



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

Tuesday 21st April 2015 - Student's Association Board Room - 6.00pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Charlotte Andrews	Association Alumni Officer
Zara Evans	Association Chair
Clare Armstrong	Association Community Relations Officer
Ondrej Hajda	Association Director of Representation
Joe Tantillo	Association Director of Representation-Elect
Fay Morrice	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Kyle Blain	Association Director of Student Development and Activities-Elect
Sigrid Jorgensen	Association LGBT Officer
Pat Mathewson	Association President
Iain Cupples	Education Researcher
Sarah Thompson	President of the Athletic Union
Annie Newman	Rector's Assessor
Katy Rae	Science/Medicine Faculty President
Louise McCaul	Science/Medicine Faculty President-Elect
Alexandre Ciric	SRC Accommodation Officer
Omar Ali	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
Nils Turner	SRC Employability Officer

Jackie Ashkin	SRC Member for Racial Equality
Holly Johnston	SRC Member for First Years
Alice Lecointe	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Adam Stromme	SRC Member for International Students
Aysha Marty	SRC Member for Mature Students

In Attendance

Ilaria Gidoro	Education and Representation Coordinator
Joseph Cassidy	The Saint

Absent

Eleanor Mullin	Arts/Divinity Faculty President-Elect
Bryony Shepherd	Principal Ambassador
Toby Emerson	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Tania Struetzel	SRC Postgraduate Convenor

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	Reason
Charlotte Potter	Arts/Divinity Faculty President	
Leon O'Rourke	Association Director of Events and Services	
Chris MacRae	Association Director-Elect of Events and Services	
Alice Pickthall	Association Environment and Ethics Officer	
Kate Mayer	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	
Maxwell Speirs	SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation	
Miriam Chappell	SRC Welfare Officer	

The apologies were accepted without dissent.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the SRC meeting of 7th April have been emailed, approved and uploaded on the Association's website.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. Open Forum

There was no business in the open forum.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Athletic Union President

Ms Thompson reported that the events held during the Alumni Weekend were a real success and received positive feedback. She also informed that student intern positions had been created and interviews will be carried out.

6.2 Report of the Association President

Mr Mathewson attended court on Friday, where strategic plan was discussed. He informed that the Substandard Accommodation plan was well received. He also commented on the success of the Alumni Weekend.

6.3 Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

No report in absentia was submitted.

6.4 Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

Ms Morrice informed that this was a busy period with AGMs, handovers and the work of subcommittees. She announced that the voting for the Charities elections was open. She reported that her main event for the Alumni Weekend was cancelled, but the rest of the events were going very well.

6.5 Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Hajda informed that the NUS referendum issue was discussed during the last Executive Committee meeting, and it was decided that the referendum will be held in November. The Election Committee will establish rules for this referendum. During the last SAEC, it was also decided to remove point 4 of the Resolves from the motion J.15-15. As a result, the referendum does not have to be repeated in 2018. Mr Hajda also advised that an amendment to the motion was proposed and accepted by the committee. The purpose of this amendment is to task the Executive Committee with raising awareness of the methods of bringing about change in the Students' Association.

Mr Hajda announced that 375 nominations had been received for the Teaching Awards. This is the highest number of nominations ever received. The list of shortlisted nominees was published on the Union website. The ceremony will be held on the 29th of April, when the winner of the Proctor's Award will also be announced.

Mr Hajda also encouraged Honours students to apply for the Undergraduate Award and to promote it.

The Mental Health training is happening this weekend. Mr Hajda asked if anybody wanted to join, as two places were made available because two students dropped out.

7. Questions for Subcommittees

7.1 Questions for Association Alumni Committee

Ms Andrews reported that a meeting will be held tomorrow to analyse what worked and what did not work in the Alumni Weekend. Moreover, the subcommittee is accepting applications and she encourages attendees to advertise it.

7.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Committee

Mr Armstrong announced that applications for the subcommittee are open.

7.7. Questions for SRC Education Committee

Ms Rae reported that the “Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling” event had been well received.

7.9. Questions for SRC Equal Opportunity Committee

Mr Ali added to his report that applications for the “Black History Month” were open and ideas and events were being discussed.

7.12. Any Other Competent Questions

Ms Morrice added that the Societies Committee was interviewing for the Society Awards. Mermaids will have their annual ceremony on Sunday.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New General Business

9.1. J.15-16 A Motion to Include Students on Leave of Absence in the Students’ Association Elections

OWNER: Elections Committee

IN EFFECT FROM: Immediately

REVIEW DATE: April 2016

THIS SSC & SRC NOTE:

- That the Elections Committee for the Students’ Association Elections 2015 recommended to the Councils to clarify the status of students on a leave of absence as ordinary members of the Students’ Association and their eligibility to stand, campaign, and vote for in an election.
- That the Elections Committee recommended that students on a leave of absence who are expected to return in the following academic year are given the same rights of ordinary members of the Students’ Association and therefore allowed to stand, campaign, and vote in the Students’ Association Elections.

THIS SSC & SRC BELIEVES:

- That the Students' Association should give students on a leave of absence who are expected to resume studies in the following academic year a platform for getting involved.

THIS SSC & SRC RESOLVES:

- To allow all students on a leave of absence to campaign in Students' Association Elections.
- To allow students on a leave of absence who are expected to resume studies at the beginning of the following academic year to stand and vote in the Students' Association Elections.
- To mandate the Elections Committee to come up with an appropriate definition of ordinary membership of the Students' Association and investigate whether the proposed amendment would also necessitate a change in the Constitution of the Students' Association.
- To encourage Sabbatical Officers and staff in the Students' Association to provide appropriate support to all candidates in the Students' Association Elections.

PROPOSED: Election Committee

Ondrej Hajda Director of Representation
Joe Tantillo Director-Elect of Representation

Mr Tantillo presented the motion, whose purpose is to clarify the status of students on Leave of Absence. He encouraged attendees to discuss pros and cons in detail. Mr Blain asked how many students are presently on Leave of Absence. Mr Hajda replied that it is difficult to give an exact answer because the reasons for students on Leave are varied. An approximate number would be 300.

Debate on the motion followed. Ms Morrice supported the motion. Mr Hajda stressed that students on Leave are expected to resume their studies, but in some cases they do not/ are not able to do so. Ms Morrice answered to this statement saying that this is not a reason to exclude these students from the elections, and pointed out that extenuating circumstances can happen to any student. Mr Hajda informed that this actually happened to a sabbatical at the University of Stirling, and that there are ways to fix this problem if it happens. The committee moved to vote.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Mr Hajda asked whether they need to amend the constitution in this case. Mr Cupples stated that, in the case of a constitutional amendment, this will need to be discussed by the Councils.

10. Open Discussion

Mr Blain informed that he had posted a link for the Charities Elections on Facebook.

11. Any Other Competent Business

There was no other competent business.

The meeting adjourned.