



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

MINUTES

Tuesday 12th February 2019 – Large Rehearsal Room - 6.00pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Gianluca Giammei	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Olivia Sutton	Association Alumni Officer
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
Paloma Paige	Association 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
Wei Wei Chen	SRC Member for Racial Equality
Emily Muller	SRC Member for Students With Disabilities
Ciara McCumiskey	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
Courtney Aitken	SRC Postgraduate Development Convener

In Attendance

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Seoras Lyall	The Saint

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Passed without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	
Alice Foulis	Association Director of Education	Apologies
Sarah Ramage	Association Lifelong Learning Officer	Apologies

Fiona Murray	Athletic Union President	Apologies
Robyn Wells	SRC Member Without Portfolio	Apologies
Ashley Clayton	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener	Apologies

3. Open Forum

4. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

4.1. Report of the Association Director of Education

Alice Foulis (AF) was not present but had sent a written report.

Nominations for the Proctor's Award and Teaching Awards were open: members were encouraged to publicise these by using the Facebook cover photo that was available. Members should refer to the Voice section of the YourUnion website for more information.

4.2. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing

Wellbeing Week would begin on Monday April 1st, and Nick Farrer (NF) asked for individual volunteers and societies/subcommittees to take part. The Association Community Relations and Environment subcommittees had confirmed they would be participating. NF was engaged in ongoing elections planning: members were asked to encourage people to stand using the 'nudge' system.

4.3. Report of the Athletic Union President

Not present.

4.4. Report of the Association President

Paloma Paige (PP) reported that she had been to London for a conference discussing international student recruitment including next steps on student visas after Brexit. The University's Student Services staff would be hosting workshops for international and EU students regarding Brexit. PP had also attended a young carers event with the Principal, hearing from students with caring responsibilities. The revised sustainability policy would come to joint councils shortly.

4.5. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Adam Powrie (AP) was working with Jamie Minns (JM) on an email to societies and subcommittees looking at the term so far, highlighting both things that had worked well but also problems that had come up. AP emphasised that all event bookings should now be made with at least three weeks' notice, rather than two as previously. This change was intended to reduce stress on Ents Crew volunteers and staff etc. Members were asked to include this change in their handover after elections. The bar was in the process of halting the use of disposable plastics, and were now using reusable hard plastic cups.

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

JM minuted thanks to those who had attended or helped with Refreshers' Fair. The previous week had been Careers Week, which had been a great success with a wide range of events. Queerfest was this week and RAG Week would be next week.

5. Questions for Association Officers

- 5.1. Questions for Association Alumni Officer
- 5.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Officer

Morgan Morris (MM) notified the SRC that nominations were open for Community Council elections. They would close at 4pm on the 23rd February. If anyone was interested in running, they should contact MM or PP.

- 5.3. Questions for Association Environment Officer
- 5.4. Questions for Association LGBT+ Officer

Zelda Kotyk (ZK) encouraged members to attend Queerfest events this week, including the film festival to be held at the Byre on Friday.

- 5.5. Questions for Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer

6. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers

- 6.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer
- 6.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years
- 6.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality
- 6.4. Questions for SRC Member for Racial Equality

We Wei Chen (WWC) said that because she was in effectively an interim position, she had mostly been working on things to pass over to whoever was elected in March. Currently the biggest issue was a feedback survey with the University's diversity office looking at cultural events wanted by students: the second was an alumni contact list as a resource for future office holders. Finally, WWC would also be looking at a new structure for Pangaea, to be discussed at the next Equal Opportunities subcommittee meeting.

- 6.5. Questions for SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

Emily Muller (EM) was beginning a campaign to encourage more accessibility in University buildings, particularly teaching facilities: members should please get in touch if they were aware of any particular issues.

- 6.6. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
- 6.7. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 6.8. Questions for SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 6.9. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
- 6.10. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Development Convener

Courtney Aitken (CA) discussed the effect of the BMS fire on postgraduates, noting that many were now in a period of uncertainty. The Association role would mainly be signposting of affected PG students to relevant policies and support. CA also noted that the PG development group was set to go, and that she would participate in welcoming new PGR students this week.

- 6.11. Questions for Principal Ambassador
- 6.12. Questions for Rector's Assessor

Camilla Duke (CD) notified SRC of an event to be held next Monday discussing Brexit: details were available on Facebook.

6.13. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

7. Unfinished SRC Business

8. New SRC Business

9. Any Other Competent Business

9.1. Universal Credit

PP updated the SRC on progress on this issue, and had a question for the group. She said that after the motion passed in November, she had been working on the open letter circulated by the Rector's Committee. So far, over 200 signatures had been gathered from across the UK, and the letter had been sent to the University Press Office to publish. Abertay Students' Association had signed the open letter, but had also started their own campaign including a Facebook page. ASA were asking for our support for their campaign. However, their campaign was significantly different, in that the November SRC motion did not call for Universal Credit to be abolished altogether: whereas Abertay aimed to get this on the agenda, making it wider than just a student issue. PP asked for members' views on this.

MM felt that campaigning would have more impact if focused solely on students, and that campaigning for a complete rollback of the system was going beyond what the SRC could achieve. Lucy Allatt (LA) – agreed with Morgan that a tighter focus would be more effective. PP asked for an update from CD about the discussion of this issue at Labour Soc? CD said she had met with Labour Soc: the meeting had seen a motion discussed that was adapted from the November joint councils motion, which had been taken to Scottish Labour Students, passed unanimously, and had now been chosen as a motion to go to the Scottish party conference in march. This motion was focused on student treatment under the system as with the November joint councils motion. There were initial conversations about doing something similar with other parties. There was a legitimate question as to whether the aim should be reform, the abolition of the entire system or just student issues with the system: CD recognised that there were different opinions on this, but the campaign to date had focused on student issues.

Ciara McCumiskey (CM) said she didn't feel knowledgeable enough about the wider system to back expanding the campaign, but asked what other Students' Associations were doing? PP said DUSA would not participate in the open letter, but wanted to take an approach focused on Dundee University students. Glasgow and Heriot-Watt university students' associations, and students from other universities, had signed the open letter as ASA had, but were not doing much active campaigning on the issue. Instead they were focusing on helping their students on a day-to-day basis.

NF said there had been a Scottish ministerial round table (organised by NUS, including FE colleges) that he had attended, where the Universal Credit issue was raised. Holyrood ministers were sympathetic, and delegates from NUS and affiliated universities felt the same. However, a larger joined-up approach was not evident so far. If there was such an approach, NF felt we would be behind this. MM asked if we had approached FE colleges? PP said that we were not in regular contact with their students' associations but we did intend

to go to them. CA asked about engagement with UCU on the issue, particularly in relation to postgraduate students. CD said we have reached out, but no meeting had happened yet.

PP asked if the SRC were broadly in agreement that we will continue outreach but not support the ASA campaign directly? There was no dissent to this. CD said there was a sense of support for the motion passed in November and that we should stick to that.

10. Collaborative Solutions

Not minuted

SRC + ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Association Alumni Officer – Olivia Sutton

Had our first meeting back with the team involved with organising AFW2019. Significant numbers of attendees have registered interest in all the different events, and it should be a great weekend with lots going on for all to get involved with. The Alumni Subcommittee are in the process of creating an infographic of all the different alumni groups around the world that graduates can get involved with straight away.

Association Community Relations Officer – Morgan Morris

Not much to report as we begin to wind down. I had a community council meeting on Monday. I'm sure Paloma will update you all with regards to the Community Council elections coming up. We have a couple of projects that we are going to work on this semester such as cycle safety, making the local community aware of this position in the SA, hopefully, a concert in association with music is love and the community council, and then the alumni festival weekend. If anyone has any ideas or would like to collaborate please just let me know.

Association Environment Officer – Lauren Davis

The Environment Subcommittee is back into the swing of things with many events, projects and collaborations being prepared. We're already thinking ahead as far as Earth Day in April - if anyone has any ideas or would like to collaborate on a big town-wide event, we are open to all suggestions. Until then, keep watch for events that will be published in the near future!

Association LGBT+ Officer – Zelda Kotyk

I have been working on my motion for hate crime and it is going well. I have been extremely busy with meetings about hate crimes. Queer fest is this week so please come to our events!!!

Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Sarah Ramage

We held our EGM on Monday and are delighted to have appointed a secretary. An email that was received earlier this week has highlighted a change to the catering provision at Deans Court postgraduate accommodation and how students perceive that this will have a negative impact on their student experience. This was discussed at the Equal Opportunities committee meeting where other students were aware of the proposals and are keen to see what can be done to challenge them. Wei Wei Chen and Courtney Aitken have been in touch with affected students and University staff and discussions are ongoing. Lifers was also contacted by a student who has caring responsibilities who is keen to set up a social/support group for people of all ages who have caring responsibilities. It was suggested that a drop in event should be held during Wellbeing Week. If any students would like to help or know more please get in touch.

SRC Accommodation Officer – Lucy Allat

It is a busy time of the year for accommodation, with many enquiries about the general renting process. I am trying to keep students informed that properties will continue to come on to the market, as students continue to sign the notice to leave. At the private property letting meeting I tried to give reasons to why students were not signing the notice to leave as early as the private

letting agents thought they would. In the background my subcommittee and I are working on the 'how to leave' programme that accommodation will be running.

SRC Member for First Year – Avery Kitchens

No report submitted.

SRC Member for Gender Equality – Isabella Smith

Nothing to report.

SRC Member for Racial Equality – Wei Wei Chen

Nothing to report.

SRC Member for Students with Disabilities – Emily Muller

No report submitted.

SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Ciara McCumiskey

It's been a bit of a busy week alongside Equal Opportunities committee! I've been working on drafting a motion for the final councils and I'm drafting a policy with Equal Ops!

Arts/Divinity Faculty President –Gianluca Giammei

This week I have met with Alice and the Career Centre to try to organise a Career week focused on Postgraduate studies in September. We have talked about virtual sessions as well as inviting alumni. We are keen on doing a collaboration with the postgraduate society as this also aims to promote a sense of community between UG and PG students.

Science/Medicine Faculty President - Alisa Danilenko

Not too much happening since the start of semester. I'm a member of a few of the ELIR writing groups, so we're seeing where that goes in the next few weeks. This week I'm working with a University Outreach Officer to work out the details of the visit of Marc Abrahams, the founder of the Ig Nobel Prizes. This will now be held as a part of Science Week in early March.

SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener –Ashley Clayton

No report submitted.

SRC Postgraduate Development Convener –Courtney Aitken

Postgraduate Development Group are meeting this week on Tuesday 27th November. I have been invited to sit on Student Experience Committee this Friday 30th November.

Principal Ambassador – Emma Thompson

We've just closed our January recruitment period and are welcoming all the new ambassadors to the scheme. We have also received loads of Principal Team applications, and will begin the interview process soon. We plan to have chosen the new Principal Team before our first Visiting Day (March 3). The current team finishes their role at the end of May 2019. In addition to all of this, we are preparing for a busy semester with 7 Visiting and Offer Holder Days, external events, SIMD lunches, Subject Applicant Days and more.

Rector's Assessor – Camilla Duke

The Rector had a good visit to St Andrews back in January for the quarterly meeting of the University Court, where we presented our Report jointly with Alice and Paloma. The Rector's Committee continues to work with the Students' Association and Sandra Mitchell on the Universal Credit campaign. Our upcoming event, These Islands, is live on Facebook and free to attend, so we would love to see you all there! Happy last SRC everyone!

SRC Member Without Portfolio – Robyn Wells

Working on a couple of upcoming socials for semester 2. Apart from that nothing to report.