

SRC Minutes 6th October 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
	SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Alastair Holmes
	SRC Member for University Accommodation	John Skelton
	SRC Member for Sex and Gender Issues	Miranda Myrberg
	Association Community Relations Officer	Holly West
	Association Sustainability Officer	Benjamin Bridgeman
	Science Senate Representative	Daniel Fisher
	SRC Member for Widening Access	Fiona Kingston
	Arts/ Divinity	Lukas Ross
	SRC Member for External Campaigns	Nick Roxburgh
	SRC Member for International Students	Hervé Lemahieu
	John Burnett Hall Representative	Hari Kumar
	SRC Member for Honours Academic Issues	Kit Garcin
	SRC Member for Part-time Students	Taylor Fitzgerald
	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Beverly Macklin
	SRC Member for Matriculated Students	Brittany Dunstan
	Association Chair	Emma Foley
	SRC Accommodation Officer	Kat Stevens
Apologies:	SRC Education Officer	Luke Woollen
	SRC Member for First Years	Freddie Fforde
	SRC Member for Library and Learning Resources	Alex Bennett
	Rector's Assessor	James Shield
Absent:	SRC EOW Officer	Libby Parker
	SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Amit Mander
	SRC Member for Postgraduate Students	Caroline Grima

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 informed the Committee of projects which progressed over summer such as the redevelopment of the union. The website has been updated (which the SRC was enthused about) and if anyone wants to put anything up or ask about how to use it, get in touch with the **Sabb team**.

- 3.1 Motion on Subcommittees' Finance and Minutes- no questions were raised. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Representation Business

Summer activities included: working on projects such as the new teaching awards, the class rep system and feedback; organising academic events during Freshers' Week. Campaigns worked on

include the 10-10 Campaign (reducing carbon emissions), the accommodation campaign to do with photographing damage to your new flat and attending a conference about enhancement led institutional review.

5. Events & services business Freshers' Week was good and the total amount of money taken and information about the success of events will soon be in. The FREE gig last Saturday "sold out" and there will be another free event this Saturday called "Bonkers". Over the summer the doors of the union were re-done and the games room was renovated. Also the Bop Rota will be coming round- if there is a shift you cannot do **try and swap it yourself with someone, if you cannot find anyone, get in touch with Phil.**

6. Student development and activities business

The summer mainly involved planning Freshers' Week, which went really well. The SRC extend their thanks to all the volunteers, especially the duty managers and those who helped out on the SRC stall at the Freshers' Fayre. There was a conference entitled Aiming University Learning at Work which was about recognising extra-curricular activities.

Now, projects include helping relaunch Townsend, the commuting students' society, which would be beneficial as they sometimes feel excluded from the university and it would be good to have a groups who know about the problems faced by commuting students (such as being unable to submit essays via email) and could help deal with them. A discussion followed about commuting students. There are, according to the University, around 400 commuting students, though the list is not conclusive, especially people living as far away as Market Street and the DRA have registered as commuting students. There are travel bursaries available from the Scottish Government and the university is considering helping out with travel as well.

7. Sabbatical Question Time.

The President informed the committee that there will be a general Sabbatical Question time on Friday 9th October in School 5 at 7pm. Hopefully this will develop into a larger event where students will be able to bring general issues to the attention of the Sabbs and will happen every fortnight.

8. Officers' business

8.1 SRC Accommodation Officer-

Publicity will soon be available for the committee and for the private accommodation survey which will go up on the Union website. There will be a meeting with Isabelle Clifford to discuss the Hall application system which will hopefully at least achieve more information being given to students about re-applying to Hall. The website is going to be an ongoing project, as is the new affordable accommodation working group, which will report back to the SRC in the future.

8.2 SRC Education Officer- Absent

8.3 SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer- Absent

8.4 Association Community Relations Officer

Freshers' Week was good- the events went well. The Community Council in September wanted to change HMO procedures which would have caused more trouble for students with HMOs, but were convinced otherwise by the Sabbs turning out in force.

8.5 Association Sustainability Officer

The revised sustainability policy has been passed by the SSC, so an action plan will be formulated before the Board Meeting. The Inter-hall energy competition will begin on the 1st of November- publicity is forthcoming. The Transitional St Andrews carbon-footprint reducing campaign will soon be launching. Another ongoing project is the revision of the fairtrade policy.

9. Officer question time

Emma to email round with the Education meeting time. The Arts/ Divinity Senate Representative reported about the Senate Meeting, where a report was heard by Teaching Learning Assessment about graduate jobs, one thing to note was that there was nothing about “green” jobs, which seemed an unfortunate omission, possible work can be done with the Careers Centre to rectify this. **Arts/Divinity Member to inform DoR when this information will be passed to the relevant Vice-Principal.**

There followed a discussion on Academic Misconduct. The Science Representative noted that the policy on academic misconduct was up for review, which will be discussed by the Education sub-committee and if anyone has an opinion on the subject, inform this committee. Several people felt that one issue with any policy on academic misconduct is the difference between intent and action, though it was understood how difficult it is to determine this difference.

The possibility was discussed of the Association running its own campaign to inform people about the correct ways to reference and so on. The President noted that even with SALTIRE running campaigns on this issue, some students are still not given the right message and do not realise that they can be punished even if they have done something unintentionally.

There followed a discussion on whether students have to be informed when they are being investigated over possible academic misconduct as some members were not sure about University policy. The DoR explained that a student does not have to be informed when they are being investigated but once they are accused of something, their school should tell them what they are accused of. The SRC Member for International Students enquired how many cases there were per year- no one was sure as there are several different levels of misconduct but **the President** said it was possible to get the figures and email them out. The DoR noted that a review of the policy would affect group work which is becoming more popular as a method of assessment and also that the University are going to review the boundary zones between grades in the near future.

10. Any other business

10.1 Revised Statement on Access

The SRC Member for Widening Access told the meeting that this statement had been revised in part due to her recent experiences and increased knowledge of issues surrounding the statement. She informed the committee that parts referring to beliefs rather than facts and parts referring to ideas which are not currently achievable had been removed, while new relevant information had been added. In a discussion about part 2c of the document, the SRC Accommodation Officer enquired as to how many hours a student had to work per week at a part-time job before it was considered to interfere with their studies. The SRC Member for Widening Access said that ten to fifteen was considered to be the answer but that she had not felt it was appropriate to put a number in the document as it was a personal choice for each student to make. She also brought up the point that 2c was referring to the fact that the University might employ more students and a decision was taken to reword the document to “the University should encourage part-time employment by the schools”.

It was also decided that part 4 of the statement should be re-worded to make it clearer for which reasons students had decided to discontinue their studies.

A vote was taken and the statement was passed unanimously.

The **DoR** brought up the issue of SRC training, which had to be cancelled last week and will reschedule it for the near future. Also, if anyone has feedback on the new passmark (seven as opposed to five) please **email the DoR**.

There will be a joint meeting with the SRC, SSC and the Principal on Monday the 19th of October in Venue 2 at 7.30pm.

The President informed the committee about planned redevelopments in the Union which will create a new Advice Centre for education and accommodation help. It was agreed that running an independent service for this remains a good idea, though it was felt by the Science Representative that better publicity and marketing of this service would help students understand the difference between what it does and what Student Support do.

The SRC decided to appoint a social convenor and (very willingly) the Chair agreed to take on the responsibility.

The DoES then encouraged the SRC to follow the Sabbs on Twitter. He also brought up the St Andrews festival (28th-30th of November) and if anyone wishes to volunteer at this, they should **email** info@standrewsfestival.co.uk.

The DoSDA then told the SRC that feedback from the Student Barometer has come in (apparently opinion about the Union is good and opinion on the library and accommodation is not so good. How surprising.). The Student Barometer will be relaunching soon as well.

11. Notices

11.1 Next meeting of the SRC- to be emailed round once decided.

11.2 Meetings of the sub-committees: Accommodation Wednesday 3-4pm

Community Relations tba

Sustainability tba

Education tba

EOW Monday 4pm Committee Room