had two options for disciplining students at the moment: a bollicking or expulsion. Mr Norris stated that they wanted an option between that in severity terms.

Mr Andrews asked how often cases were referred to discipline from the community.

Mr Cupples answered that the majority of cases took place in the building, with incidents like fighting, abuse of staff, and underage drinking being the most common things, though there is precedent for disciplining students for their behaviour outside the building.

Ms Newman asked how this policy would be advertised to students.

Mr Norris stated that the campaign was going to start tomorrow, and there would be a dedicated way for pushing information out.

Ms Morrice asked if the amendments would have to first be passed by the Board.

Mr Tantillo answered that board will note that the motion had passed and consider the changes.

Ms Morrice asked whether the changes not being in effect for Raising would present an issue, noting that they should be in place before any disciplinary hearing.

Mr Andrews stated that it would be problematic to try and punish someone for breaking rules which weren't at the time passed by the board.

Ms Sheffield stated that since the amendment as only clarifying the current reality, they could still be disciplined under the current set of rules.

Ms Morrice asked whether the same threats could be made without the passing of the motion.

Mr Norris stated that the threat was already there though this motion would make it explicit for the following years.

Mr Cupples stated that if something like this went through the SRC and SSC, and it hadn't been passed by board, he would advise a student that there had perhaps been a procedural error and advise them to appeal on those grounds.

Ms Newman asked whether, since there was no real intention to follow through, telling them might not work.

Mr Ali asked whether the University would be appeased by the change in wording of if there was anything else that could be done on top of that.

Mr Norris stated that the people from student services and some in estates were upset that this had to happen but that it was being passed down from the proctor. This motion would make it easier for them to lobby for this and also opens up a dialogue.

Mr Ali asked what a bollicking was.

Mr Andrews answered that it was a 'chewing out'.

Mr Andrews asked how broad the changes would be, 'throwing up on someone's car' or more or less severe. Mr Andrews stated that he could think of people doing things which were damaging to community relations but which shouldn't be punished, obviously those two people who bit student services members would probably be included with the change.

Mr Mathewson stated that those people who poured a tin of beans on a young child would also be disciplined under this.

Mr Andrews stated that he agreed that these incidents did exist but the wording was too broad. Mr Andrews asked who would decide, going forward.

Mr Cupples answered that there were two routes by which things come to discipline, one is that it's reported by members of staff or that another member makes a complaint. If there's evidence the laws have been breached, we'd take it forward. For this, you'd need a complaint from a student against another student.

Ms Sheffield asked whether a member of the public could bring a complaint.

Mr Cupples answered that he thought such a thing would not be possible.

Ms Sheffield stated that the motion could be publicised as it would be within the rights of another student to make a complaint against you.

Mr Norris asked whether a student, informed at the community council of another student damaging relations, could make a complaint.

Mr Cupples answered that the issue there would be evidence, not standing to bring a complaint.

Mr Norris stated that the motion was evidence they could hold up as them trying to curb the problems, the entire attitude towards Raising cannot be altered at the drop of a hat. That's why they wanted to ban it for two years, so the attitude wasn't there.

Ms Morrice stated that, as far as the motion was concerned, she didn't think it could be passed without board's assent before Raising. Ms Morrice stated that the discussion should happen, as it was very important, and the motion was worth having at some point.

Mr Norris stated that he understood the issues with it not passing board before Raising but it would still be in place for the following Raising.

Ms Evans stated that the community council supported the motion, she had ran the motion passed them and they liked the attitude being taken by the Association. Ms Evans stated that they held an impromptu vote on the matter and they supported it unanimously. Ms Evans stated that it was the first time in recent history something the Union had done had received the support of the community council.

Mr Andrews stated that he did not like how broad the motion was and that he would like for it to be discretionary, given some were more easily offended than others. Many of us will have done things not good for relations between the community and Association, such as throwing up in the street. I would also like to be able to support activism that might damage relations, even amending it to 'seriously damage' would make it better.

Mr Mathewson stated that even if they wanted to take a hard line approach to the matter, even with a slight change, or with the old laws still in place, against the political back drop of the University were they would be very happy to see Raising go away, this small change shows the Association's seriousness.

Ms Newman asked if they could all think about things in the back of their head for preventing people from breaking the law.

Ms Sheffield stated that there was a whole subcommittee working on doing that.

Mr Norris moved that the motion be amended to insert ‘in a way deemed unacceptable by the Association’ after ‘act in such a way as to damage relations between the Association and the Community’.

Ms Sheffield seconded.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

A Roll call vote was held in the SRC.

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Faculty President	Charlotte Potter			
Association Community Relations Officer	Zara Evans	X		
Association Director of Events & Services	Leon O’Rourke	X		
Association Director of Representation	Ondrej Hajda		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Fay Morrice	X		
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Madeline Belt	X		
Association LGBT Officer	Fallon Sheffield	X		
Association President	Pat Mathewson	X		
President Of the Athletic Union	Sarah Thompson	X		
Science/Medicine Faculty President	Katy Rae	X		
SRC Accommodation Officer	Sarah Gimont			X
SRC Education Officer	Darya Smirnova	X		
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Roddy McGlynn			
SRC Employability Officer	Lydia Bowden	X		
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Walt Andrews		X	
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Sium Ghebru	X		
SRC Member for First Years	Jo Boon		X	
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Annie Newman	X		
SRC Member for International Students	Omar Ali	X		
SRC Member for Mature Students	Mel Turner			
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Verity Baynton	X		
SRC Member for Students With Disabilities	Alasdair Maclennan	X		
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Alexandre Ciric	X		
SRC Member for Widening Access	Nicola Kennedy	X		
SRC Postgraduate Convenor	Tania Struetzel	X		
SRC Wellbeing Officer	David Norris	X		

With 19 votes in the affirmative and 3 in the negative, the motion, as amended, was adopted.

Ms Morrice asked what was actually going to be done to follow this motion up.

Mr Mathewson stated that he would include it in the email that the association intends to punish those who damage the relations between the association and community.

9.5. R.14-8 - A Motion to Provide Funding for the “That’s Union” campaign from the SRC Discretionary Fund

Mr Tantillo vacated the chair.

Ms Evans took the chair.

Mr Tantillo presented the motion as such: "That's Union" campaign is coming up in week 6, I've come to ask for some funding so that we can give the campaign the means to be what it deserves to be. You have before you a proposed budget laying out the numbers and why we want that money. This is a Union-wide campaign, want to engage as many people as possible. I think this is a good use of the SRC discretionary fund, and within its aims.

Ms Rae asked why so many t-shirts were required.

Mr Tantillo answered that they were asking for this so that each volunteer could have a t-shirt, or that t-shirts could at least be circulated.

Mr Hajda asked what was being put on the t-shirts and if they would be reusable beyond week 6.

Mr Tantillo answered that they would definitely be reusable beyond week 6.

Ms Newman asked if there were 40 volunteers.

Mr Tantillo answered that there 40 members of councils, plus additional volunteers.

Ms Newman asked if everyone was expected to volunteer.

Mr Tantillo answered that everyone had been informed of the expectation to volunteer for at least 2 hours during the campaign.

Ms Sheffield asked whether 40 were needed if they were to cycle through the t-shirts.

Ms West stated that things would be lost, as they always were, and they wouldn't want to rely on just 20 t-shirts. The budget is pretty small in any case for a campaign of this size.

Mr Tantillo stated that since the t-shirts would be reusable, then it wouldn't hurt to ensure they were high quality.

Ms Morrice asked what form the banner would take.

Mr Tantillo answered that it would be a large, landscape orientation, banner.

Mr Andrews asked whether the banner would be reusable.

Mr Tantillo answered that as the whole campaign would be reusable, the banner and t-shirts, and possibly any leftover flyers, would be too. The nature of the campaign is that it could be repeated yearly if the Union saw fit.

Mr Cupples stated that this budget was just the proposed budget, and that they did not need to spend all of it. Mr Cupples stated that those responsible for signing the checks would ensure that there was value for money made.

Mr Tantillo stated that any money left over would of course come back to the fund.

Ms Baynton asked whether, given that the campaign was for two weeks' time, the t shirts would be visible, since people will be wearing jackets.

Mr Tantillo stated that the sizes of the t-shirts needed to go over jackets would be considered.

Mr Tantillo urged the members to vote for the motion, as he thought it was a fantastic campaign. Every member of the SRC is a Union volunteer, and we believe this funding can help to best represent the work we do.

A roll-call vote was held in the SRC.

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Faculty President	Charlotte Porter			
Association Community Relations Officer	Zara Evans			
Association Director of Events & Services	Leon O'Rourke	X		
Association Director of Representation	Ondrej Hajda	X		
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Fay Morrice	X		
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Madeline Belt	X		
Association LGBT Officer	Fallon Sheffield	X		
Association President	Pat Mathewson	X		
President Of the Athletic Union	Sarah Thompson	X		
Science/Medicine Faculty President	Katy Rae		X	
SRC Accommodation Officer	Sarah Gimont	X		
SRC Education Officer	Darya Smirnova	X		
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Roddy McGlynn			
SRC Employability Officer	Lydia Bowden	X		
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Walt Andrews	X		
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Sium Ghebru	X		
SRC Member for First Years	Jo Boon	X		
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Annie Newman	X		
SRC Member for International Students	Omar Ali	X		
SRC Member for Mature Students	Mel Turner			
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Verity Baynton		X	
SRC Member for Students With Disabilities	Alasdair Maclennan	X		
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Alexandre Ciric	X		
SRC Member for Widening Access	Nicola Kennedy	X		
SRC Postgraduate Convenor	Tania Struetzel	X		
SRC Wellbeing Officer	David Norris	X		

With 20 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, the motion, as presented, was adopted.

Ms Evans vacated the chair.

Mr Tantillo took the chair.

Mr Mathewson moved that the orders of the day be suspended and the reports struck from the agenda.

Mr O'Rourke seconded the motion.

Ms Morrice said that it would be possible for people to give concise, and only relevant, reports.

Mr Mathewson withdrew his motion.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

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

There was no report from the Association Director of Student Development & Activities.

6.2. Report of the Association Director of Services

Mr O'Rourke stated that there was nothing major, the your union events page has started. The Student's Association page was supposed to be for that but it's crowded now.

6.3. Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Hajda stated that as SRC members, all members would be expected to help out with the foam fight, it would be lots of fun, and that he would be emailing them more information in due course. Mr Hajda stated that those not taking part should keep Monday free. Mr Hajda stated that snacks would be included. Mr Hajda stated that those with classes or tutorial should let him know.

Mr Hajda reported that library opening hours would soon be extended to 8am to 2am every day.

6.4. Report of the Association President

There was no report from the Association President.

7. New General Joint Business

7.1. Joint Report of the Arts/Divinity Faculty President

There was no report from the Arts/Divinity Faculty President

7.2. Report of the Association Community Relations Officer

Ms Evans reported that Police Scotland had a new stop and search policy and, due to the recent centralisation of the police in Scotland, that policy would be in place in St Andrews over Raising Weekend. Ms Evans stated that all those stopped were entitled to a feedback form.

Mr Mathewson stated that the community council elections were coming up and they were soliciting new members. Mr Mathewson stated that there were up to 20 seats available and all those who were registered voters in St Andrews were entitled to run. Mr Mathewson stated that running students in the election might be a policy worth pursuing.

7.3. Report of the Association Environment & Ethics Officer

There was no reported from the Association Environment & Ethics Officer.

7.4. Report of the Association LGBT Officer

Ms Sheffield reported that the Postgraduate Social was to take place on Wednesday and that everyone should encourage any Postgraduates they knew to attend.

7.5. Report of the Athletic Union President

There was no report from the Athletic Union President

7.6. Report of the Science/Medicine Faculty President

There was no report from the Science/Medicine Faculty President.

7.7. Report of the SRC Accommodation Officer

Mr Ciric reported that the Senior Students' Forum was planned and he would report back on that at the next meeting.

7.8. Report of the SRC Education Officer

There was no report from the SRC Education Officer

7.9. Report of the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer

There was no report from the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer

7.10. Report of the SRC Employability Officer

There was no report from the SRC Employability Officer.

7.11. Report of the SRC External Campaigns Officer

There was no report from the SRC External Campaigns Officer.

7.12. Report of the SRC Member for First Year

There was no report from the SRC Member for First Year.

7.13. Report of the SRC Member for Gender Equality

There was no report from the SRC Member for Gender Equality.

7.14. Report of the SRC Member for International Students

There was no report from the SRC Member for International Students.

7.15. Report of the SRC Member for Mature Students

There was no report from the SRC Member for Mature Students.

7.16. Report of the SRC Member for Private Accommodation

There was no report from the SRC Member for Private Accommodation.

7.17. Report of the SRC Member for Racial Equality

There was no report from the SRC Member for Racial Equality.

7.18. Report of the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

There was no report from the SRC Member for Student with Disabilities.

7.19. Report of the SRC Member for University Accommodation

There was no report from the SRC Member for University Accommodation.

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

There was no report from the SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation.

7.21. Report of the SRC Postgraduate Convenor

There was no report from the SRC Postgraduate Convenor.

7.22. Report of the SRC Wellbeing Officer.

There was no report from the SRC Wellbeing Officer.

7.23. Any Other Competent Reports

There were no other competent reports.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. Open Discussion

There was no business for Open Discussion.

11. Any Other Competent Business

The meeting adjourned at 2044.