



University of St Andrews

Students' Association

Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 7th April - Committee Room, 6pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Charlotte Potter	Arts/Divinity Faculty President
Charlotte Andrew	Association Alumni Officer
Zara Evans	Association Chair
Clare Armstrong	Association Community Relations Officer
Pat Mathewson	Association President
Ondrej Hajda	Association Director of Representation
Alice Pickthall	Association Environment & Ethics Officer
Sigrid Jorgensen	Association LGBT Officer
Annie Newman	Rector's Assessor
Katy Rae	Science/Medicine Faculty President
Nils Turner	SRC Employability Officer
Omar Ali	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
Holly Johnston	SRC Member for First Years
Alice Lecointe	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Adam Stromme	SRC Member for International Students
Aysha Marty	SRC Member for Mature Students
Kate Mayer	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
Jackie Ashkin	SRC Member for Racial Equality
Maxwell Spiers	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
Miriam Chappell	SRC Wellbeing Officer

In Attendance

Eleanor Mullin	Arts/Divinity Faculty President-Elect
Chris MacRae	Association Director of Events and Services-Elect
Joe Tantillo	Association Director of Representation-Elect
Kyle Blain	Association Director of Student Development and Activities-Elect
Louise McCaul	Science/Medical Science Faculty President-Elect
Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Ilaria Gidoro	Education and Representation Co-ordinator

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr Mathewson moved that the committee consider motion J.15-15 before any other business. Ms Evans noted that the agenda should be amended to include 'open discussion' as point 10.

The agenda was adopted, as amended, without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	Reason	Proxy Vote
Fay Morrice	Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Medical	Kyle Blain
Leon O'Rourke	Association Director of Events and Services	Attending event	Joe Tantillo
Sarah Thompson	President of the Athletic Union	Attending event	Kyle Blain
Alex Ciric	SRC Accommodation Officer		
Toby Emerson	SRC External Campaigns Officer	Out of Country	Annie Newman
Tania Struetzel	Postgraduate Convener		

The apologies were accepted without dissent.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Councils meeting of 31 March would follow.

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.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Athletic Union President

Mr Hajda presented a report from Ms Thompson.

Applications for the AU Exec would close on Friday, The successful Colour Run event from semester 1 was to be repeated on 22nd April at 3pm at the Sports Centre, in aid of international volunteering projects: tickets available through the Association website, members were asked to help publicise this effort.

6.2 Report of the Association President

Mr Hajda presented a report from Mr Mathewson.

He said that the Association was collecting information on substandard accommodation for Fife Council and asked members to forward details of any properties they knew of that might be of interest to the Student Advocate (Accommodation) on nla5@st-andrews.ac.uk. There would also be an Accommodation Open Forum tomorrow at 5pm in the School of Medicine.

The Alumni Festival would take place on 17th-19th April. Also on alumni matters, the University's Development Office were hoping to launch a new crowdfunding platform for use by societies in raising money from alumni.

6.3 Report of the Association Director of Events and Services

Mr Hajda presented a report from Mr O'Rourke.

Graduation Ball tickets were now on sale and preparations were well in hand. The first STAR Live Lounge event would take place in Rectors' on Saturday 11th at 6pm: it would be recorded and broadcast on STAR. The event would showcase student talent.

6.4 Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

Ms Morrice submitted a report via email before the meeting.

Ms Morrice reported that there is now a pricing structure for the Byre, she reported that she was still working on The Scott Lang Dinner and that On the Rocks was happening.

6.5 Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Hajda reported that nominations for the annual Teaching Awards were now open and would run until 17th April. He was also working on voter registration for the UK General Election, with registration drives in halls, the Library, and on the North Haugh.

HLM nominations would open next week.

Mr Hajda forewarned the Council that he would be bringing a motion to clarify the membership status of students on leave of absence, hopefully to the next meeting.

Mr Hajda reported that the University's Learning and Teaching Committee were working on agreeing a set of guidelines for undergraduate dissertations. Association representatives were pressing for minimum standards on supervision of around 5 hours for a 30 credit dissertation (pro rata to credit loading) and for joint Honours dissertations to be allowed. There was some pushback on these issues.

Mr Hajda noted that he would be absent next week.

7. Questions for committees

7.4. Association LGBT Committee

Ms Jorgensen reported that the committee was almost complete.

7.7. SRC Education Committee

Ms Potter reminded members of the upcoming 'Women in Academia' even and that tickets were still available.

7.8. SRC Employability Committee

Mr Turner stated that he intended to amend the membership of this committee and would discuss this with Mr Hajda and Mr Tantillo.

7.9. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Committee

Mr Ali raised the issue of members of the Equal Opps committee attending other subcommittees (including SSC subcommittees) to ask questions. It was agreed that this should be explored further.

7.11. SRC Wellbeing Committee

Ms Lecointe asked about the letter regarding sexual health provision in the University (see motion R.15-1) and whether an alternative day for the clinic might be an issue worth raising, as Wednesday afternoons were more free for most students than Tuesdays. Ms Chappell said this might not be feasible. Ms Rae suggested that the present wording might be amended. Ms Chappell said that at present the text was a draft and she would be happy to get feedback.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New General Business

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

OWNER: Pat Mathewson

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: April 2016

THIS SSC & SRC NOTE:

1. The Association's Strategic Plan holds 'engaging with alumni in a meaningful way' as a core objective of our three year strategy.
2. Efforts are currently underway to make a student-driven alumni approach a reality, including the forthcoming Alumni Festival Weekend in April 2015.
3. Barriers still exist to the ease with which Alumni can access the union, relying principally on the mechanism of Life Membership.
4. Revenue from new and replacement Life Memberships issued in this academic year totalled £145.
5. There is an insufficient mechanism for data capture of which alumni are visiting the union.
6. The union has until now had no database to verify the authenticity of an alumnus who presents at the door on a given evening. This has now been rectified with the assistance of the Development Office.

THIS SSC & SRC BELIEVES:

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

THIS SSC & SRC RESOLVES:

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

PROPOSED:

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

SECONDED:

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

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

Some concern was raised about how this would affect the award of HLMs. It was agreed that there was a need to examine and revamp the ways in which the Association

acknowledged outstanding student contributions, including HLMs. Mr Tantillo presented two amendments to the motion to achieve this, as follows:

Amendment 1:

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

Proposed: Joe Tantillo, seconded: Miriam Chappell

Adopted without dissent

Amendment 2:

Add Resolves clause 4: “To mandate the Director of Representation and the Director of Student Development and Activities to look at the Association awards system and revamp it by the end of semester 1 of the next academic year.”

Proposed: Joe Tantillo, seconded: Charlotte Andrew

Adopted without dissent

Amendment 3:

Mr Cupples noted that the wording of Resolves clause 2 was problematic as the SRC was not competent to mandate staff. An amendment was proposed to alter the word ‘mandate’ in this clause to ‘suggest’.

Proposed: Joe Tantillo, seconded: Kyle Blain

Adopted without dissent.

With these amendments, the motion was **adopted without dissent**.

Mr Hajda asked about practicalities of implementing the motion, including time frames, training for staff, etc. Mr Cupples said that these would be discussed by the management team with the sabbaticals’ input.

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

OWNER: Elections Committee

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: N/A

THIS SSC & SRC NOTE:

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

THIS SRC & SSC BELIEVE:

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

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

- To hold a referendum on 19-20 November 2015 on the question “Should the University of St Andrews Students’ Association join the National Union of Students? Yes or No.”
- To request the Students’ Association Board (SAB) to commission independent information on the costs of affiliation, to be published as part of the referendum campaign.
- To instruct the Elections Committee to draw up rules for the conduct of the campaign.
- To hold another NUS referendum, regardless of the result, in November 2018.

PROPOSED:

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

Mr Hajda introduced the motion by summarising the details of the referendum held in 2012. He noted that this motion was not in favour of joining NUS but of asking the students to decide whether to join.

Ms Newman asked if the Councils were constitutionally bound by the amendment passed in 2012. Mr Cupples said that the general understanding was that they were not, as Councils could overturn policies passed by previous Councils. Mr Blain asked about the level of turnout required for a referendum to be binding: this was 20%. The 2012 referendum had a turnout of 30%, lower than in Association elections but over the binding level. Mr Ali asked about the rationale for revisiting the question after three years - Mr Hajda explained that he believed this was to allow every undergraduate the opportunity to vote on the issue at least once in their time at St Andrews. Mr Tantillo asked about costs: it was noted that in addition to campaign expenses, the last referendum on this issue had involved substantial time commitment from staff, sabbaticals, volunteers and the Board. Mr Stromme asked if there was indication of desire from students to revisit this issue. Mr Hajda said that he had been approached by students aware that a referendum was due.

Mr Blain proposed an amendment to **strike Resolves clause 4**. This was seconded by Mr Ali. Ms Rae **objected**.

There was considerable discussion of the merits of holding a referendum, centred around the question of whether the SRC should initiate a vote or do so in response to a petition from students, which would demonstrate a genuine desire to vote: and whether a regular vote prompted by a previous SRC’s views was desirable.

Mr Ali moved to vote on the amendment: the vote was as follows.

Arts/Divinity Faculty President	Charlotte Potter	No
Association Alumni Officer	Charlotte Andrew	Aye
Association Community Relations Officer	Clare Armstrong	Aye
Association Director of Events and Services	Leon O'Rourke	Aye
Association Director of Representation	Ondrej Hajda	No
Association Director of Student Development and Activities	Fay Morrice	Aye
Association Environment and Ethics Officer	Alice Pickthall	Aye
Association LGBT Officer	Sigrid Jorgensen	No
Association President	Pat Mathewson	Aye
President of the Athletic Union	Sarah Thompson	Aye
Science/Medical Science Faculty President	Katy Rae	No
SRC Employability Officer	Nils Turner	Aye
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Omar Ali	Aye
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Toby Emerson	Aye
SRC Member for Racial Equality	Jackie Ashkin	Aye
SRC Member for First Year	Holly Johnston	Aye
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Alice Lecointe	Aye
SRC Member for International Students	Adam Stromme	Aye
SRC Member for Mature Students	Aysha Marty	Aye
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Kate Mayer	Aye
SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation	Maxwell Spiers	Aye
SRC Wellbeing Officer	Miriam Chappell	No

With 17 members in the affirmative and 5 in the negative, the amendment was adopted.

Mr Ali then moved to strike Believes clause 2, as with the removal of Resolves clause 4 this no longer made sense. Ms Lecointe seconded. This amendment was **adopted without dissent**.

Mr Mathewson moved to vote on the motion as a whole. Mr Tantillo seconded. The vote was as follows:

Arts/Divinity Faculty President	Charlotte Potter	Aye
Association Alumni Officer	Charlotte Andrew	No
Association Community Relations Officer	Clare Armstrong	No
Association Director of Events and Services	Leon O'Rourke	No

Association Director of Representation	Ondrej Hajda	Aye
Association Director of Student Development and Activities	Fay Morrice	No
Association Environment and Ethics Officer	Alice Pickthall	No
Association LGBT Officer	Sigrid Jorgensen	Aye
Association President	Pat Mathewson	No
President of the Athletic Union	Sarah Thompson	No
Science/Medical Science Faculty President	Katy Rae	No
SRC Employability Officer	Nils Turner	No
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Omar Ali	No
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Toby Emerson	No
SRC Member for Racial Equality	Jackie Ashkin	Aye
SRC Member for First Year	Holly Johnston	No
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Alice Lecointe	No
SRC Member for International Students	Adam Stromme	No
SRC Member for Mature Students	Aysha Marty	No
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Kate Mayer	No
SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation	Maxwell Spiers	No
SRC Wellbeing Officer	Miriam Chappell	Aye

With 5 members in the affirmative and 17 in the negative, the motion was not adopted.

Ms Evans clarified for members that this motion would still go to SSC for consideration at their next meeting. If their vote differed from the SRC, the matter would go to the Executive committee.

9.3. R.15-1 A MOTION TO LOBBY FOR ADEQUATE PROVISION OF SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES IN ST. ANDREWS

OWNER: Wellbeing Committee

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: September 2015

THIS SRC NOTES:

1. That the NHS Sexual Health Fife runs a Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic every Tuesday 12.30-4.30pm during term time in Eden Court.
2. The Director of Representation and the Wellbeing Committee received numerous complaints from students about the long waiting time, exceeding 3 weeks, in the Eden Court Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic.

3. The University of St Andrews Student Services have been in discussion with NHS Sexual Health Fife about expanding the provision of the Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic for over 12 months.

THIS SRC BELIEVES:

1. The promotion of positive sexual health is an important responsibility of the Students' Association.
2. The NHS Sexual Health Fife should ensure adequate provision of sexual health services for members of the Students' Association and the wider community.
3. The long waiting time at the Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic in Eden Court is detrimental to promotion of positive sexual health in St Andrews.

THIS SRC RESOLVES:

1. To express support to the efforts of Student Services to increase the provision of sexual health services at the Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic.
2. To mandate the Wellbeing Committee to lobby NHS Sexual Health Fife and other appropriate bodies on expanding the Contraception and Sexual Clinic in Eden Court to reduce waiting time and ensure adequate provision of sexual health services in St Andrews.

PROPOSED:

WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Ondrej Hajda Director of Representation

Joe Tantillo Director-Elect of Representation

Ms Chappell introduced the motion, saying that the letter to NHS Fife that would support the lobbying effort was still a draft (as noted earlier) and that the University had been discussing this issue with NHS Fife for a year now.

Ms Rae asked if there was alternative provision within St Andrews and it was noted that the Eden Court clinic was specifically for students, but that in addition there was a clinic for the whole population (including students) at the Community Hospital. Mr Hajda proposed amending the title of the motion to insert the word 'student' in front of 'sexual health services' to clarify this. Mr Ali seconded. This amendment was **adopted without dissent**.

The motion as amended was adopted without dissent.

10. Open Discussion

Mr Hajda asked for volunteers to help clean up after the May Dip, and for the voter registration event.

Mr Tantillo asked for input for Councils training on Friday.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Ms Evans emphasised that subcommittee minutes should be copied to admin staff on cem4@st-andrews.ac.uk and cf5@st-andrews.ac.uk. She reminded members about the Councils photo and the clothing order.

The meeting adjourned.