



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 16 February 2016 – Committee Room – 6pm

Present

Member's Name

Eleanor Mullin
Charlotte Andrew
Zara Evans
Clare Armstrong
Chris MacRae
Joe Tantillo
Kyle Blain
Sigrid Jorgensen
Annie Newman
Louise McCaul
Alexandre Ciric
Omar Ali
Nils Turner
Toby Emerson
Jackie Ashkin
Holly Johnston
Alice Lecointe
Adam Stromme
Aysha Marty
Kate Mayer
Annabel Romanos

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
Rector's Assessor
Science/Medicine Faculty President
SRC Accommodation Officer
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
SRC Employability Officer
SRC External Campaigns Officer
SRC Member for Racial Equality
SRC Member for First Years
SRC Member for Gender Equality
SRC Member for International Students
SRC Member for Mature Students
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
SSC Member without Portfolio

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Education Advocate
Ilaria Gidoro	Education and Representation Coordinator (Minutes)
Lewis Wood	Student

Absent

Nicola Kennedy	Principal Ambassador
VACANT	SRC Postgraduate Convenor

1. Adoption of the Agenda

It was decided to change the agenda and discuss first the motion J.16-6, then J.16-4, and then J.16-3.

The agenda was amended without dissent.

The agenda was adopted, as amended, without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position
Alice Pickthall	Association Environment and Ethics Officer
Pat Mathewson	Association President
Sarah Thompson	President of the Athletic Union
Melissa Turner	Member for Widening Access and Participation
Miriam Chappell	SRC Welfare Officer

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting would be circulated by email.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

N/A

5. Open Forum

There was no business in the open forum.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the President of the Athletic Union

Ms Thompson was not present.

6.2 Report of the Association President

Mr Mathewson was not present.

6.3 Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Mr MacRae was still looking for registrations for the Battle of the Bands. He also informed that graduation ball would be on Saturday 25th June.

6.4 Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

Mr Blain commented on the room booking system, saying that, this year, they had more bookings than ever before. He encouraged members to talk to him if they were struggling. RAG week was successful and they raised more than ever before. He was also preparing for Scott Lang. Lastly, a team of students was going to play at University Challenge.

6.5 Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Tantillo encouraged all final year students to complete the NSS and spread the word. Teaching awards nominations had opened the day before, as well as the Proctor's award, which is for exceptional academic representatives. He reminded all to send their role descriptions to Ilaria

asap. Elections nominations were happening in 12 days. He was working on rewriting the class reps training.

7. Questions for Committees

7.1. Questions for Association Alumni Committee

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7.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Committee

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7.3 Questions for Association Environment Committee

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7.4 Questions for Association LGBT Committee

LGBT had a very busy week, with Queer Fest selling out in 3 minutes.

7.5. Questions for Rector's Committee

Ms Newman was going to interview for the role of Rector's Assessor after the elections.

7.6 Questions for SRC Accommodation Committee

The senior students meeting happened recently. They were trying to standardising all halls' handover processes. Mr Ciric was helping Mr Tantillo with elections.

7.7 Questions for SRC Education Committee

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7.8. Questions for SRC Employability Committee

Mr Turner announced that the Speakers' Fund had been approved for the sum of £5000. It was supposed to cover accommodation and travel costs for speakers at employability events. There were also additional funds from the employability committee's budget and the EDF. Mr Ali asked how to apply for the speakers' fund. Mr Turner replied that it was possible to apply through your School's employability reps, who apply to the careers centre directly.

7.9. Questions for SRC Equal Opportunities Committee

Mr Ali was working on a motion to restructure the committee and working on the handover document. He was organising an event for the 8th march.

7.10. Questions for SRC External Campaigns Committee

Mr Emerson was working with Mr Ali and Ms Jorgensen on the zero tolerance motion.

7.11. Questions for SRC Wellbeing Committee

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7.12. Any Other Competent Questions

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8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished general business.

9. New General Business

9.1 J.16-3-Motion To Change And Strengthen The Student's Association Zero Tolerance Policy

Ms Jorgensen introduced the motion. The zero tolerance policy was limited to sexual harassment, but they wanted to include all forms of harassment, including bullying. They also removed part of the original policy, which was too difficult to implement, and removed the gender language.

Debate was opened on the motion. Ms Andrew was in favour of the motion and asked what would happen to a person who is accused of an offense? Mr Cupples replied that the accusation would go to him and they would investigate it. The discipline procedure makes it clear that a person accused of an offense would be suspended from entry until the Students' Association has time to investigate, which usually takes no more than 2 or 3 weeks.

Ms Ashkin commented on the part on racial harassment and stated that references to skin colour are not necessarily negative. She suggested the proposers clarify what cultural difference is. She proposed to take out the reference to skin colour and to cultural difference by striking the 2nd and 4th bullet points. Ms Jorgensen seconded. Mr Tantillo proposed, instead, to include "negative reference to skin colour" to the bullet point. Ms Ashkin withdrew her amendment and proposed **Amendment One to J.16-3**, to add "reference to skin colour" to the first bullet point. **Ms Jorgensen seconded. With no objections, Amendment One to J.16-3 passed.**

Ms Andrew mentioned that members of staff could overhear a racist remark made to a friend as a joke and report it as an offense. Mr Cupples replied that, if somebody made a sexist joke, for instance, they would still create a sense that this sort of remarks is tolerated in the Union. Ms Andrew did not agree. Mr Cupples replied that, in such cases, he would investigate the case and, if he did not think that it was serious, the case would not go to the disciplinary committee. If people were not happy with the decision, they could make a complaint.

Ms Ashkin proposed **Amendment Two** to J.16-3, to change "ethnic origin" into "ethnicity" in the text of the motion. **Ms Jorgensen seconded. With no objections, Amendment Two to J.16-3 passed.**

Mr Tantillo moved to vote. Ms Jorgensen seconded. With no objections, the motion J.16-3 was accepted.

9.2. J.16-6-A Motion to Redefine the Aims of the Education Committee

Ms Mullin and Ms McCaul explained the motion, which was proposed by Mr Tantillo and seconded by the Education Committee and had the purpose to clarify the aims of the committee.

There was no debate on the motion. **With no objections, the motion J.16-6 was accepted.**

9.3. J. 16-4- Motion to Reform the Membership & Role of the Equal Opportunities Committee

Mr Ali introduced the motion, which had already been passed by the SSC, and stated that there was an amendment to consider first. Amendment One to J.16-4:

Find amendment

Ms McCaul asked why they had chosen to use the wording “age equality”. Mr Ali explained that this included people who have just graduated, parents, mature students, etc. Mr Tantillo noted that the University classifies mature students as over 28 years old. Ms McCaul thought that this term would be more confusing.

With no objections, Amendment One to J.16-4 was accepted.

Debate was opened on the motion J.16-4, as amended. Omar explained that Student Services cannot give information or lists of students with disabilities to the Member for students with disabilities because of confidentiality reasons. Thus, they decided to move the Member for Disabilities to the Wellbeing committee.

The Faculty Presidents asked why they had not been contacted to discuss the parts of the motion that involved the Education Committee. They felt that the crossover did exist, but not in a sufficient amount to ask the Member for students with disabilities to sit on Education Committee, or vice versa. Moreover, they did not feel they should be equipped with that task because it involves disabilities, which did not fall under their remit. Mr Ali replied that it would only be on an opt-in basis. Mr Tantillo explained that he first proposed this to Mr Ali before talking to the FPs. However, after talking with the School Presidents, he understood that 98.7% of their time on EduCom is spent on academic issues only. There would not be a lot in EduCom meetings for the Member for students with disabilities. It would be more efficient to invite any officers only when there is something important to discuss that relates to them.

Mr Ali proposed Amendment Two to J.16-4: ‘to strike all references to the Education Committee from the text of the motion’. The Faculty Presidents seconded. With no objections, Amendment Two to J.16-4 passed.

Mr Tantillo proposed that one Arts School President and one Science School President could be invited to meetings of the Equal Opportunities subcommittee when there is something relevant. Mr Blain reminded that it is already the case that every subcommittee can invite people when they think there is a need. He thought they did not need to add this to the motion.

Ms Jorgensen proposed Amendment Three to J.16-4: ‘To strike 4.5.1. and replace it with: “To provide incoming students with more resources upon their arrival, to ensure minimal difficulty in their transition into University life.” Mr Ali seconded. With no objections, Amendment Three to J.16-4 passed.

Ms Newman proposed to strike point 3 of the notes. Mr Ali seconded. Mr Stromme stated that he had initial reservations about eliminating his role of Member for international students. However,

what he did in his role was not enough to have both his role and that of the member for racial equality. The two roles necessarily overlapped. Ms Newman withdrew her amendment.

Mr Cupples spoke, since Ms Turner, the Member for mature students, was not present. He explained that some people do not like being classified as mature students. Moreover, the term only includes students aged above 28, but students in their early 20s who start University might also have different needs.

Mr Ali moved to vote on the motion. Ms Jorgensen seconded. With no objections, the motion J.16-4 was approved, as amended.

9.4. J.16-5- A Motion to Amend the SSC Union Debating Society Committee Selection

The SSC Debating Officer was not present to explain the motion. Ms McCaul asked how many subcommittees have appointed treasurers. Mr Blain replied that almost every subcommittee has a treasurer. Ms Andrew explained that the Debates Society had been given a fund and they needed a specific person to administer it.

With no objections, motion J16-5 was approved.

10. Open discussion

Mr Tantillo said that he was working with Ondrej on strategies to increase student engagement with elections. He asked everyone to write a short 100-word statement on why they would encourage somebody to run for their position.

Ms Newman asked what the news were on the Postgraduate representative role. Mr Tantillo replied that a paper would go to Board the following week. He was not able to discuss it because the paper was confidential.

11. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

The meeting adjourned.