

20 November 2018

6:13 pm start

Last JC of the semester

- Apologies: Laura, Kevin, Isabella, a few others
- Sneha notes minutes from last meeting and asks for approval
- Reports from Sabbs
  - Fiona: trophy day and cup games going on, next Monday club committee forum, GC training for social reps, inclusion training for club captains, next Wednesday Night Lights (various sports competing at the same time), sinners band pickup and Christmas present dropoff, one free fitness class a day during revision week (December 3-7)
  - Paloma: last week voter registration drives (January deadline for registration, community council elections in late Feb/early March), just returned from conf. In Edinburgh on housing policy in Scotland (discussion of affordable/social housing and affordable housing for students), week 2 semester 2 HMO focus group will be held to discuss experiences etc., upcoming review of Union sustainability policy and overall strategy, she invites input
  - Adam: BOP sold out last week, pajama/Nightline BOP on Friday, tickets for Christmas event on sale, currently planning Refreshers, looking at Union ticket policy (including issue of people reselling tickets at inflated prices), asks that people discourage this as it may be punishable in the future
  - Jamie: good evening! Employability fund is live, University Challenge team, if you want things in the all student email submit to sabbs before Friday afternoon, reminder that everyone has a room booking login, check with Jamie if you don't know it
  - Alice: working group on new Academic Alert policy, invites input, also looking at new leave of absence policy, CompSci school president doing survey of staff on Lecture Capture, invites opinions to compscipres@, encourages again to look into employability fun and employability-related events (email erf@), module evaluations are open on MMS, encourages all of us to take part!, minutes for Education committee on Union website
  - Nick: Nightline awareness week, last week security conference aimed at higher education sector, covered topic including cooperation with uni, sexual assault responses, sat down with NUS Scotland president, anticipates further discussion on this at councils, Citizens Scotland meeting covering wage theft, poor landlords, poor bosses, how to improve these for students (likely will have them at Refreshers Fayre), protest today outside Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, look out for tomorrow's press coverage
- Association officer reports/questions
  - Olivia: nothing to add
  - Morgan: ComRel week next week, lots of events on, Meet your Community Council on Monday with Wine and Cheese, St Andrews Day on 1 Dec, volunteer signups still open

- Zelda: nothing to add
- Sarah: Instagram takeover, group Boomerang for the instagram
- Lauren: nothing to add
- SSC Subcommittees
  - Niamh: nothing to add
  - Matt: nothing to add
  - Rowan: ticket sales for Christmas Ball went really well, sold out quickly, deciding shows for next semester tomorrow
  - Cameron: nothing to add
  - Adam: nothing to add
  - Mika: later we will talk about new Design Team project
  - Paul: nothing to add
  - Chloe: another semester 1 event on Saturday, interactive art exhibit (On the Pebbles)
  - Shaina: nothing to add
- SRC
  - Lucy: find a flatmate session during Revision Week
  - Avery: nothing to add
  - Emily: grant application denied, looking at other funding sources for classes to engage the deaf community, University has established disability working group (in preliminary stages), attended National Youth Advisory for people with cancer on Friday
  - Alisa: nothing to add
  - Courtney: yesterday sat on CAPOD panel on postgrad project funding, last academic year that this fund will be running but hopefully we can bring it back in the future
  - Emma: nothing to add
  - Robyn: confirming meal with Bibi's tomorrow
- New General Joint Business
  - Design Team Project: Mika: YourUnion yearbook, would be published before elections, pages for councils/SRC/SSC, she will need info and photos from each subcommittee uploaded to the Google Drive
- Motion to support student claimants of Universal Credit
  - Paloma proposes the motion and explains the background
    - Invited Sandra Mitchell
    - Approached by a group of students with their concerns about Universal Credit
    - Working group formed (Lorraine Callaghan-former councillor, Sarah Ramage-current councillor, Sandra Mitchell-first year student, members of the Rector's Committee, Paloma and Nick)
    - Highlights that this issue affects many people, not just students, but Scottish students have been largely overlooked
    - Appendix C explains the issue in more detail

- Paloma emphasizes that this is an important issue for all universities to get behind, incredibly important that we all support students, the problem will only get bigger, encourages us to ask Sandra questions
  - Moves to open to questions
  - Adam: Sandra, would you like to say anything?
  - Sandra: what specifically do you want to hear about?
  - Adam: can you talk us through the supporting document?
  - Sandra: explains the basics of Universal Credit and how it affects students, it's intended to make credit-claiming easier, but it has made many people worse off financially compared to the previous benefits system, Universal Credit calculated by flat rate of 198 with deductions taken for income (pound for pound), student loans are considered unearned income, therefore students are getting almost nothing in benefits from Universal Credit, many students (particularly disabled, commuters, mature, other disadvantaged students) are finding they struggle to support themselves and could possibly have to withdraw from education
  - Courtney: funded research council/doctoral loans postgrad students, how are they affected?
  - Sandra: postgrads are being hit particularly hard by the changes, because of the way their loans are calculates
  - Move to debate
  - Matt speaks in favor of passing the motion, noting how well it is written
  - Nick also speaks in favor, stresses the importance of our role as a Union to protect and stand up for our vulnerable students, importance of education
  - Sarah speaks in favor, notes that she knew Sandra before university but didn't know the details of Universal Credit, a lot of people don't know that this is a problem, important for us to speak up as early on as we can
  - Nick proposes to move to vote, seconded by Nick
  - No one opposes move to vote
  - No one opposes
  - Motion passes unanimously
  - Paloma suggests that we sign the open letter collectively
- SSC is dismissed, no new SSC business
- New SRC business
  - R. 18-2 Motion to introduce an SRC Member for the Wellbeing Committee
    - Proposed by Nick: has been reflecting on this for the past year, sincerely believes we need more elected positions in Wellbeing, more opportunities for development within wellbeing, more student/councils opportunity to vote on wellbeing topics/issues, understanding that Wellbeing positions require a lot of experience but the issues relate to all of us, need to have a general Wellbeing position that's elected to reflect student needs and concerns regarding wellbeing

- Sneha cuts Nick off due to time
- Jamie asks Nick to finish his statement
- Nick notes the flexible nature of the Wellbeing committee, expresses desire for more structure, starting with election of a new SRC Member, notes discussion amongst Sabbs of the name of the SRC Member (Jamie had suggested SRC Member for Student Health)
- Fiona asks for clarification that Nick/DoWell will still chair Wellbeing Committee (he will)
- Move to debate
- Courtney (seconder) speaks in favor of the motion, references her experience working in Wellbeing during her undergrad years, need to strengthen the Wellbeing committee due to its complexity
- Alice speaks in favor of the motion, reiterates need for more structure
- Jamie proposes an amendment to change the title of the newly proposed SRC member to “SRC Member for Student Health”
- Nick has received Wellbeing Committee’s unanimous support, name is still up in the air though
- Camilla asks how they came to the name “Member for Student Health”
- Nick responds, notes the previous conflict between DoRep and Wellbeing Officer, wants to avoid confusion between DoWell and SRC Member
- Robyn asks about the election plan
- Nick clarifies that in the interim between now and the election in March, the position will be filled by interview (without voting rights)
- Sneha asks for clarification on Jamie’s amendment
- Nick seconds Jamie’s amendment for the position title change
- Sneha asks to move to vote on the amendment
- Adam moves to vote on amendment, Robyn seconds
- No one opposed to the amendment, amendment passes to change the new position title to SRC Member for Student Health
- Paloma asks for further discussion on point 3 of the motion
- Nick explains the difference between internal and external members (interviewed vs. invited to the Wellbeing Committee), clarifies that the Wellbeing Committee will vote to choose an internal member of Wellbeing Committee to sit on councils in the interim period between now and the March election
- Sneha advises that Nick clarify point 3 by amendment
- Paloma expresses concern about the amount of time between now and the nominations period, giving the chosen interim member an unfair advantage in the election
- Sneha suggests opening the position up for co-optation amongst the whole student body
- Nick notes that the Wellbeing Committee internal members have already been working on these issues and would have the capacity to contribute to councils

- Jamie asks if it is perhaps worth waiting til elections to fill the position
- Jamie proposes amendment to strike point 3 of the motion, seconded by Alice
- Adam proposes we vote on the amendment
- No one opposed to the amendment, amendment passes
- Sneha asks for additional points for debate
- Robyn asks about point 7 in Resolves
- Nick clarifies that he and new SRC Member will interview for internal members of the Wellbeing Committee
- Alice asks for clarification on the future structure of the Wellbeing Committee
- Nick explains he expects that the incoming committee will have some input on their own structure, but the motion includes safeguards for structure
- Alice asks if the SRC Member can also fill a position within the Wellbeing Committee
- Nick says that's correct, but it's a fair question and he is open to suggestions, wants to avoid and minimize tensions within the Wellbeing Committee
- Alice expresses concern that creating the position in this way will cause conflict
- Fiona asks if there will be a conflict between the SRC Member position and the individual's role on the Wellbeing Committee
- Nick emphasizes that the individual would be responsible to cover all topics of Student Health as an elected representative
- Fiona asks if this still creates a conflict of having two titles
- Alice gives the example of the faculty presidents, who cover either all arts or all sciences but don't step on the toes of the school presidents
- Nick states that similar situations, following the analogy, have arisen before, and that he thinks this is the best way forward
- Alice re-emphasizes the separate nature of the school presidents vs. faculty presidents
- Paloma notes the difference between Nick's points and Alice's points, saying that the development of the remit will follow, we need to see how this works, thinks it is fluid enough to work well with SRC and Wellbeing Committee
- Alice agrees, but says she does not want to pass the motion as it is
- Paloma says a platform for election and a remit are not the same thing, not necessarily a clash
- Nick mentions the previous conversation about the nature of the role
- Alice asks Sneha if we will also be passing Appendix B
- Jamie proposes to move to vote on the motion, Nick opposes
- Nick asks Sneha if we can pass this motion without simultaneously amending the laws of the Union

- Paloma agrees with Nick, invites input on Appendix B
- Morgan asks what this person elected would actually be doing
- Nick explains that it would be similar as a working relationship to the other “Members for \_\_\_\_\_” on SRC, expresses a need to have someone working on projects
- Courtney notes the involvement of the University with the Wellbeing Committee, provides example of the Health Calendar, individual would be able to take on a leadership role without chairing a committee
- Robyn expresses the need to have a Member for Student Health, but also expresses some concern about the flexibility
- Lucy asks if they would have an unfair advantage in terms of choosing their own committee position
- Nick says the chair of the committee would be able to offer a position to them, right to refuse
- Camilla proposes that the SRC Member for Student Health sit on Wellbeing Committee as the SRC Member, not another position
- Fiona suggests this would work if Nick wrote a remit for this person
- Robyn notes that the election process would then be much clearer, if someone were deciding to run for Member or go for an interviewed position
- Alice expresses concern that if someone runs on a platform focused on sexual health, then goes for sexual health rep on the committee, will have an unfair advantage
- Nick says if people are keen to go for a given position, they should go for it
- Paloma says this process would be somewhat concurrent with elections
- Robyn says what if someone wanted to be the mental health rep, but didn’t want to participate in elections, it creates an unfair position
- Nick notes that each committee member pursues their own project
- Alice asks if you could then just have the SRC Member work with the Wellbeing Committee members on their various projects
- Camilla reiterates previous point about SRC Member for Student Health’s role on Wellbeing Committee
- Nick calls upon his previous experience and the Wellbeing committee’s input and agreement on the current structure of the role within the motion
- Alice notes that committee disagreements can occur, but they can be resolved
- Nick maintains his position
- Paloma asks if what we want is a Wellbeing Committee member being put on councils, or an SRC member being put on Wellbeing Committee, for example, she ran on an accommodation platform, but covers many topics in her remit
- Alice notes her disagreement with some of the role description

- Lucy notes Paloma's point about platform vs. remit, creates a narrow focus, she says that the SRC Member for Student Health should cover all student health issues
- Camilla asks about who the role will be covered by, an existing member of Wellbeing Committee or an outsider
- Nick notes that some roles on Wellbeing Committee are not entry level, require previous experience, SRC Member will not necessarily be that person
- Alisa agrees with Alice, doesn't like the nebulous nature of the role
- Nick notes again the discretion of the Wellbeing committee chair in choosing a role on the committee for the SRC Member
- Robyn asks for further clarification on the structure of interviewed positions on the Wellbeing Committee, could the DoWell-elect and SRC Member conduct interviews together?
- Courtney re-emphasizes that there have been serious issues with the Wellbeing Committee in the past, that the SRC Member should be both a specialist and a generalist, need to focus on student representation
- Emma suggests that the SRC Member should be an impartial actor within the Wellbeing Committee, need to deal with and resolve team issues, notes that this should be a necessity for anyone running
- Fiona asks if we can pass this without passing the appendices
- Sneha says we can pass the appendices separately
- Adam suggests that if anyone has a specific amendment they should make it now
- Camilla asks if we can discuss appendices separately once we have gathered further information
- Alice proposes adding the appendices to the Resolves section, Fiona seconds
- Sneha clarifies that we will include the appendices as a replacement for the existing language on laws (point 3 and point 4 in Resolves)
- Adam proposes we move to vote, Robyn seconds
- No one opposed, amendment passes
- Nick emphasizes that the SRC Member can be a MWP-type role on the Wellbeing Committee, reiterates need for flexibility in terms of their role, otherwise the SRC member could do nothing
- Alice says that if someone wants to go into the general position and then does nothing, that's their problem, and it could in fact safeguard against a position not being filled on the Wellbeing Committee
- Paloma says a generalist position would not add a whole lot to the SRC
- Adam proposes an amendment to Appendix C, wherein the SRC Member (once elected) and the DoWell-elect will appoint the internal members of the Wellbeing Committee by interview
- Nick and Adam debate the proposed amendment, and the authority of the SRC Member within the Wellbeing Committee

- Adam withdraws amendment, Fiona seconds
  - Fiona proposes an amendment to Appendix B 7.5.1.1 to remove the final sentence. Seconded by Nick.
  - No one opposed to amendment
  - Fiona proposes an amendment to remove the second point under “how you will be doing it”, Lucy seconded, Nick objects
  - Fiona withdraws the amendment
  - Nick suggests that we put in the motion a specification that the interviews will be held after the elections
  - Alice and Fiona reiterate the point that the SRC Member should just sit on the Wellbeing Committee as their SRC elected position
  - Nick responds by saying that bases are already covered, and that what works one year but it couldn’t work the next
  - Fiona suggests that the Wellbeing Committee develops a remit for the SRC Member after its formation
  - Nick says that he still fears that the elected person would not do anything
  - Jamie proposes that we table this motion and return to it at next joint councils or SRC, whichever comes first, Adam seconds this
  - Paloma points out that Nick understands the Wellbeing Committee more than we do as the SRC, we should defer to them
  - Fiona says with all due respect, the SRC Member’s role is partially the student body’s decision as part of the electoral process, not the Wellbeing Committee’s decision solely
  - Fiona objects to Jamie’s motion to table it, suggest Nick withdraw and returned with a revised motion
  - Jamie withdraws his motion
  - Paloma and Nick strongly disagree
  - Paloma says it is not our job to debate what the Committee structure is, or to find the person to fill the role, but to develop the remit and structure the electoral process
  - Alice notes that although we should consider the Wellbeing Committee’s input, this is also a councils matter
  - Fiona notes that we are not currently deciding on a role with a remit
  - Jamie proposes we move to vote on the motion as a whole, Adam seconds
  - Paloma clarifies the status of amendments
  - No one opposed to move to vote, move to vote
  - Motion passes with support from Nick, Emily, Paloma, Lauren, Courtney, Adam, Jamie, Isa (Robyn by proxy), Robyn, Olivia, Sarah
  - Opposed: Morgan, Lucy, Fiona, Alice, Alisa, Avery, Ciara (Emma by proxy)
  - No abstentions
  - Motion passes
- Vacancy of SRC Member for Racial Equality

- Tomisin has been removed from her position
- Need to fill position ASAP - can open elections or co-opt the position
- Adam proposes we move to vote to co-opt the position, Jamie seconds
- No one opposed to moving to vote
- All in favour of co-opting the position (unanimous)
- Any other competent business