

SRC Meeting - 24th November 2009

Present:

Association President	Andrew Keenan
Director of Events and Services	Phil Pass
Director of Representation	Georgina Rannard
Director of Student Development and Activities	Matthew Guest
Association Chair	Emma Foley
Association Community Relations Officer	Holly West
Association Sustainability Officer	Benjamin Bridgman
SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer	Libby Parker
SRC Officer for External Campaigns	Nick Roxburgh
SRC Member for Sexualities and Gender	Miranda Myrberg
SRC Member for Widening Access	Fiona Kingston
SRC Member for International Students	Hervé Lemahieu
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Alastair Holmes
SRC Member for University Accommodation	John Skelton
SRC Member for Honours Academic Issues	Kit Garcin
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Beverley Macklin
SRC Member for Part-time students	Taylor Fitzgerald
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Daniel Fisher
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Lukas Ross

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Chair's business

- 2.1 Apologies: Joely Denkinger, Brittany Dunstan, Freddie Fforde
- 2.2 Minutes of previous meeting
- 2.3 Matters arising

3. Presidential business

The President is working on the redevelopment; he has held meetings with Estates and the possible architect. He is also working with Hall Committees on liability issues. The date of the Senior Students Forum is to be confirmed.

4. Representation business

The DoR expressed her gratitude to those who came to help at it, including Fiona Kingston, Lukas Ross, Luke Woollen, Ben Bridgman, Emma Foley, Brittany Dunstan, Nick Roxburgh, Taylor Fitzgerald, Alastair Holmes, John Skelton, Holly West. She also thanked the University for helping.

The Class Rep Forum needs looking at as people feel rushed through it and don't get enough feedback.

She is working on a paper about the University Accommodation application process.

She held a meeting with NHS Fife about condom distribution. There is no chance now that they will give the Association the money for condoms. The grant used to come from the NHS' HIV prevention strategy which NHS Fife

doesn't receive. An option would be to target certain profiles of students, but the DoR is not keen to do this. The NHS is not likely to redo the strategy, so the DoR will look into a political strategy – she will talk to Ian Smith. She will also investigate if the Association can buy condoms themselves to distribute. This is a difficult issue to fight as other student unions already pay for condoms.

Some universities have “peer mentoring” schemes within departments. It may be possible to start this up in St Andrews.

The SRC Member for Sexualities and Gender said that it sounded like a good idea as it would be great for new students to receive advice on essays etc.

The SRC Member for Private Accommodation agreed, especially regarding the transition between sub-honours and honours.

The SRC Member for Widening Access said she thought it would be good for students who got on well, but was concerned that it may not work.

The SRC Member for Part-Time Students noted that if the schools paired the students then it would be easier to find good matches.

The SRC Member for Students with Disabilities agreed that students would benefit from the scheme.

The SRC Member for Sexualities and Gender suggested that students would have to volunteer for the programmes so that only willing students were made mentors.

The SRC Member for Honours Academic Issues suggested that students be able to opt out of the scheme if they wished as arbitrarily paired students may not gain any benefit from it.

The President said that mentors should be allowed to opt out if they wished but they wouldn't be allowed to choose the students they mentor.

The SRC Member for International Students suggested that honours students could be paired with postgraduates for advice on postgraduate level study.

The SRC Member for Students with Disabilities advised that first year students could be paired with mentors before they arrive.

The DoR said that she didn't want the scheme to remove any responsibility from University staff. She asked for further suggestions on how to implement such a programme and thought that this issue may arise again soon.

The Art/Divinity Senate Representative asked if the SRC could be expected to clean up the Foam Fight every year as part of their responsibilities. He believed that this would be a positive idea and asked if a motion were needed to ensure this.

The President said that if there were no objections then this could happen.

The SRC agreed that its members would clean up the Foam Fight every year in future.

The SRC Member for Widening Access asked the DoR if there were any updates on the papers that she presented to a previous meeting.

The DoR said that she was attending a meeting the next day with the Deans to discuss the academic appeals process as representation for students is currently not adequate.

She also attended a Teaching Learning and Assessment meeting about borderzones, though nothing has changed as everyone had differing opinions on it.

The President said he thought the system would stay as it is.

The DoR said that changing the Permission to Proceed system was also discussed, but there were also different opinions on this so there will be further discussion.

The SRC Member for Students with Disabilities mentioned that a Class Rep had told her that she had been told to ask about this and was this correct.

The DoR said that the Class Reps had been asked for their opinions in October, but they hadn't been told about the new system. It is hard to get opinions on this as it has to be explained in detail. (The DoR then explained the new Academic Alert system to the SRC again.)

The SRC Member for Widening Access said that it was unfair that students could sit their exams and still lose their PtP.

The DoR said that students would know they were in trouble already with alerts they had received. It would enable schools to act earlier to discipline students.

The DoR asked how the SRC felt about WebCT.

The SRC Member for Sexualities and Gender said that she found it useful.

The Science/Medicine Senate Representative said that it didn't meet internet standards.

The DoR informed the SRC that the University wished to change to a better system.

5. Events and Services business

The DoES apologised for missing the past meeting and not replying to emails as he has been ill and has only just returned to work.

The St Andrews Festival is this weekend. There will be live music on Saturday night from Soul Food Café, Black Sheep and other bands. The cost is £5.

There will be comedy on in Venue 1 on Sunday evening. Rob Murray Brown may still be looking for volunteers if anyone wants to help at the Festival.

There is a street ceillidh on Monday night and a lights show.

He thanked the University for the money to stage an event the previous weekend which was not that well attended but was enjoyable.

The Freshers' Week figures show that £11,000 was made, which has mostly been spent on societies. The Societies Fayre made £8,500. Starfields lost £500, which was alright. The DoES thanked everyone who helped during Freshers' Week.

6. Student developments and activities business

The DoSDA has been selling Christmas Ball tickets today and will be tomorrow. Everything is going well.

The DoSDA is excited about the St Andrews Day Festival on Monday.

The last few grants are being awarded. There has been another meeting about charitable societies. The DoSDA will be very busy next week.

The President told the SRC that OSCR are reviewing the Association's charitable status and to ensure that it isn't breaking charity law. The

Association is sending them documents etc, OSCR are not actually coming to inspect the Union. It should be a good thing for the Association as it will answer many questions.

7. Sabbatical question time

The Association Sustainability Officer asked if anything was happening in Week 3 of next semester as he may hold Green Week then.

The DoES said that there wasn't, though noted that RAG Week is in Week 2. The Science/Medicine Senate Representative said that Week 1 was a good option as no-one had deadlines.

8. Officers' business

8.1 SRC Accommodation Officer

8.2 SRC Education Officer

8.3 SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer

The Semester Reform Survey is ongoing, which will hopefully get a lot of replies as it will be useful. There was another Gender Workshop today which went well.

The EOW Officer is meeting with Andrew Day, Stephen McGee and Caroline Thomas about scholarships in relation to the University's 600 Anniversary campaign. There is a new working group comprised of staff and students which will review where the money is going. The EOW Officer asked all subcommittees to start thinking about issues that could be helped with scholarships.

8.4 Association Community Relations Officer

Town and Gown have been asked to come back onto Community Council, which is good.

The Bike Lights campaign will start soon. They will be cheap.

The St Andrews Festival will be this weekend and so will the Christmas Lights switch-on.

8.5 Association Sustainability Officer

Green Week is getting organised at the moment – the Sustainability Officer is trying to get SSC involved in running events and would like the SRC to think about getting involved as well.

The launch of the Transition: St Andrews campaign, will take place on Monday 7th December, 7pm, in Venue 2.

The Officer is looking towards Copenhagen on the 20th December, with the climate change talks.

9. Officer Question Time

10. Any other business

The Science/Medicine Senate Representative asked if the SRC could ask people to do the How to Rent Survey again as there was a failure with the technology.

The DoR noted that the earlier results had not been noted as a result of this.

The Community Relations Officer asked if anything had occurred with regards to late licensing.

The President was unsure about this.

The DoES said that there was a rumour that anyone with a license later than 1am would lose it. This is not an official statement. There is a review by the licensing board at the moment but there is no indication that the Association will lose the licenses it has asked for.

The Association Sustainability Officer asked if there was anything the SRC could do to prevent the axing of Linguistics.

The Science/Medicine Senate Representative explained that he received minutes from University meetings that he reads carefully and there has been no mention of this, although the decision may have been made before he was elected. More information is needed about this.

11. Notices

11.1 Next meeting of the SRC - 8th December

11.2 Meetings of sub-committees

Sustainability – Tuesday at 4pm

EOW – Monday at 4pm

Community Relations – Tuesday at 12pm.

Accommodation - Wednesday at 3pm.