



**University of St Andrews
Students' Association
Students' Representative Council**

MINUTES

Tuesday 9th October 2018 – Large Rehearsal Room - 6.00pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Gianluca Giammei	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Sneha Nair	Association Chair
Morgan Morris	Association Community Relations Officer
Adam Powrie	Association Director of Events and Services
Jamie Minns	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Nick Farrer	Association Director of Wellbeing
Lauren Davis	Association Environment Officer
Zelda Kotyk	Association LGBT+ Officer
Sarah Ramage	Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
Paloma Paige	Association President
Fiona Murray	Athletic Union President
Emma Thompson	Principal Ambassador
Camilla Duke	Rector's Assessor
Alisa Danilenko	Science/Medical Science Faculty President
Lucy Allatt	SRC Accommodation Officer
Avery Kitchens	SRC Member for First Years
Isabella Smith	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Emily Muller	SRC Member for Students With Disabilities
Ciara McCumiskey	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Lea Weimann	Environment committee/Sustainable Development Society
Michihiro Toyama	

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Passed without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	
Olivia Sutton	Association Alumni Officer	Apologies
Alice Foulis	Association Director of Education	Apologies

Robyn Wells	SRC Member Without Portfolio	Apologies
Ashley Clayton	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener	Apologies
Courtney Aitken	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer	Apologies
Tomasin Animashaun	SRC Member for Racial Equality	Absent

3. Open Forum

No business.

4. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

4.1. Report of the Association Director of Education

Not present. Alice had emailed a report as follows:

My apologies for not being present tonight – I'm at a working dinner for the review I'm partaking in tomorrow of the school of Management. Please ask questions and feedback on the University strategy – I'm sure Paloma will cover this, but this strategy will shape everything the University does for the next few years (so pretty important)! I'm currently looking into how feedback on coursework and exams is received in each school, so please get in touch if you have any strong feelings about that. Otherwise I've just been attending my regular meetings, and working on finishing up class rep training. A few councillors have come and spoken to the School Presidents at Education Committee about a variety of topics (alumni, diversity, enterprise, etc.), so please just email me if you want to do the same – the School Presidents are a great way of speaking to a rep from each school to sound out an idea, and they get stuff done in their school if you have a project you want to put into place across the Uni!

4.2. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing

SHAG week was now over and a debrief session had been held yesterday. On the Ask Angela campaign, Nick noted that the local police had been in contact about training for staff. The University had established a working group on gender-based violence, co-chaired by Nick and a representative from Student Services. Student input would come from elected officers but also student groups such as FemSoc. The University's existing policy would be modernised: Nick was excited about the potential for change. The University's Equality compliance group had asked Nick to look at the Association's policy to bring it more in line with the University's equality statement.

4.3. Report of the Athletic Union President

Fiona noted that the total number of memberships so far was very high, showing lots of engagement from the student body. The Varsity match had been played on 22 September, and so had a number of Kingdom vs Capital events (non-Rugby St Andrew's vs. Edinburgh sporting fixtures). St Andrews had more wins than before in these matches.

65 sports club presidents undertook Got Consent training, and in addition many had completed Stonewall inclusion training. BUCS competitions had begun. There had been a themed Pink Sinners held in conjunction with Coppafeel last week, with pink being worn in many matches that day too. Finally, the AU were looking at financial support for students competing at international level.

4.4. Report of the Association President

The sabs had been out last weekend with the petition about the withdrawal of out of hours GP coverage, gathering many signatures. Yesterday was the end of the consultation period about this issue but this would not mean the end of campaigning. Next Thursday, the petition would be presented to committees in Glenrothes: the Association will organise transport for those who want to attend. There would also be a December meeting of the Fife Health Board, and we will send a representative, whether or not that person is granted speaking rights.

Green Week was ongoing and the committee was doing a great job: the schedule was available from Reception. Paloma was working with Nick on preparation for Raisin. There would be a water stand on the day, talks to Halls in the runup (aimed at both academic parents and academic children). The aim was to stress positive traditions and inclusivity in Raisin events, rather than talking only about issues with negative connotations, though the talks would also make students aware of local by-laws and the presence of police. Paloma had also done a lot of work on students moving into the new halls from their current accommodation: this centred around their views on the ideal time to move and their concerns around the move.

4.5. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

The Safeword Bop had sold 862 tickets. The all-building Hallowe'en event would take place on the 31st October and volunteers were needed to help out with this. The Bop this week would have a 'boy band vs. girl band' theme: next week would be the ABBA bop. Adam was working with Jamie on RAG Week and Refreshers events – duty managers would be needed for the latter.

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

Many EGMs and interviews were taking place. Sunday would be Councils CAPOD training: lunch would be provided, and the event was mandatory for Councils members. The session would cover transferable skills, and so would help improve employability as well as helping council members be more effective. Student project fund applications were open. Jamie had been conducting a Societies store clearout - anything on the floor had been moved into Meeting Pod A. Members should collect any items belonging to their subcommittees or associated groups. Careers Week would be week 2 of semester 2, and there was a call for various parts of the Association (particularly societies and subcommittees) to put on events.

5. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers

5.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer

Lucy was sourcing banners for accommodation week.

5.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years

5.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality

Isabella had met with Nick and the Deputy Building Supervisor about locating sanitary bins in male bathrooms. There was a discussion about pronoun awareness training for PG tutors - thoughts on this could be forwarded to Isabella.

5.4. Questions for SRC Member for Racial Equality

5.5. Questions for SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

5.6. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation

5.7. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President

- 5.8. Questions for SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 5.9. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
- 5.10. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Development Convener
- 5.11. Questions for Principal Ambassador
- 5.12. Questions for Rector's Assessor

Camilla emphasized the importance of the consultation on the University's strategic plan, and asked members to urge friends and subcommittees to contribute.

- 5.13. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

6. Questions for Association Subcommittees and Officers

6.1 Questions for Association Environment Officer

Green Week was ongoing and very busy with many events. There would be a film screening on Friday, a beach clean on Sunday, and it was planned to end the week with a bonfire.

6.2 Questions for Association Community Relations Officer

Morgan had attended the opening of the St Andrews Beach Wheelchairs centre on 6th October.

6.3 Questions for Association LGBT+ Officer

Zelda drew attention to the national consultation on gender recognition and self-identification, including the possibility of official recognition of non-binary gender. The consultation would close on October 19th, and members were encouraged to circulate details. Pamphlets on the topic were available and circulated to members.

6.4 Questions for Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer

7. Unfinished SRC Business

None.

8. New SRC Business

8.1. [University Strategy](#) Report

Paloma introduced the item, noting the email to all students from the Principal. Individual comments from councilors as students were very welcome, but there was a need also to give a Councils response, collating student representatives' comments as the official voice of St Andrews students. Paloma asked member to think about the themes and priorities of the report: what does it leave out? What does it address? Positive and negative comments were welcome. Members were asked to consider if they saw themselves in the report, and recognised it as reflecting the St Andrews they knew.

Morgan raised the topic of the planned expansion in numbers. He felt there was a concern that increasing numbers could risk losing the unique 'feel' of St Andrews, while exacerbating housing issues. Lucy said that the University need to be behind the Association on the topic of HMOs, as well as to plan more accommodation of their own, possibly meaning more returning students in halls.

Morgan noted that in this case, halls need to be more accessible, and of higher quality. Nick said that he would like to hope that a commitment to diversity is reflected in expansion plans: not just more students, but more students from diverse backgrounds. It was vital to look at both physical accessibility and accessibility to people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

Lea was given speaking rights and raised the sustainability aspect. She said that many students she had spoken to said that while this was mentioned, under social responsibility, it was problematic that it is not a theme in its own right. Sustainability was surely an urgent issue that merited this. It was absolutely critical that action is taken in the next few years: St Andrews needs to be a beacon for this, if it is to live up to its motto of Ever to Excel. The University does pay attention to sustainability, and this attracts students, but St Andrews had the potential to do much more. As an international university, St Andrews needed to address this international issue. Lauren echoed this and underlined the importance of sustainability: she said this needs to be at the foundation of all University actions, and to be stated as such. She also felt there was not enough information about expansion and how this would affect the growth and character of the town.

Nick referred to section 4.7, which recognised the mental health challenges faced by students, and mentioned an expansion of support. Compared to other points, Nick felt this was non-specific, and he would prefer more solid commitments and investments to put this into practice. Ciara made a similar point about section 4.3 on widening access, again highlighting a need for specific commitments and also for more ambition in this area. Lucy echoed this: the commitment to 'maintain and increase diversity' should just be to increase diversity. The inclusion of 'maintain' could be seen to dilute the point – maintaining the present levels of diversity would not be good enough.

Emily referred to section 4.6, and said it should be more of a priority to make buildings accessible. Many academic Schools had facilities that were not physically accessible for various reasons to those with a wide range of disabilities, and this was gravely concerning. Zelda raised the point that section 4.6 was also only explicit mention of LGBT+ issues, and was concerned that this made the issue feel like an afterthought.

Isabella brought up library facilities - the Main Library was not sufficient in size for the current student body, so logically expansion would raise a need for more study spaces and this had to be reflected in estate planning. She also said that tackling gender-based violence at the University needs to be a high priority. Camilla said that mandatory Got Consent training would be a basic step in this, noting that students already underwent various mandatory training courses when they enrolled.

On mental health, Morgan made the point that support appointments need to be available for students for this goal to be met.

Paloma thanked members for excellent comments, and said that she would take these into account. She said that some points raised concerned quite specific aims and asked if members saw these as feasible within the strategy as laid out, or divergent from it? If the latter, then that was a problem that could be raised with the University. Nick said that in his view, it was more a question of some of the language being loose, with no firm commitments given. He recognised the difficulty of making specific commitments as part of a strategic plan, but felt that something more tangible would be better. Ciara said that in many cases, it was a question of expanding on points already made. Zelda agreed, saying that such loose language could make it possible to back out of commitments. Emily noted that some concrete commitments are given, for example in section 3.7, so the absence of specificity in other places stood out. Isabella said that as things stood, many of these goals were to

be expected from any university: firmer commitments were therefore preferable. Adam agreed, and said that the issue was whether the University could answer the difficult questions? Camilla noted that with the example of increasing diversity, there were different kinds of diversity, noting that even within the room there was a tremendous diversity of international origins but that the group was quite homogenous in other respects. She said that setting a metric for success, timelines, and targets on these topics seemed to be a theme from the comments.

Ciara commented that an example of a specific target, the University could recognise that diversity needed to be reflected not just in the student body but in the curriculum. She referenced Tomasin's discussion with the Principal last year on this subject.

Lucy mentioned the reference in the plan to a 'reward structure for diversity'? She felt this read as somewhat technical and obscure to students, and the meaning and implications of this needed to be clearer. Why does diversity need to be rewarded and what would this mean in practice? Lea said that it was quite interesting to realise how specific expansion goals could be while other ambitions are not. Camilla asked what would Councils would be looking for in quantifying diversity? Nick gave the example of the race equality charter mark, timescales for action, and changing physical spaces.

Members were thanked for their comments: these would be taken forward to the University.

9. Any Other Competent Business

Emily said that she was looking to bring in a mental health speaker. She was not familiar with mental health charities in the UK, and asked members for assistance with ideas. Morgan raised MIND and CALM, Ciara suggested SAMH and Nick said Emily should see the mental health rep on Wellbeing Committee.

10. Collaborative Solutions

Not minuted.

SRC REPORTS

Association Alumni Officer – Olivia Sutton

Plans for the Alumni Festival Weekend are coming along, and we are excited to be organising a Subcommittee showcase on the Saturday afternoon for a couple of hours. I will be in touch with subcommittee leaders in the very near future, and it would be great to have as much involvement as possible! My subcommittee and I have been reaching out to personal alumni networks to try and understand reasons why alumni would (or even would not!) want to come back for the Festival Weekend, and just reasons for returning in more general terms. I'm looking forward to meeting with the School Presidents next week to discuss collaboration over this academic year.

Association Community Relations Officer – Morgan Morris

Organising St Andrews Day is still a go, with lots still to do. I have released stall sign ups to societies and performance sign ups. We are currently discussing the Raisin Strategy with Paloma and Nick for our annual campaign. I have had discussions with Transition about their bike campaign, and we are going to collaborate to make sure bike lights are being used on bikes. I will be attending the Beach Wheelchairs opening on Saturday along with knocking on doors for the GP out of hours petition.

Association Environment Officer – Lauren Davis

Green Week is finally here and starting off with a bang! I am thrilled that everything has come together after a lot of hard work put in collaborating with Transition and The Environment Team. I am excited to say that the hard work does not stop after Week 4 as we have a lot of plans in store for the rest of the semester!

Association LGBT+ Officer – Zelda Kotyk

- Very busy and stressful last week regarding Queer Question Time
- We have an EGM on Wednesday!

Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Sarah Ramage

During the week we had our first committee meeting of the semester. It was great to see five first year students come along to find out more about Lifers. Our meetings are open to everybody and we really enjoy people outwith the committee attending and bringing in different perspectives. Our budget was discussed as being a new subcommittee this is our first year with one. Everyone agreed that our budget and planned activities looked good. We discussed our successful Freshers' week and agreed that we would run similar events in the future. We also discussed our upcoming plans for involvement in Raisin and Halloween plus our family panto visit. Two of the committee have sadly had to withdraw from their positions so we will be planning our first ever EGM with treasurer and secretary being advertised. We also hope to amend our constitution to add an events coordinator position.

SRC Accommodation Officer – Lucy Allat

Senior student forums have been going well, with discussions about what they want to achieve within the next year and any problems that they are currently facing, we are currently looking at a Warden review. The September trainings for the hall committees nearly all

complete. Accommodation week plans are going great, with T-shirts being ordered for the sub-committee which will be useful for the how to rent talks and drop is sessions. The how to rent guide is in the final edit and should be finished and ready for printing by Friday, these should be able to distribute in accommodation week (week 8).

SRC Member for First Year – Avery Kitchens

Nothing to report.

SRC Member for Gender Equality – Isabella Smith

No report submitted.

SRC Member for Racial Equality – Tomisin Animashaun

No report submitted.

SRC Member for Students with Disabilities – Emily Muller

The Sex and Disability event was successful and had good attendance. Now I've been working to plan an accessible partner event with Music is Love. My grant application is completely finished, I just need the Union to provide bank statements which should get done shortly. Overall, it has been a very successful few weeks and I can't wait to continue to work towards more inclusivity.

SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Ciara McCumiskey

No report submitted.

Arts/Divinity Faculty President –Gianluca Giammei

This week I have attended educom in which we have discussed various issues with the school presidents. The most relevant matters were how to deal with class representatives that might not be very proactive and to discuss what the HelpHub is and giving tips on how we can rename it.

Science/Medicine Faculty President - Alisa Danilenko

This week I have had a couple of meetings regarding an upcoming Wellbeing Day in the School of Physics and Astronomy, on which I am working with the DoWell and the Physics School President and staff. I am hopeful that we will be able to use experience and feedback from this event to enable the organisation of similar things across other Schools.

Myself and Gianluca (ArtDivFP) will shortly be setting a date for the ID4000 module SSCC, so preparations will soon be underway for that.

In the coming week I hope to start organisation of a Science-wide christmas lecture event, on which I will be working with the Science school presidents.

SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener –Ashley Clayton

No report submitted.

SRC Postgraduate Development Convener – Courtney Aitken

Nothing to report.

Principal Ambassador – Emma Thompson

It's been a very busy few weeks for the Student Ambassadors! We have closed our recruitment period, recruiting over 170 new ambassadors, bringing our group to 430. Notably, we've seen a real increase in PG participation.

Our Widening Participation projects have been running since Week 1, mentoring and tutoring over 800 students across Scotland. We have also had two very successful Visiting Days that both welcomed over 500 students and their families to St Andrews.

Looking ahead, we have four more Visiting Days this semester (October 17, October 24, October 31, November 14), which should be even larger than the previous two. I have also reached out to Emily, our Member for Students with Disability, about improving our knowledge and accessibility for prospective students with disabilities.

Rector's Assessor – Camilla Duke

The Rector's Committee has been helping the Sabbs in their efforts to save the GP out of hours service, and we'll be out knocking on doors again this weekend around St Andrews. We're also currently working on recruiting new members for our committee. We're looking forward to joining the Community Relations and Environment Subcommittees for a beach clean this weekend. I would encourage you all to fill out the University's Strategic Plan feedback form before Wednesday to share your input before the plan goes to University Court at the end of the month.

SRC Member Without Portfolio – Robyn Wells

Myself, Shaina, Sneha and Paloma has a meeting this week to discuss upcoming socials. We've begun planning for a social for early November and the Christmas dinner later in the semester.