

**STUDENT VOICE MINUTES**

Wednesday 1st February 2017, 2pm.

The meeting was held by web-ex.

*In the Chair – Ezra Wilson, Union Chair.*

1. **Members Present**

Heather Armstrong President of Societies and Citizenship (PoSC) and Senior Student Representative (SSR)

John Black President of Education (PoE) and Second Court Representative (SCR)

Johnathan Cranstoun President of Sport and Wellbeing (PoSW)

Lisa McCusker President of Student Support (PoSS)

Emma Shotter Disabled Student Officer

Alek Charfeddine Business Studies

Cameron Stewart Social Science

Arnault Bembo Education

Donald Buchanan Business

Kazi Nabila Teaching English as Second Language

Sheena Davis Midwifery

Lena Bach Teaching English as Second Language

Alan Sunter Media

Mark MacPhail Business Technology

Gary Carswell Nursing

Alan Martin Business

Iain Inglis Computing

Scott McIntosh Media

Taylor Rankin Psychology

Hannah Ferns Education

Iain MacKenzie Technical Theatre

Peter Cartwright Nursing

Ana-Paula Fonseca PG Business

Katie Waddell Design and Engineering

Samuel Yerokun Networking and Multimedia

Craig Kennedy Computing

Rory Galbraith International Management

Colette Beagan Business

Camila Enevoldsen Education

Blane Abercrombie PG Science

Pritpal Kalsi Psychology

Gemma Verlaque Business/Anima and Manga

Karen Fallon Networking and Multimedia

In attendance

David Devlin Membership Development Manager (MDM)

Claire Lumsden Student Representation Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)

Linsey Roseman Membership Administrator

1. **Apologies**

Kate Morrison LGBT+ Students Officer

Jeanette Ross Science

Kevin McKinley Science

Joan Bell Business

Ceilia Puigros Rullan Business

Rebecca Colquhoun Social Work

Catriona Connelly Education

Chloe Cheng Accounting

Beatriz Gonzalez Kalovsek Psychology

Katie Squires Nursing

Ieva Stroncikaike Science

Laura Paterson Midwifery

Della Veillet Specialist Practice District Nursing

Brogan McSeveney Education

Hayley Lambie Business

Douglas Ewing Business Technology

Marcella McIlroy Science

Michelle McClure Business

**Meeting protocols**

Chair welcomes members to the meeting and thanks them for attending the Student Voice meeting via web-ex. States that all members are welcome to contribute and this is encouraged, members don’t need to be on video or audio if they want to contribute, this can be done via the ‘chat’ option and this will be read out by the Chair or a staff member in attendance.

Chair further explains that there is an audio system to participate however reiterates that there is a chat option if members are unable to use microphones or do not want to. Reminds members to send chat messages to everyone and not privately so that it can be seen by all. Adds that voting will take place via the ‘Polling’ option, there will a 30 second time limit on all voting. Once voting has taken place, the Chair will receive the results and then announce these.

Also states that although the meeting is online, members are bound by the Code of Conduct in that no sexist, racist, abilist, homophobic or other language which deliberately makes someone feel unwelcome is allowed, anyone found to do this will be given a warning and if repeated will be removed from the meeting and may be subject to disciplinary action. Adds that if anyone feels uncomfortable at any point, they can report this privately in the chat option to either MDM or SRCo-ord and it will be address immediately.

Chair also explains that during the meeting, if anyone wishes to contribute they should click the ‘hands up’ button on the screen and they will be given opportunity to speak by the Chair.

1. **Chair’s Notice**

The Chair gives notice that committee elections will take place in this meeting for the SAUWS Disciplinary Panel, SRCo-ord will conduct this election and encourages all members to consider standing for this committee. Chair reminds members that they can’t hold more than one office therefore if any member is already on another committee, for example a Sabbatical or Executive Officer, they can’t stand for these positions

1. **Minutes and Matters Arising**
2. Matters of accuracy – There were no matters of accuracy
3. Matters arising – There were no matters arising
4. **Items of Business**
5. **Accountability: Sabbatical Officers and Union Chair – Update from Union Chair**

Chair explains that Accountability sessions have been held with Sabbatical officers however a session is still to be held with President of Sport and Wellbeing (PoSW)

Chair invites questions from members for the Sabbatical Officers, there are none.

Chair reminds members that there is a link to ‘ask a question’ to the Sabbaticals and any questions posted will be asked at the next accountability session. Adds that the recent accountability sessions will be placed on the SAUWS website after this meeting (these can be found at: <https://www.sauws.org.uk/union/exec/accountability1617/>).

1. **Student Feedback Mechanisms – Open discussion**

Chair invites SRC-ord to lead this discussion. SRCo-ord explains that when the notification of Voice was sent out, we received a lot of feedback from Reps and we felt it would be appropriate to include a discussion on what the issues are currently so we can then discuss these further either with Reps or with the University. Issues such as late placement allocations, financial support for course, room changes etc. We also wanted to give members an opportunity to share what they’ve done and identify best practice.

SRCo-ord explains that there are several mechanisms Reps and students can use to feedback what they like or don’t like about the programme. This includes the National Student Survey, Post Graduate Taught and Research surveys, iGraduate survey and Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQ). If invited to participate you are encouraged to do so, the feedback received from students is acted upon and changes are made because of it. An example of change supported by students is the change to the structure of the academic year. The MEQ is an ideal opportunity within modules to give feedback. Within Schools there are reps who sit on different groups to share what students think about the programme, School or the university.

Iain Ingles states that there is some module coursework which doesn’t relate to the programme, SRCo-ord explains that they should raise this with their programme leader and explain why they don’t think it’s relevant using evidence to support this. SRCo-ord also explains that within each programme there is a handbook which explains what students will be learning in each module along with the assessments related to each learning outcome. Also stresses the importance of getting things in writing.

Alek Charfeddine suggests that they have raised issues with the Programme Leader and these have been fixed, SRCo-ord asks if they can explain what happened. Alek Charfeddine explains that students were not allowed to ask questions during lectures therefore some international students found difficult to pass the module and felt the assessment wasn’t clear. In another module there was uncertainty about which assessment they were to do as different students were asked to do different assessments. Adds that there were issues around information sharing too, some students didn’t know when they were to re-submit assessments. They also didn’t know how to apply for further study after finishing their course. As a result of these issues being raised, the Erasmus co-ordinator put on a session to discuss what is required for moving to the next level of study, what they need and how to apply. The issues with assessments were also address with the programme leader.

SRCo-ord explains that Reps don’t necessarily need to wait until a student staff meeting to raise issues, they can do this anytime with staff, the issues Alek raised were all fixed outside meetings. Adds that when Reps go to staff with issues they should also try to find the solutions to those issues as well, if they don’t know how to fix something, staff can help and will develop a solution in partnership with students.

Kazi states that the reps from the School got together to talk about issues, including assessments as some were very close together, this was sorted out. There were also accommodation issues with regards to heating. SRCo-ord explains that accommodation is a wider student experience issue and should be raised at Voice, further highlights that this can be discussed with the Officers and then with staff and at committees.

Pritpal Kalsi raises a further issue of having exams on a Saturday, the Rep has gathered the evidence that students are unhappy with this but the School and Exams Unit have said it will not be changed. SRCo-ord explains that further evidence would be required around why students can’t attend a Saturday exam for example due to childcare or employment which can cost money as it’s unlikely to be changed because students just don’t want to come to a Saturday exam

SRCo-ord further explains that if there are exams at the same time, students should raise this with the Programme Leader who will get one of the exams changed, if there are exams very close to one another on the same day it can be difficult to switch from one subject to another in such a short time so we’d encourage students to speak to staff about that. SRCo-ord points out however that it is not always possible to change exams if they don’t clash due to the sheer number of students taking exams at the same time but it’s still worth raising so that staff has an evidence base to work with.

Alek Charfeddine states that some students have found it difficult to get jobs when they’ve arrived in January to help pay for fees etc., asks if we can promote where to find these opportunities. SRCo-ord explains that the University has a Careers and Employability service who can help students with things like their CV and applying for jobs, they will also have a list of seasonal and part-time jobs available. (The link to the Careers service is: <http://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/services-for-students/careers---employability-service/>).

Mark MacPhail states that some reps were appointed later and haven’t been able to undertake training, SRCo-ord states that training is currently being organised and reps will be informed of this via email. Adds that the Union Chair is planning a Motions Writing Workshop as a result of the last networking session, again reps will be emailed about this once organised. Reminds members to email us for any specific training needs they may have.

1. **Motions**
2. **NUS Scotland Motions ratification**

Chair explains the following motions have been submitted to Voice for ratification to be submitted to NUS Scotland Conference. All are proposed by the Executive Committee

1. **TEF ‘AFF (Education Zone)**

John Black, President of Education (PoE) gives speech for the motion: SAUWS has already passed policy against implementation of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), we are waiting on notification from UWS on whether they will enter TEF2 following some campaign work. This motion however is Scotland wide and is calling for NUS Scotland to actively oppose TEF alongside the Scottish Government and Scottish sector, it also calls for NUS Scotland to support Unions campaigning against TEF at a local level.

There is no speech against

Voice move to vote:

For: 20

Against: 5

Abstain: 8

*The motion is ratified*

1. **Generation Lost (Priority Zone)**

Heather Armstrong (SSR) gives speech for the motion. Explains that this motion came about from other discussions about student needs. The motion asks for NUS Scotland to work with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council to get a better deal and funding model for UWS. A recent report on Widening Access, which UWS heavily contributed to the recommendations, shows that UWS is severely underfunded. We want NUS Scotland to fight for a better deal for UWS and other widening access institutions.

Cameron Stewart asks if this motion is asking for NUS Scotland to seek a new funding formula for all institutions. SSR responds that yes it does.

Blane Abercrombie asks if this should be put alongside discussion on where universities spend their funds for example not investing in the arms trade. SSR agrees and is happy to have a further discussion; it is something we are keen to work on further.

Speech against is not taken

Voice move to vote

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

*The motions is ratified*

1. **Erasmus students are for life, not just for Brexit (Community Zone)**

Cameron Stewart proposes procedural motion under Bye Law 3, Section 2, f, iii, 4 – that the question (motion) shall not be put.

SSR states that they have discussed the motion already with Cameron that it wouldn’t do what it need to and therefore needs re-worked.

Chair informs members that there should have been a speech for the Procedural Motion and that what the SSR said would count as the speech, Cameron Stewart agrees with this.

There is no speech against the Procedural Motion

Voice move to vote

For: 17

Against: 3

Abstention: 7

*The procedural motion passes*

John Black, PoE, proposes a further procedural motion under Bye Law 3, Section 2, f, iii, 5 – that the question (motion) as specified be put to another meeting.

Speech for: States that the meeting will be an emergency Executive Committee meeting, the date and time is not known however it will be in time for the motions deadline for NUS Scotland, we would like to amend the motion to strengthen it. Chair clarifies that if passed, the Executive Committee can change the motion to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Voice move to vote

For: 22

Against: 2

Abstentions: 4

The procedural motion passes

Chair asks once the motion has been re-worked, can this be published. SSR states that it will be and taken to the next meeting of Voice.

1. **Disciplinary Committee elections**

SRCo-ord explains that this election is for the SAUWS disciplinary committee who hold students to account if they breach any of SAUWS rules or regulations. The committee will hear cases and then make a judgement on upholding or not that case. Adds that this section of the constitution is the final part which requires review and any comments or suggestion on how it should run in the future would be welcome.

Further explains that all places are open and include a Chair, Depute Chair and five ordinary places and reminds members that only students who do not currently hold office, for example members of the Executive Committee, can stand for these positions.

SRCo-ord asks for nominations for Chair, two are received.

Kazi Nabila and Cameron Stewart are nominated.

SRCo-ord explains that each will give a 30second speech to support their nomination and then Voice will vote on their preferred candidate.

Voice move to vote

Cameron Stewart: 13

Kazi Nabila: 10

RON: 0

Cameron Stewart is elected as Chair

SRCo-ord asks for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Kazi Nabila is nominated.

As there are no other candidates, Kazi is elected as Deputy Chair

SRCo-ord asks for nominations for Ordinary Members, there are none. Nominations for Ordinary Members will be called at the next Voice meeting.

SRCo-ord thanks members for standing and voting.

1. **Any Other Competent Business**

Chair invites members to bring forward items to discuss.

Cameron Stewart states that Voice are expected to ratify appointments to the Board of Trustees, there have been 7 meetings of the Board so far yet Voice have not been asked to ratify appointments. If there is a ratification which rejects appointments would they be removed.

Chair states that this is a matter of interpretation of the constitution by the Senior Student Representative and as such they will be asked to form a statement on this and will release this to members at a later date.

John Black, PoE, takes the opportunity to promote the Student Association Sabbatical and Executive Officer elections, reminds members that nominations are currently open and anyone interested should visit the SAUWS website.

Iain Ingles states that the food at the Student Hub in Paisley is unsatisfactory and would like to know how to take it forward to be improved. SSR states that we can have a discussion with the Catering services about this issue but asks members to email them with their concerns so that there is evidence to support the discussions.

There are no further points raised.

Chair thanks members for their participation and contributions. Chair closes the meeting.

Start: 2.15pm

End: 3.40pm