



**University of St Andrews
Students' Association
Joint Councils**

MINUTES

Tuesday 14th February 2017 –The Stage, 6pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Charlotte Andrew	Association President
Taryn O'Connor	Director of Events and Services
Jack Carr	Director of Representation
Caroline Christie	Director of Student Development and Activities
Ben Peddie	Athletic Union President
Sally Allmark	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Rebecca Ryce	Association Alumni Officer
Mariya Simeonova	Association Environment Officer
Aine Bennett	Association Community Relations Officer
Robert Aston	Association Equal Opportunities Officer
Lewis Wood	Association LGBT Officer
Dylan Bruce	Rector's Assessor
Pia Szabo	SSC Societies Officer
Charlotte Flatley	SSC Broadcasting Officer (STAR)
Emma Seckel	Principal Ambassador
Louise McCaul	Science and Medicine Faculty President
Catrina Crookes	SCR Member for Gender Equality
Christopher Wilde	SCR Member for Widening Access and Participation
Jennie Matthews	SRC Accommodation Officer
Lorraine Callaghan	SRC Member for Age Equality
Sam Ross	SRC Member for First Years
Paige Onouye	SRC Member Without Portfolio
Euan Grant	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
Alison Holiday	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer
Nick Farrer	SRC Wellbeing Officer
Francis Newman	SSC Employability Officer
Beckie Thomas	SSC Debates Officer
Ariana Brighenti	Postgraduate Officer
Jamie Minns	SSC Member without Portfolio
Alasdair Milne	SSC Music Officer
Lottie Haswell-West	SSC Arts Festival Convenor
Annabel Ekelund	SSC Performing Arts Officer

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Joseph Cassidy	The Saint
Adam Stromme	Socialist Society
Matthew Lansdell	Mermaids
Caroline McWilliams	Mermaids

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Apologies and Absence

Member's Name	Position	
Catriona Crookes	SRC Member for Gender Equality	Absent
Kristen Tsubota	SSC Charities Officer	Apologies
Ben Peddie	Athletic Union President	Apologies
Taylor Almaraz	SSC Design Convenor	Absent
Hannah Jacobs	Ents Convenor	Apologies
Sarah Rodway-Swanson	SSC Volunteering Officer	Absent

The apologies were accepted without dissent.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To be circulated by email.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Due to the resignation of the Association Chair, Sigrid Jorgensen, Lewis Wood as SRC Senior Officer chaired the meeting.

5. Open Forum

Joseph Cassidy, a representative from The Saint, asked why Lewis Wood was chairing. Lewis Wood responded saying that the Association President, Charlotte Andrew, would address the matter in her report.

Adam Stromme, as a representative of the Socialist Society, spoke to Joint Councils regarding the recent St Andrews march protesting Donald Trump's travel ban, and the petition the Society had circulated with 168 signatures. He urged Councils to support the petition and take action. The Association President asked councillors what their opinion was on the matter, urging that they make a statement against the travel ban and to sign the petition as the SRC. A discussion followed addressing the appropriateness of the SRC signing a petition, particularly when there might be

students that support the travel ban and the Republican party. The decision was taken that as individuals those who chose to do so could sign the petition, although the SRC would not as a body sign it. A statement was drawn up supporting the values espoused in the petition to be circulated by the Association President to the student body that week.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Association President

The Association President started her report explaining that the Association Chair had decided to resign. She thanked the former Association Chair for her time and dedication to the Students' Association, asking that councillors do the same when/if they met Sigrid Jorgensen in town.

The Brexit forum chaired by the Association President had been successful and it is likely the format would be replicated as Brexit negotiations continue. The Principal and the rest of the senior leadership team were impressed with the quality and nature of the questions asked by students.

The Albany redevelopment forum the previous week was very productive. The President will conduct a forum with Albany students every six weeks concerning developments and decisions made regarding their Hall of residence.

Hall committee training is in development, and a review of the Students' Association Advocacy service has begun. The HMO debate last week was also very useful for community relations.

The Accommodation Survey 'Rate Your Landlord' will be released next week.

6.2 Report of the Director of Representation

The University's Learning Teaching Committee aren't receptive to idea of lecture capture being discussed later.

Our Students' Association elections are coming up soon, Jack Carr encouraged councillors to nudge people for their positions. Nominations start next week on Monday morning running through until Friday.

6.4 Report of the Association Director of Events and Services

The fashion show FS was unfortunately cancelled on Saturday and rescheduled for tonight. To assist FS the Students' Association event OMFG... has been cancelled and attendees will be reimbursed. Taryn O'Connor offered her congratulations to the FS committee who have shown an impressive ability to be flexible, saying that as a representative body we support all student events regardless of affiliation.

A stage pricing list will be published next week to help affiliated societies run events.

Graduation Ball tickets will come out Monday of week 7, acts are currently being lined up.

Congratulations to the LGBT+ committee for hosting a very successful Queer Fest last week, it's grown year on year.

6.5 Report of the Association Director of Student Development and Activities

RAG week was very successful, Jillian has been off sick so we don't yet know exactly how much has been raised. Last week was Queerfest, this week is mental health awareness week and we have our On The Rocks arts festival coming up in April.

Last week there was a careers event run for those interested in a career in charity and On The Rocks will be doing a similar event for careers in arts.

Caroline Christie said she was pushing the Students Projects Fund and accessing grants. A society presidents forum is also being organised.

The student volunteering recognition scheme should be approved soon, it's currently being trialled on On The Rocks.

6.6 Report of the Athletic Union President

None submitted.

7. New General Joint Business

7.1. J.17-S A Motion to Extend the Responsibilities of the Postgraduate Society Treasurer and Secretary

Ariana Brighenti, SSC Postgraduate Officer, introduced the motion, explaining that it was designed to allow the society to continue to function well in-between Presidents. This motion allows the treasurer to provide an environment for Postgraduates over summer.

An amendment was proposed by Jack Carr and seconded by Caroline Christie, changing 4c of the 'RESOLVES' section to state '(In the absence of a postgraduate president the treasurer should assume the responsibilities of president, including...) ... Attend SSC meetings in a non – voting capacity'. An individual not elected to councils cannot vote on councils matters. The amendment passed without objection.

The motion passed without objection.

7.2 J.17-3 A Motion to retire the officer of Equal Opportunities Officer and absorb their responsibilities in to the Director of Wellbeing.

The Director of Representation introduced this motion, saying that with a sabbatical officer that can devote the time and attention to the committee that Director of Representation's have not been able to do, it would be counterproductive to the managerial relationship for there to be two positions with similar remits. The motion also reflects the retirement of the Wellbeing Officer as a

result of the new Director of Wellbeing role. The current Equal Opportunities Officer was in agreement with the motion.

Pia Szabo introduced an amendment seconded by Caroline Christie, in order that Pia Szabo, Societies Officer, replace Lewis Wood as seconder to the motion given that he was acting chair and therefore required to be impartial on all motions. The amendment passed without objection.

The motion passed without objection.

7.3 J.17-4: A Motion for the adoption of a Sustainability Policy by the Student Association

Mariya Simeonova introduced the motion, pointing out that the University has committed to becoming carbon neutral and the Students' Association needs to catch up. She has spoken to all relevant managers and staff members within the Association. The Association President pointed out that the policy was meant to be annually updated but hadn't been updated since 2009, and thanked Mariya for her time spent on the policy.

Charlotte Andrew proposed an amendment, seconded by Caroline Christie, adapting point 10 of the policy on Additional Procurement to state: 'The Association shall further improve sustainability by encouraging the University shop to provide ethically sourced and Fairtrade University branded clothing.' The University now runs the shop in the Union building, so the SRC can't mandate but can encourage ethical trading. The amendment passed with no objections.

Taryn O'Connor moved to strike the action point referring to securing a water fountain for the Union, stating that this was already occurring. This was accepted by all.

Caroline Christie proposed and Jamie Minns seconded an amendment striking 'and societies affiliated' from bullet point 7 of section 4 (Staff and student involvement), noting that only subcommittees could be held to this policy directly. The amendment passed without objection.

A discussion referring to the benefits of genetically modified food ensued, with Beckie Thomas pointing out that there was no proven harm to their use and the inclusion of banning them from the Union could be seen as a political decision within a politically neutral policy. Beckie Thomas proposes and Charlotte Andrew seconded striking 'No catering produce contains any GM products' as the second bullet point in section 7 of the policy. Charlotte Andrew also proposed and it was agreed that the merits of genetically modified produce be investigated by the next Environment Officer and their line manager.

Taryn O'Connor raised a concern over the possible prevention of purchasing large printers for the Marketing and Design team by the policy. Charlotte Andrew proposes and Caroline Christie seconds the amendment to the introduction of section 5, Waste and Recycling, 'The Association shall achieve the best possible level of waste minimisation wherever reasonably possible, by ensuring each semester that...'. The amendment passes.

Jack Carr proposes and Caroline Christie seconds the amendment to the first bullet point of section 5 of 'No use shall be made of disposable crockery or cutlery unless it is 100% biodegradable or

recyclable, except in exceptional circumstances. Preference should always be given to reusable alternatives.' The amendment passes.

Charlotte Andrew proposed and Louise McCaul seconded the amendment to section 5, bullet point 5 'When purchasing printing equipment, preference will be given to equipment that can handle double-sided printing.' The amendment passed.

Annabel Ekelund moves to a vote, seconded by Charlotte Andrew, and the motion passes unanimously.

7.4 J.17-5: A Motion to update the membership of the Board of Ten of the Union Debating Society to mandate a second Chief Whip

Beckie Thomas, SSC Debates Officer, introduced the motion, explaining the name of the committee as a somewhat inaccurate tradition. The role of Chief Whip is to train all debaters and has for the past few years been undertaken by two people, but only one of them has been able to vote on committee decisions. This will address that issue and ensure one person will never have the whole burden of what is essentially a two person role. They will be elected at the AGM and the norm is to run as a two person team, so it is expected this will continue rather than two people run separately and be expected to work cohesively together.

Caroline Christie proposed and Charlotte Andrew seconded the removal of point 12 in the second section of the Union Debating Society's chapter in the laws, which inaccurately states that a SSC nominee sits on the Board of Ten. The amendment passed.

The motion passes.

7.5 J.17-6: Motion to consider introducing the position of SRC Member for Mental Health Awareness.

Jack Carr introduces the motion, reminding councillors that he was mandated to write the role description and bring it for councils' consideration following the introduction of the Director of Wellbeing role and removal of the Wellbeing Officer. He emphasised that this motion was not endorsed by the sabbatical officers. Jack Carr stated that he was nervous about the creation of the position and that if it were to be created, strict rules must be in place to ensure the role is limited to campaigns and not giving advice or support to students.

A comprehensive discussion ensued between councillors, focused on the lack of obvious steps to Director of Wellbeing the removal of both Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities Officer had resulted in, and the level of risk that this potential new position was accompanied by. Several members stated that they were not confident students would realise the differentiation between campaigning and actual support. For many, the level of risk this could create, and the burden it could place upon a student volunteer was extremely worrying. The additional anomaly of having only member of Wellbeing committee also be member of councils, and the prioritisation of mental health over sexual

health awareness, as an example, was also discussed as negative unintended consequences of this motion.

Several members indicated that they would like a wellbeing representative to sit on councils, particularly given the removal of the Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities Officer. Jack Carr proposed to change the motion to SRC nominee for Wellbeing Committee, and Charlotte Andrew objected to this on the grounds that this would be a new motion rather than a minor amendment. Lewis Wood as Acting Chair agreed and the proposed alteration was not accepted.

The councillors agreed that it would be better, given the significant changes made that year with the removal of the Equal Opportunities and Wellbeing Officer, and the introduction of the Director of Wellbeing, to allow the following year of councillors to see how the new format worked before introducing a new position. The consensus was that a position to represent the Wellbeing committee was necessary on SRC, but that it would be useful for the new Director of Wellbeing to solidify her position before deciding who else should sit on the SRC. It was agreed that the Wellbeing Committee should nominate a member to attend the 2017/2018 SRC meetings in the interim.

A roll call vote was taken:

Charlotte Andrew	No
Taryn O'Connor	No
Jack Carr	Abstain
Caroline Christie	No
Ben Peddie	No
Sally Allmark	No
Rebecca Ryce	No
Mariya Simeonova	Abstain
Aine Bennett	No
Robert Aston	Yes (proxy vote)
Lewis Wood	-
Dylan Bruce	-
Pia Szabo	No
Charlotte Flatley	No
Emma Seckel	-
Louise McCaul	No
Catriona Crookes	-
Christopher Wilde	No
Jennie Matthews	-
Lorraine Callaghan	No
Sam Ross	No
Paige Onouye	No
Euan Grant	No
Alison Holiday	No
Nick Farrer	Abstain
Francis Newman	No
Beckie Thomas	No
Ariana Brighenti	No
Jamie Minns	No
Alasdair Milne	-
Lottie Haswell-West	-

Annabel Ekelund No

The motion to create a Member for Mental Health Awareness failed.

A recess of ten minutes was taken.

7.5 J.17-7: A Motion to make SSC, SRC and Joint Councils meetings paperless.

Mariya Simeonova introduced the motion, mentioning that we print a large amount of papers and we do have the technological capability to go paperless. There is also a glaring inconsistency in the fact that SSC is already paperless by default and SRC are not. This motion would allow for individuals to opt into paper copies if necessary. Additionally, when we receive paper copies in the meeting we do not have time to read them properly.

Debate:

Euan Grant proposed an amendment seconded by Francis Newman, to add into point 9 in notes 'This is in accordance with the new sustainability policy.'. The amendment passes.

Jack Carr proposes an amendment seconded by Taryn O'Connor, adding into section 3 in resolves that 'The Association Chair shall provide papers upon request' and adapting the motion title to read 'A Motion to make SSC, SRC and Joint Councils meetings paperless by default'. The amendment passes. This allows for students who lack laptops to read papers, and prevents them from having to pay for printing.

A debate concerning the use of the paper name cards ensued but the consensus was that as they are used all year it was an understandable exception.

A discussion concerning future uses of technology, including powerpoint presentations and a larger projector also took place, and a recommendation was made that the next councillors look into this possibility.

The motion passed without objection.

7.6 J-17-8: A Motion to accept the rules and procedures of the 2017 Rectorial Election

Charlotte Andrew introduces the motion, noting that the University needs the rules well in advance of the October election in order to pass them through Governance and Nominations, Academic Council and University Court. Students need to be aware that the election is happening and encouraged to reach out to potential candidates. The Rector is an incredibly important representative for students on University Court, with the position of President of Court, so ensuring the rules are correct for campaigning is crucial. Catherine Stihler should be thanked for being an exceptional Rector and we will be very lucky to find such a passionate advocate in the future.

Updates from the previous rules for the 2014 race include the change that university staff should be allowed to comment on elections. Councils should also consider whether they would like the election to be paperless and if not, should the budget the candidates are supplied with be reduced. Jack Carr pointed out that this year the option to RON a candidate would also be included.

A discussion ensued regarding the ability of staff to comment on the candidates in public. The Association President and Director of Representation were mandated to discuss this point in the rules with the Vice Principal of Governance and the Chief Legal Officer and change it as they see fit.

A vote was taken on whether the Rectorial election should be paperless, in line with the Student Association elections. The key arguments against a paperless Rectorial election were the fact the previous election was uncontested and the need for as much student awareness as possible about the position.

The roll call vote:

Charlotte Andrew	No
Taryn O'Connor	No
Jack Carr	Yes
Caroline Christie	Abstain
Ben Peddie	-
Sally Allmark	Abstain
Rebecca Ryce	Abstain
Mariya Simeonova	Yes
Aine Bennett	Abstain
Robert Aston	Yes (proxy vote)
Lewis Wood	-
Dylan Bruce	-
Pia Szabo	Yes
Charlotte Flatley	Abstain
Emma Seckel	-
Louise McCaul	No
Catriona Crookes	-
Christopher Wilde	No
Jennie Matthews	-
Lorraine Callaghan	No
Sam Ross	No
Paige Onouye	Abstain
Euan Grant	No
Alison Holiday	No
Nick Farrer	Yes
Francis Newman	Yes
Beckie Thomas	No
Ariana Brightenti	No
Jamie Minns	Abstain
Alasdair Milne	-
Lottie Haswell-West	-
Annabel Ekelund	No
Kristem Tsubota	-

The amendment failed, with six in favour, 12 against and 7 abstentions.

Caroline Christie then moved to a vote, seconded by Charlotte Andrew. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Two motions were raised with councillors that had been passed at the Exec meeting the previous day in order for them to question or object to the motions.

7.7 J.17-9: A Motion to Reform the Committee structure and of the SSC Subcommittee Music is Love.

Taryn O'Connor introduced the motion, explaining that previously there had been a split between external and student music in the committee structure, which was not in line with their constitution. The subcommittee and Taryn O' Connor, as their line-manager, had decided that going into the next election cycle there should be a greater focus upon student music. The most prominent change to the structure is the adaptation of SSC Music Officer to SSC Student Music Officer.

Charlotte Andrew said the motions from the Exec meeting had been emailed to councillors so they were aware of the proceedings. No councillors wished to object to the motion that had been passed by the Exec.

7.8. J.17-10: A Motion to adapt the rules on absences and removal from Councils within the Students' Association Laws.

Charlotte Andrew introduced the motion, referencing reforms passed last year affecting the number of absences permitted before a councillor was removed from office as being overly strict. In a meeting of the Executive committee the previous day, exec had adapted this part of the Laws and the process by which councillors could be removed. Instead of automatic removal upon reaching absence limits, the Association Chair must now notify the relevant line-manager and their line – manager, the Association President, before summoning the councillor in question to exec to explain their lack of attendance and missing reports. Exec will then take a view as to how to proceed, with actions including but not limited to removal, probation or a dismissal of the absences. Charlotte Andrew reminded everyone present that the absence system was in place to ensure councillors effectively carry out their roles, but that it doesn't always reflect their record perfectly.

No objections to the new absence rules were made and Councils accepted the motion Exec had passed.

8. New SRC business

8.1 – R. 17-1: A Motion to support lecture capture technology at the University of St Andrews.

Pia Szabo took the chair, in order that Lewis Wood could vote as a member of SRC.

Jack Carr introduced the motion, noting that Education committee supported it in principle and the School Presidents were in favour. There are some academic staff that oppose the introduction of lecture capture and Councils should take a position. Studies have shown that the introduction of this policy elsewhere has not had an adverse effect on attendance and students tend to revise specific sections of lectures, with spikes in usage directly before deadlines and exam periods.

A long discussion followed noting points of difference between areas of study, notably whether postgraduate lecturers and the recording of students asking and answering questions. Jack Carr said the situation for postgraduate lecturers depends on their individual contracts. Students will be able to ask for their contributions to be removed from the recording if they wish.

Jack Carr explained that this motion would mandate the DoRep/ DoED and other student representatives to speak in favour of lecture capture and to release the statement supporting it.

A roll call vote was taken of SRC:

Charlotte Andrew	Yes
Taryn O'Connor	Yes
Jack Carr	Yes
Caroline Christie	Yes
Ben Peddie	-
Sally Allmark	Yes
Rebecca Ryce	-
Mariya Simeonova	Yes
Aine Bennett	Yes
Robert Aston	Yes (proxy vote)
Lewis Wood	No
Dylan Bruce	-
Emma Seckel	-
Louise McCaul	Yes
Catriona Crookes	-
Christopher Wilde	Yes
Jennie Matthews	-
Lorraine Callaghan	-
Sam Ross	Yes
Paige Onouye	-
Euan Grant	Yes
Alison Holiday	Yes

The motion passed with fourteen in favour and one against.

9. Unfinished General Business

Charlotte Andrew asked that the remaining councillors agree to the wording of a statement written to support the petition presented at the beginning of the meeting. The wording of the petition itself

was considered to be problematic, so the statement spoke to supporting the values the petition espoused. A verbal vote was taken to support the statement.

9. New General Business

There was no new general business.

11. AOCB

The sabbatical officer thanked the councillors for their time and commitment over the year, and wished them luck in the future.

Jack Carr moved to dissolve Councils and the motion passed.