



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council Student Services Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 17 November 2015 – Committee Room – 7.15pm

Present

Member's Name

Eleanor Mullin
Charlotte Andrews
Zara Evans
Clare Armstrong
Chris MacRae
Joe Tantillo
Kyle Blain
Sigrid Jorgensen
Pat Mathewson
Sarah Thompson
Annie Newman
Louise McCaul
Alexandre Ciric
Nils Turner
Toby Emerson
Jackie Ashkin
Holly Johnston
Kate Mayer
Melissa Turner
Tania Struetzel
Miriam Chappell
Amy Christison
Alyssa Muzyk
Annabel Romanos
Caroline Christie
Jo Bowman
Robert Dixon
Julian Valladares Urruela

Position

Arts/Divinity Faculty President
Association Alumni Officer
Association Chair
Association Community Relations Officer
Association Director of Events and Services
Association Director of Representation
Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Association LGBT Officer
Association President
President of the Athletic Union
Rector's Assessor
Science/Medicine Faculty President
SRC Accommodation Officer
SRC Employability Officer
SRC External Campaigns Officer
SRC Member for Racial Equality
SRC Member for First Years
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
SRC Postgraduate Convenor
SRC Welfare Officer
SSC Charities Officer
SSC Debates Officer
SSC Member without Portfolio
SSC On the Rocks Convener
SSC Performing Arts Officer
SSC Societies Officer
SSC Volunteering Officer

In Attendance

Iain Cupples
Ilaria Gidoro
Joseph Cassidy

Education Advocate
Education and Representation Coordinator (Minutes)
The Saint

Absent

Nicola Kennedy	Principal Ambassador
Alice Lecointe	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Bruce Kerr	SSC Broadcasting Officer
Karla McDougall	SSC Design Team Convener
Lavin Ge Tian	SSC Entertainments Convenor
Tierney Riordan	SSC External Funding Officer

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr Tantillo proposed to move item 5.1 after item 2. Mr Blain seconded.

With no objection, the agenda was amended.

The agenda was adopted, as amended, without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	Reason
Alice Pickthall	Association Environment and Ethics Officer	
Omar Ali	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	
Adam Stromme	SRC Member for International Students	
Aysha Marty	SRC Member for Mature Students	
Ipek Ozsoy	SSC Music Officer	
Aline Heyerick	SSC Postgraduate Officer	

3. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

3.1 Report of the Athletic Union President

- Looking for history interns;
- Interviewing for the Zambia and South Africa International Projects.

3.2 Report of the Association President

- Negotiating on rent with the director of RBS;
- Principal selection is ongoing and the new principal will be appointed in January;
- Working on the University Security Policy, and to provide public liability insurance for events;
- Working on an environmental policy;
- Looking for history interns;
- Looking for designers (paid positions).

3.3. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

- Working on Refreshers' Week;
- Planning to carry out reviews of the PR team;
- House Party Bop this week;
- Looking for students interested in the Battle of the Bands competition.

Ms Turner asked if it would be possible to make the Fayre more accessible to student parents. Mr MacRae said he would look into this.

Action: Mr MacRae to think of a way to make Refreshers' Fayre more accessible for students with children.

3.4. Report of the Association Director of Representation

- Had review of the School of Psychology and Neuroscience;
- Review of the School of Art History coming soon;
- Attending subcommittees meetings;
- Stress-relief event with puppies on 4 December.

3.5 Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

- Re-affiliation deadline has passed;
- The Principal office wants to make a goodbye video and is looking for students willing to be in the video;
- Scot Laing committee to be made—email me if interested in a position;

Action: Email dosda@ to find out which positions are available and how to apply, if interested.

- Asked all to advertise the Student Project Fund;

Action: All to advertise the Student Project Fund.

- Room booking for sub-committees starts today—double check at reception that your booking is in place for next year;
- University Challenge Team is up;
- Refreshers' Fayre table allocation will open at the beginning of December;
- There are PG members in 6 subcommittees.

5. New General Joint Business

5.1 J.15-27- A Motion to Cancel the NUS Referendum 2015

This SRC & SSC Notes:

1. The NUS Referendum is scheduled for the 19th & 20th of November.
2. The YES campaign team does not exist, despite notice and opportunity for creation.
3. The original 2015 YES campaign team resigned prompting an EGM.
4. An EGM was held to elect a new YES spokesperson on 11th November 2015 at 9pm and no one stood for election.
5. The NUS Referendum was approved by a split decision in the Councils in Spring of 2015.

This SRC & SSC Believes:

1. There is no student appetite for an NUS referendum evidenced by a low turnout at both AGMs and no student participation in the YES campaign team.

This SRC & SSC Resolves:

To cancel the NUS Affiliation Referendum scheduled for the 2015/16 academic session.

PROPOSED:

The Elections Committee

Mr Tantillo introduced the motion. Last April, the motion *J.15-15 A Motion to Hold NUS Referendum* was passed by SSC after the chair decided to use her casting vote to pass the motion, as the vote was tied. In SRC, on the contrary, the motion had not been approved. The motion was presented to SAEC, where it was approved. On 6 October 2015, the rules of the Referendum were approved and advertised. 8 students attended the NO campaign team AGM and 2 people attended the YES AGM. However, the two spokespeople of the YES team recently resigned. The Elections Committee decided to hold an EGM to elect new spokespeople for the YES. Only one person attended this meeting, but there were no candidates. Mr Tantillo highlighted the lack of interest in the cause since the beginning and proposed to cancel the NUS Referendum.

Ms Chappell asked how the publicity of the Referendum was run, as this had been criticised by the two YES resigning spokespeople. Mr Tantillo replied that the EGM was advertised in the weekly student email from the Sabbs and in a separate email. He remarked that the Students' Association is unbiased and, therefore, they could not push advertisement more.

Mr Emerson stressed that there is not enough student engagement on the issue, as well as for other things that the Students' Association does. Thus, he proposed the following:

Amendment One to J.15-27: 'To mandate the Sabbs (in association with other relevant councils' members) to conduct research into student engagement and participation and produce a report for circulation to councils before the dissolution of this council.'

Ms Turner seconded.

Mr Mathewson explained that there is data that shows that students are engaged with the Union, including the fact that many more students are now part of a society compared to the past years.

With no objections, Amendment One passed.

Further debate on the main body of the motion: Mr Dixon stressed that holding a referendum with nobody to represent the YES option would be unfair.

With no objections, the motion was adopted.

Members of SSC could leave the meeting.

The council relocated to The Beacon Bar.

6. New General SRC Business

6.1 J.15-26- A Motion to Reform the Association Councils

This SRC/SSC notes:

1. Reforming the Association Councils, specifically the SRC, has been a recurring theme over the past fifteen years.
2. Historically there have been efforts to reform the SRC in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2010, 2012 and 2014.
3. A mini workshop was held with this year's SRC to try to get a better idea of what the perceived problems are.

This SRC/SSC believes:

1. The Officers/Members of the SRC are frequently very successful in their individual roles and there are some wonderful projects happening as the result of their hard work.
2. However, the SRC is currently a body which focuses on legal and administrative changes and does not wholly fulfil its purpose as being a 'representative body'.
3. Ideally, the SRC would have more meaningful discussions about representative issues which effect the student body.
4. The way in which the SRC currently operates is not conducive to this kind of meaningful discussion.
5. Previous efforts to reform the SRC have focussed primarily on the SRC and neglected looking at how reformation of the SRC's relationship with SAEC and SSC could have a positive impact.
6. Changing the relationship of the SRC to the SAEC and SSC would provide an environment in which the representative functions of the SRC would be better fulfilled.
7. The SAEC should be expanded and devolved more administrative power to allow the SRC to focus less on legal changes and more on representative issues.
8. The SRC should meet at least five times an academic year, and whenever necessary, so that there is more substantive representative business to be discussed.
9. The Association Councils should be reformed.

This SRC/SSC resolves:

1. To report the following amendments to the Laws and Standing Orders to SAB with the recommendation that they pass.
2. To implement these changes upon the dissolution of these Association Councils.

Proposed

Zara Evans
Association Chair

Annie Newman
Rector's Assessor

Charlotte Andrew
Association Alumni Officer

Seconded

Pat Mathewson
Association President

Joe Tantillo
DoRep

Sarah Thompson
AU President

Kyle Blain
DoSDA

Chris MacRae
DoES

Ms Evans vacated the chair.

Ms Jorgensen took the chair.

Ms Evans introduced the motion and encouraged all to ask questions and debate the motion in order to understand it well. She reported that this is not a new issue, as the councils had been working on it since 1999. She explained that the SRC seems to neglect its representative side while focusing on more administrative aspects. This motion would also contribute to an expansion of the Executive Committee (addition of two members), which would carry out the administrative tasks currently done by SRC and would meet on a weekly basis. The aim of the motion is to reinvigorate the councils and increase their efficiency.

Amendment One to J.15-26, which had previously been passed by SSC, was presented: **Ms Heyerick had proposed to amend the word “effect” into “affect” in point 3 of the believes. Ms Evans seconded.**

With no objection, Amendment One was adopted.

Ms Struetzel noted that SRC would meet less often and asked how SRC members can produce more in fewer meetings. Ms Evans replied that they are trying to lead to a cultural change and they want to change the attitude towards SRC: it should be seen as a less administrative and more representational body, where students feel free to participate in the open forum. They would also need to advertise the open forum more. Moreover, the open forum would still happen in SSC, students can present items at SAEC, or can ask for an emergency SRC meeting.

The councils noted that there is no clarity on what SRC members are supposed to do at the moment.

Ms Struetzel asked how the proposers were planning to bring the aforementioned cultural change in SRC. Ms Evans replied that this motion is meant to tackle the main efficiency issue that SRC has at the moment and, as a consequence of this, the cultural change could follow.

An amendment was proposed by Ms Mullin: **Amendment Two to J.15-26: To change the word “bi-monthly” in 10.2.1.3 into “fortnightly”. Seconded by Ms Evans.**

With no objections, the amendment passed.

Ms Struetzel noted that there was no review date for this motion.

Amendment Three to J.15-26: To insert point 3 in the resolves: “3. To mandate the Councils to review this motion after the first semester of the new Councils being in place.” Proposed by Ms Struetzel. Seconded by Ms Evans.

With no objections, the amendment passed.

Ms Mullin asked if the proposers had any strategies in mind to ensure that more diverse members would candidate themselves for SAEC. Mr Tantillo replied that this is a different issue that has to do with newer councillors having fewer chances to be elected for SAEC positions because they have less experience. Ms Evans stated that they should investigate this point and

discuss it further. Ms Chappell proposed that members of SAEC could be elected each semester to ensure there is more change.

Amendment Four of J.15-26: To insert point 4 in the resolves: “4. To mandate the current members of SAEC to review how members of Councils are carved up to SAEC.” Proposed by Ms Evans. Seconded by Ms Newman.

With no objections, the amendment passed.

Further discussion on the main body of the motion:

Mr Tantillo stressed that Councils need this change because they—especially SRC—got worse with time. SRC should work on policies to solve students’ problems. The changes proposed in this motion would give councillors more time to focus on the tasks that they are actually supposed to carry out.

Ms Ashkin reflected on the student engagement issue and said that the student body is not aware of what SRC councillors do and what power they have in the University. Ms Turner agreed with Ms Ashkin on the problem of student engagement with the Councils. Ms Struetzel stated that other Students’ Associations in the UK have annual surveys about student Councils and suggested that SRC and SSC do it, too. Ms Mullin said that the Councils should find a way to make it more encouraging for people to come along. Ms Andrews reminded that the Sabbs will carry out a research on student engagement, as proposed in Amendment One to J.15-27- A Motion to Cancel the NUS Referendum 2015.

Ms Andrew moved to a vote. Ms Struetzel seconded.

Ms Turner asked for a roll call vote. Ms Evans seconded.

All members voted in the affirmative.

With 21 members in the affirmative and 0 members in the negative, the motion was adopted.

Ms Jorgensen vacated the chair.

Ms Evans took the chair.

Ms Evans stated that SAEC should meet again in order to consider the amendments.

7. New General SSC Business

There was no new general SSC business.

8. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

The meeting adjourned.

