



*University of St Andrews Students' Association*  
meeting of the Students' Representative Council  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009, Committee Room, 7:30pm

## Minutes

### **Present**

Philippa Dunn

Stacy Lee

James Shield

Emma Foley

Kat Stevens

Luke Woollen

Libby Parker

Holly West

Benjamin Bridgman

Amit Mander

Nick Roxburgh

Freddie Fforde

Kit Garcin

Alex Bennett

Alastair Holmes

Beverly Macklin

John Skelton

Fiona Kingston

Lukas Ross

Hari Kumar

Phil Pass

Matthew Guest

Director of Student Development & Activities (DoSDA)

Director of Events and Services (DoES)

Director of Representation (DoR)

Association Chair

SRC Accommodation Officer

SRC Education Officer

SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare (EOW) Officer

Association Community Relations Officer

Association Sustainability Officer

SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities

SRC Member for External Campaigns

SRC Member for First Years

SRC Member for Honours Academic Issues

SRC Member for Library and Learning Resource Users

SRC Member for Private Accommodation

SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

SRC Member for University Accommodation

SRC Member for Widening Access

Arts/Divinity Senate Representative

John Burnet Hall Representative

DoES Elect

DoSDA Elect

### **Apologies**

Andrew Keenan

Brittany Dunstan

Joely Denkinger

Association President

SRC Member for Mature Students

SRC Member for Sub-Honours Academic Issues

### **Absent**

Hervé Lemahieu

Caroline Grima

Miranda Myrberg

Daniel Fisher

Oliverier Lewis

Georgina Rannard

SRC Member for International Students

SRC Member for Postgraduate Taught Students

SRC Member for Sexualities and Gender

Science/Medical Senate Representative

Postgraduate Senate Representative

Rector's Assessor/DoR Elect

### **1.0 Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda adopted

### **2.0 Chair's Business**

#### **2.1 Apologies for Absence**

As above

#### **2.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Accepted

#### **2.3 Matters Arising**

None

**3.0 Presidential Business**  
**3.1 DoSDA on behalf of President**  
**3.1.1 SRC Carve-ups**

The DoSDA explained the system of carve-ups and how the position of Senior Officer related to the Board and Executive Committee of the Students' Association (SA). Nominations and elections were as follows:

- *Senior Officer and Deputy*

Lukas Ross – Lukas has been on the Council for a long time and is thus experienced enough for this position. His involvement with student politics places him in a good position to make decisions which have wider repercussions. He has strong opinions but is aware of the importance of compromise. He is a strong believer in the redevelopment of the SA. When asked what he would bring as well as experience Lukas said good judgement, a sense of determination, knowledge of student politics and a serious attitude.

Libby Parker – Libby is motivated by genuine care for students and the SA and has time to commit to the position. She believes it is important to represent the diversity of views expressed within the SRC and is used to making choices people do not like, so she is experienced in making decisions which might have negative repercussions. When asked what personal attributes she would bring to the position she said an enjoyment of public speaking, diplomacy and an understanding of people's emotions.

Alex Bennett – Alex's involvement with the SRC has already made him aware of the SA's potential, and as a first year he would have plenty of time to devote to the position. He is enthusiastic about learning more and using past SRC decisions to represent different views on student issues to non-students. When asked what other relevant experience he had Alex said he was a society treasurer and had worked with a mental health charity at school.

Lukas Ross was elected as Senior Officer and Alex Bennett as Deputy.

- *SRC Nominee to SRC Community Relations Committee and Community Council*

Fiona Kingston was elected.

- *Sustainability Committee*

This was left until later as Daniel Fisher had made it known that he would like the position but was not at the meeting.

- *Societies Committee*

Ben Bridgman – Ben has been the treasurer of a good size society for a year and a half so he understands the technicalities of budgeting and grants. When asked how he would feel about dealing with around £30,000 he said it would be somewhat overwhelming but with his experience he did not think it would be too difficult.

Luke Woollen – Luke is a member of several societies and currently involved in setting one up; he would like to learn more about how societies are run and the responsibilities of the different people on the committee. He has previously worked for universities and marketing companies so he has held positions of responsibility. When asked how he would deal with large amounts of money he said he would look at proposals and budget with an emphasis on being thorough. When asked if he could be impartial he said he did not think bias would be possible as part of a committee, and the DoSDA added that normally people with a personal involvement in a society sit out of decisions. When asked about political societies he said all

societies deserve a chance to promote themselves and decisions would be based on the size of the society.

Luke Woollen was elected.

- *Religious Council*

Alex Bennett and Kit Garcin were elected.

#### **4.0 Representation Business**

##### **4.1 Director of Representation**

**4.1.1** Recent activities: The DoR spoke in the Kate Kennedy Club debate last week, and found that the Principal had spoken to the Lumsden Club at the same time. He attended Edinburgh university's teaching awards evening and it was very good; hopefully we will be able to run something similar although we do not have as much money.

**4.1.2** Upcoming activities: The DoR will be going to Swansea with Oli Walker to meet with the SA website provider to discuss possible changes and leaving the contract. The President and DoES will be going to Belfast to discuss Northern Supplies.

**4.1.3** Meetings: The DoR attended a meeting concerning who the university sells research to, and another one is coming up. Tomorrow there is a meeting in the Committee Room at 2pm about the government's desire for all non-EU students to hold identity cards and follow new guidelines. This is organised by Left Soc, who wish to campaign on the matter, although the DoR would like to use the meeting to look at the implications of the legislation. On Thursday there will be a teaching review in the School of Classics. On Friday there is an all day meeting of the University Court, during which the university will decide in what direction it wishes to go in various areas such as fundraising.

**4.1.4** There have been lots of applications for the position of Rector's Assessor; the Assessor will be chosen by the current Assessor, the President of the SA and the Rector.

**4.1.5** In May someone from a South African university's SRC will be coming to visit.

#### **5.0 Services Business**

##### **5.1 Director of Events and Services**

**5.1.1** The DoES has been working on the Faithless event for next Thursday and the bops in the final week.

**5.1.2** A new PA has been bought and the SA is looking to buy new equipment it can hire out.

**5.1.3** The DoES will be going to Belfast to speak to Northern Services and also to visit Queens University to look at their new union.

**5.1.4** He has been training the new DoES.

#### **6.0 Activities Business**

##### **6.1 Director of Student Development and Activities**

**6.1.1** The DoSDA is still recovering from On The Rocks. Anyone who put a show on had it paid for by On The Rocks, which then took all the ticket money. The estimated cost was £30,000; figures should be in by the end of the week.

#### **7.0 Sabbatical Question Time**

**7.1** How do people get money back from elections expenses? Candidates should have received emails; go to the cash office or speak to Iain Cupples.

**7.2** Will we hear about what happened at the University Court meeting? The DoR will request that students are able to find out what is happening.

**7.3** Emails to societies are being returned - have societies all held AGMs? Most have; the DoSDA can provide an updated list of presidents and new societies.

**7.4** What happened with the space planners who were visiting the SA? They were here on Friday night looking at the use of space in the SA and they affirmed many of the thoughts the sabbaticals had already had. They will come back at different times and eventually produce a report which will recommend to architects how to develop the building when work starts in 2012.

#### **8.0 Officers' Business**

##### **8.1 Accommodation Officer**

- 8.1.1 The Officer is working on some small problems in halls and lock outs in DRA. The trial system for lock outs used this year is going to be reviewed.
- 8.1.2 The Committee is looking at sending 'mystery shoppers' into estate agents.
- 8.1.3 A 'handover' meeting with old and new Senior Students is being held to strengthen their relationship with the Accommodation Committee.
- 8.2 *Education Officer*
- 8.2.1 The Member for Library and Learning Resource Users spent Friday in meetings about the library redevelopment. The university needs to be persuaded to spend its money now so that it does not have to spend more in the future to redevelop again. Librarians visiting from other universities were very critical of our main library. We also need to decide our position on departmental libraries.
- 8.2.2 The Committee has been looking at what standards students should expect from tutors in tutorials and lectures.
- 8.2.3 Teaching awards were discussed, as well as possibilities for national awards.
- 8.2.4 The Committee plans to keep the focus on academic misconduct from previous years.
- 8.3 *Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer*
- 8.3.1 An information event was held on Monday about international student visas – hopefully more accessible information will be going out shortly.
- 8.3.2 An event is coming up for part time and mature students. A representative is still needed for part time students.
- 8.3.3 Email eap8 if you are interested in the committee and would like to come to meetings.
- 8.4 *Association Community Relations Officer*
- 8.4.1 Much local horror has been caused by the sticking of posters to the outside of noticeboards. Muttoes Lane might be made into a poster area.
- 8.4.2 Stunning St Andrews is very active and may be holding a student activity day in May.
- 8.5 *Association Sustainability Officer*
- 8.5.1 The Officer had a meeting with Estates and was given a long list of issues to address which he will look at over the summer. The most immediate issue is waste management after students leave halls in May. There should be a space allocated for students to leave items to be donated to charity.
- 9.0 **Officers' Question Time**  
None
- 10.0 **Any Other Business**
- 10.1 The Member for First Years said he is putting together a proposal for his website and plans to email relevant people from the SRC for content. It will probably be independent rather than a yourunion.net minisite, but he is still considering how it will fit in with The Book. The DoR said that it is a possibility that a new website will exist by July.
- 11.0 **Notices**
- 11.1 Next meeting of the SRC:  
  
Next official meeting will be in October.
- 11.2 Next meetings of sub-committees:  
  
Accommodation – Tuesday, 12, Committee Room  
Education – Friday, 1pm, Committee Room  
EOW – Wednesday, 12, main bar  
Community Relations – TBC  
Sustainability – TBC
- 12.0 **Close of Meeting**