

## SRC Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009

### Present:

Association President	Andrew Keenan
Director of Representation	Georgina Rannard
Director of Events and Services	Phil Pass
Director of Student Development and Activities	Matthew Guest
Association Chair	Emma Foley SRC
Association Community Relations Officer	Holly West
Association Sustainability Officer	Benjamin Bridgman
SRC Accommodation Officer	Kat Stevens
SRC Education Officer	Luke Woollen
SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer	Libby Parker
SRC Member 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 Library and Learning Resources	Alex Bennett
SRC First Year Representative	Freddie Fforde
SRC Private Accommodation Officer	Alistair Holmes
SRC Member for Honour Academic Issues	Kit Garcin
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Beverly MacKlin
The Kate Kennedy Club President	Tom Kadri

### Apologies:

SRC Member for Part-Time Students	Taylor Fitzgerald
SRC Member for Mature Students	Brittany Dunstan,
SRC Member for Sub-Honours Academic Issues	Joely Denkinger,
SRC Member for University Accommodation	John Skelton
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Daniel Fisher,
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Lukas Ross,

Before the meeting began, Mike Johnson from the University's Admissions department gave a presentation to the SRC about Widening Access and projects the University is involved in to improve this (such as Science Camps for school children, the Sutton trust and visits schools). If anyone has any questions or wants any more information, email him on maj10.

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

### 2. Chair's Business

#### 2.1 Apologies for Absence

2.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

2.3 Matters arising - none.

### 3. Presidential Business

The President chose to not say much so that everyone would not be overloaded! He noted that at the meeting with the Principal on 19<sup>th</sup> October the discussion about links between staff and students was very helpful and something to look at in the future.

### 4. Representation Business

The DoR thanked all those who came to the meeting with the Principal. Volunteers are needed for the Union poster run (you will be thanked with free Bop tickets etc.), anyone who wants to volunteer and did not do so at the meeting, **get in touch** with DoR.

#### 4.1 Motion on the Introduction of regular, non-binding General Meetings

Background to the motion: There is no real open mechanism for students to bring up issues which they want discussing so this would be one way for them to do that.

The Member for Library and Learning Resources wanted to add in that students are also welcome to come to SRC or perhaps send round this information via the Wednesday memos (the Sabbaticals are looking into this). It was suggested that motions are put up on the Union website, which it turned out they are already and the **DoES** is going to add link ups. The **DoR** also noted that some of these points are covered in the motion. It was also suggested that meetings are advertised, perhaps in the Saint, though the President thought it might be printed too far ahead for people to remember. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### 4.2 Discussion Papers

These will give the SRC an opportunity for more direct input.

*Point 1: Rents for 2010-2011. Does the increase seem fair?*

Ben queried whether the 4% increase takes the demolition of Fife Park into account and if that would be an average increase? The President explained that each hall's rent would increase by 4% and the DoR explained that the increase pays for the redevelopment.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer raised the point that hall subs pay for broken facilities and so wondered why this was mentioned in the paper. The DoR explained that this takes into account long-term wear and tear rather than specific instances which hall committees pay for.

SRC Member for Library and Learning Resources thought that the idea of an online way to check whether washing machines are free seems pointless. The general consensus was that if it was a booking system rather than just a way of checking then it would be more sensible.

Alistair wondered why staff costs were increasing and the President explained that all staff are on a certain type of contract which requires them to go up a point on the pay scale every year so costs go every year.

The Officer for Widening Access commented that since we don't know much about the system it's hard to say whether or not it seems fair. The issue of Fife Park and affordable accommodation was raised and the DoR explained that affordable beds would go down by a third.

*Point 2: Border zones. Do the SRC want to get rid of them?*

SRC Member for Widening Access pointed out that they involved lots of work on both sides so staff should not stop using them.

The Member for Library and Learning Resources said there is a problem if they change between some people's third and fourth year as two systems would be getting used. The general feeling was that it is a bad idea as it means one bad exam could seriously affect your degree.

DoR thought that it may be more complex for staff as the number of appeals would increase. **Class reps** could bring this up in their SSCCs.

*Point 3: Representation in Academic Appeals*

DoR does not think that staff are always aware of how much of an affect this can have on people. Miranda thought that all students should have a

representative present at their meetings, even if they are unable to attend. The President noted the current policy does not take into account the increasing amount of group work students do so it will get more complex as time goes on.

There is a current issue in that not all people can be represented with the resources available, as shown by a recent group case, so something should be done. There is a general feeling that people deserve representation and do not get enough information about how the system works. The SRC should take the issue on! The University could give out more comprehensible information to those who need it.

DoR is also currently involved in: class rep training, condom rep training, working on the possible removal of the PTP system, working on a Board Paper to get another Sabbatical Officer.

#### 5. Events & services business:

The DoES is working on promotion and marketing for all events. He admitted that the Headphone Bop was a disaster last week – hopefully it will be better next time. There will be live music on Saturday, aiming to bring back student bands. He is also working on Raisin Weekend events and the Christmas Ball. On The Rocks submissions begin the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and continue until the end of the month. Calvin Harris will DJ on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November Venue 1. Also there will be NO Tina Turner played when Phil DJs the bop.

#### 6. Student development and activities business:

The DoSDA will be going to London on Wednesday for the National Student Radio Association launch of the “I Love Student Radio” campaign. He is working on re-affiliating societies; the provisional grants have been assigned. He is also going to many sub-committee meetings and working out where the Union stands in respect of Charity Law.

## 7. Sabbatical Question Time

### 8. Officers' business

8.1 SRC Accommodation Officer- the private accommodation survey is coming out soon; she is hoping to send “secret shoppers” to estate agents to see how good they are! The hall re-application process is possibly moving to February which may be a problem when it comes to applying to both hall and private accommodation. The Accommodation Officer would prefer to keep it where it was before. DoES pointed out that one problem in trying to get estate agents to move their deadlines is that they are not obliged to help students at all.

8.2 SRC Education Officer – he is working on: academic misconduct, class rep communication efficiency, teaching awards, student awards.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer asked whether there were already students' awards.

The DoSDA explained about the Principal's Medal and the St Andrews awards on transcripts.

8.3 SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer: recently working on the scholarship system programme review gender workshops (hoping to have societies involved), and the website. Disability awareness week and the mature/ part-time student survey.

*8.3.1 Motion proposing a Firmer Regulation of the Previous motion passed by the SRC (April 14 2009) regarding the Kate Kennedy Club and Similarly exclusive Societies.*

The Accommodation Officer noted that this is a highly controversial issue and the Member for Widening Access pointed out that wider consultation on this issue might be a good idea in the future.

*Under the section “This SRC notes”, point 1: no changes.*

*Point 2: Following a debate, the motion was changed to “membership” as*

opposed to “governing principles”.

*Point 3:* no change.

*Point 4:* the DoES pointed out that the Kate Kennedy Club were not simply “granted permission” to sell tickets but were charged at commercial rates.

*Point 5:* The motion was changed to “rented” rather than granted, once the DoES pointed out that again they would be charged.

The Kate Kennedy Club President said that the Pantomime was the same as any other play and is not only organised by the KKC. It was decided to remove the word “only” from the motion.

The Accommodation Officer asked why the KK were singled out in the motion as other societies operate on a similarly selective basis.

The DoR explained that they are an example of a well-known society who only allow men in and who organise a lot of events so the motion affects them particularly.

*Under “this SRC believes”:* points 1 and 2 were unchanged, the discussion on point 2 was left until the next point.

*Point 3:* the DoES thought that “outright” was too strong a word and wanted rather to publicise that it was a commercial arrangement.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer thought that from an outside perspective it may be seen as endorsement by the Students' Association which would hurt the EOW policy.

The KKC President wondered how this claim could be made since there had been no broader consultation with the student body.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer pointed out that she was representing those who had already voiced concerns to her.

The DoR followed up by pointing that there were other areas where it is not possible to involve all students (for example when a student is banned from the Union building).

The DoSDA pointed out that in this case they would still have access to representational support if they needed it).

The DoES clarified what “Association property” is – the car-park and area underneath the overhang, not the wider pavement area.

The Member for International Students stated that point 3 overlaps with point

2 and suggested that the two were merged.

The Member for Library and Learning Resources wanted to remove point 3 and amend point 2.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer explained that the main point was to get across that students can see the Association's attitude to the KKC as direct endorsement and did not want to take out both points.

There was a discussion about word changes after the Association Sustainability Officer suggested that it might be easier to amend the motion rather than take a point out. In point 3 "may" was added between "Association property" and "present"; "outright" was deleted; "in the eyes of " was replaced with "to members of".

*Point 4:* "society" was changed to "group".

The DoES thought that since any group involving students is in some way associated, even if it's not affiliated, the phrase "disassociated or" should be removed"- there was general agreement so it was taken out. He also raised the issue that the point might make it seem like the Union was being let out to private organisations over student groups since it says "regardless of how much [a group] pays" but since the The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer said that this phrase was important for the sense of the point, it was decided to leave it in.

*Point 5:* The KKC President asked about what had to happen for this document to become policy. The President explained that it would have to be ratified by the SSC as well, in which case the KK Pantomime would not be able to be held in the Association building.

*Point 6:* by general agreement this was taken out, partly as it had been raised with the Principal the night before.

*Under "this SRC resolves": point 1:* no changes were made.

*Point 2:* The KKC President objected to the phrase "regarding gender, sexuality, race and socio-economic background", which might make it seem like the KKC discriminated against people on all of these grounds.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer explained that this had not been the intention of the policy; it was merely to clarify on what grounds any unaffiliated group might be prohibited from holding events in the Union.

The President and the DoES thought that since this was already in the ethical policy of the Association, the phrase could be removed so it was. The word "ethos" was also changed to "policies".

There was a heated discussion about whether it was appropriate for the Union bar to be at events such as the KKC's Opening Ball in the future.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer pointed out that she had not wanted to raise this as an issue in the motion because she felt there should be consultation with the bar manager over the issue.

The DoES raised the point - with which several members including the DoSDA and SRC Accommodation Officer concurred - that the Association made a fair bit of money from the bar at the Opening Ball and if other societies who use the Union bar for their events feel the KKC have been treated unfairly then they might stop using the Union bar, so the Union could potentially lose more money.

The SRC Member for Library and Learning Resources thought that the DoES and the DoSDA were using the fact that some members do not know much about the Association's finances to scare people into voting against the motion.

The KKC President agreed with the DoES and said that it seemed odd that the motion would ban the Pantomime from Association premises and yet did not mention the use of the bar at future events- he felt that the KK were being unfairly discriminated against.

The question was raised by the DoR as to why he had not thought it appropriate to stand for a position on the SRC if he thought there was so much wrong with the Association and he responded that from what he had seen, it was not always a representative body and that some people in positions of responsibility were not using their jobs properly. The DoR replied that where the SRC falls at representing everyone, it was not through lack of trying.

The President asked some of the members to apologise to the KKC President for their impolite reaction to his opinion and the SRC Member for Library and Learning Resources was of the opinion that the KKC President should first apologise for insinuating that some of the Sabbatical officers were not doing their jobs properly. He did so and explained that he had meant to refer in more

general terms to the structure of the SRC and similar committees rather than to specific people on the council. He continued with the opinion that before changes with potentially wide applications were made, there should be broader consultation with the student body.

*Point 3:* was removed as it was no longer relevant. *Point 4:* no changes were made.

It was decided to move to the vote because the discussion was becoming circular. First there was a vote regarding the changes to the motion which was passed unanimously. The vote on the motion then took place.

There were 10 votes in favour, 7 in opposition and 2 abstentions. The motion was duly passed by the SRC.

8.4 Association Community Relations Officer - the St Andrews festival is being organised at the moment but it's quiet apart from that.

8.5 Association Sustainability Officer - the Inter-Hall Energy Competition will be under way soon.

9. Officer question time

10. Any other business

11. Notices

11.1 Next meeting of the SRC - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009.

11.2 Meetings of the sub-committees:

Accommodation Committee: Wednesday 3pm

EOW Committee: Monday 4-5pm

Community Relations Committee: TBC

Education Committee: Friday 1pm.