

University of St Andrews' Student Association
Meeting of the
Student Representative Council
Tuesday 25th March 2008, Committee Room, 7:30pm
Minutes

Present

Tom d'Ardenne	Association President
Steve Savage	Director of Representation (DoR)
Jenny Mackay	Director of Student Development & Activities (DoSDA)
James Shield	SRC Accommodation Officer
Georgina Rannard	SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer
Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)
Matthew Guest	SRC Member for Community Relations
Matthew Bonnaud	SRC Member for Second Year Students
Sarah Lloyd-Thomas	SRC Member for Third Year Students
Larry Jennings	SRC Member for Mature Students
Alex Hayes	SRC Member for Part Time Students
Amjad Al-Dajani	SRC Member for International Students
Emma Arenson	SRC Member for Students with Special Needs
Lukas Ross	SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities
Molly Uzzell	SRC Member for Women's Issues
James Pollard	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Emma Foley	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Sally Young	SRC Member for Private Accommodation
Shaun Atkinson	SRC Member for Private Accommodation
Terry Fulton	SRC Member for Postgraduate Accommodation
Rebecca Austin	SRC Member for Library and Learning Resource Users
Daniel Fisher	SRC Member for the Faculty of Science
Harry Giles	SRC Member for Absent Students
Martin Schmierer	SRC Member Without Portfolio
Meredith Wouters	SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer Elect
Phil Pass	SRC Accommodation Officer Elect

Apologies

Rich Robinson	Director of Events and Services (DoES)
Rachael Whitbread	Chair
Rob Fett	Education Officer
Sarah McCusker	SRC Environment and Ethics Officer
Marc Locherty	SRC Member for the Faculty of Medicine
Scott Platton	SRC Member for Men's Issues
Laura Wilkes	SRC Member for the Faculty of Arts
Sam Fowles	SRC Member for First Year Students

Absent

Beth Conner	SRC Member for Fourth Year Students
Sanni Turunen	SRC Member for JYA and JSA Students
Olly Markeson	Rector's Assessor
Marcus Anthony Mayo	SRC Member for the School of Divinity
Rich Fenner	SRC Member for Sexualities and Gender
Laura Wilson	Arts/Divinity Senate Rep
Ashley Cole	Postgraduate Senate Rep

- 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

- 2.3 Accepted
Matters Arising
None
- 2.4 Minutes on website
Reminder to upload minutes promptly.
- 3.0 Presidential Business**
- 3.1 President
- 3.1.1 The President is currently putting together a comprehensive training brochure for current and incoming SRC/SSC members and next year's Sabbaticals. SRC members are encouraged to email any comments or information that they feel it would be useful to include.
- 3.1.2 The President thanked the current SRC for their work over the past months.
- 4.0 Representation Business**
- 4.1 Director of Representation
- 4.1.1 March 14th elections comprised 64 candidates and around 1800 voters. They were the most contested elections ever and no major complaints have been received regarding conduct.
- 4.1.2 The DoR also thanked the current SRC for their work. The President added that certificates are being made and will be distributed to current members.
- 5.0 Services Business**
- 5.1 DoR on behalf of the Director of Events and Services
- 5.1.1 The DoES thanked in his absence those members of the SRC who turned up for their allocated Bop duty.
- 6.0 Activities Business**
- 6.1 Director of Student Development and Activities
- 6.1.1 The DoSDA thanked the current SRC and Sabbatical team for their work over the past months.
- 7.0 Officers' Business**
- 7.1 Accommodation Officer
- 7.1.1 See the officer's annual report.
- 7.2 Education Officer
Absent
- 7.3 Environment and Ethics Officer
Absent
- 7.4 Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer
- 7.4.1 See the officer's annual report.
- 8.0 Sabbatical Question Time**
- 8.1 The Member for Absent Students asked about elections reimbursement. The DoR said that he would send out an email tomorrow clarifying the rules for reimbursement and how money is to be collected.
- 8.2 When do the newly elected members come into office? Monday 14th April.
- 9.0 Officers' Question Time**
- 9.1 The President asked the Member for Community Relations if he would create a team of journalists to write a column in The Citizen encouraging good town-gown relations. The Member agreed; the column has already been acquired.
- 10.0 Notices**
- 10.1 Next Meeting of the SRC
Tuesday 22nd April, 7:30pm, Committee Room
This is the first meeting for newly elected members. Reminder that some Members elected in the bi-elections in October are still on the SRC even if their positions have been abolished.
- 10.2 Next Meetings of Sub-Committees

Accommodation: Tuesday 15th April, 12:30, Committee Room
The new Officers will send out emails to arrange times for the other committees.

11.0 Motions

11.1 *Motion to the SRC to support affordable accommodation campaigning*

The SRC Member for Absent Students spoke briefly about the motion, noting that sometimes there was opposition to demonstrations because people felt they would detract from the campaign, or that protesters should go through the proper channels. He said that demonstrations were one of those channels, although the President noted that protest can jeopardise relations between the University and the Students' Association (SA) in other areas. It was noted that the motion should refer to Park, not Court.

The President asked for clarification on what financial help was being asked for, whether action would be taken by the Lower Rents Now Coalition or the SA and for more detail about the protest. The SRC Member for University Accommodation James Pollard said that things were still in the planning stages but a walking protest was likely. £20-30 would be enough for publicity, and it was decided the amount of money and the publicity itself would be approved at the Accommodation Committee meeting. It was agreed that expenses for suitable publicity could be reimbursed in retrospect. Approval could be granted electronically if the timing of meetings was going to be a problem for the campaign.

Points in favour:

- the protest will go ahead even if the SRC votes not to support it, and it would look like a fringe group was doing the SRC's job.
- ultimately the Coalition and the SA have the same goals, and we should put differences aside to work towards them.

Points against:

- we would be tying the hands of the incoming SRC (it was countered that if this view was taken the SRC should thus be regarded as generally impotent).
- the DoSDA asked if the point about Derek Watson should be removed. A vote was taken on an amendment to remove the claim re. Derek Watson – 7 in favour, 10 against, 4 abstentions; the amendment was rejected.
- does the SRC wish to be associated with a group which has criticised the SRC both verbally and on paper for apparently doing nothing about this issue?

Voting: 15 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

11.2 *Motion to the SRC regarding the purchase of Eden Springs water*

The SRC Member for International Students introduced the motion with information about Eden Springs and the distribution of a petition signed by students supporting the motion.

It was noted that it went against the sustainable plan to import something available locally, and that it was ridiculous to import water from so far away. The DoSDA suggested One Water as the recommended source of water for the university. The President recommended that it be added that the SA supports water sourced ethically and locally in a socially responsible manner.

Voting: 21 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

11.3 *Motion to the SRC regarding the censure of Keith Brown*

The President said that the minutes agree that Keith Brown did indeed say that the university was not accountable to its students. However, Ron Piper has provided a statement explaining the difference between legal accountability and responsibility, which was read out by the President. Keith Brown has said that whilst the university is not accountable to students, it does take account of them (for example, students can elect members to Court).

Points in favour:

- the SRC should pass a symbolic motion.
- Court should be accountable to students because students are paying customers.

Points against:

- we can't actually censure someone not part of our organisation.
- the DoSDA said that censuring Keith Brown would have a negative effect on her relations with the University.
- the motion seems both hostile and useless as it won't have a practical effect.

Voting: 0 in favour, 12 against, 9 abstentions. Motion fell.

11.4 *Motion to the SRC regarding joint meetings of the SRC and SSF*

It was clarified that there would continue to be four meetings of the University's SSF every year, but only two of them would be held with the SRC. It was decided that the Chair, as convenor, would organise joint meetings between the SSC and the SSF once a semester.

Points in favour:

- attendance at SSF meetings over the last two years has been bad, and having a meeting with the SRC would encourage greater student input.
- minutes from this meeting would be passed on to Court, allowing student opinions to be better heard.

Points against:

- some people felt motions were rushed through at the last joint SRC/SSC meeting with no time for discussion; extra joint meetings would reduce time for people to have their views heard. The motion was amended to add that there should be no impingement upon SRC meetings – it was suggested that the SSF meeting be held earlier than the SRC meeting, or on a week when there was not an SRC meeting.

Voting: 19 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

The President reminded the SRC that minutes from the joint meetings would be passed to Court, and asked the SRC how they felt about all SRC minutes being forwarded to Court. There was concern that certain motions could then cause hostility, even if they had fallen (the earlier motion regarding Keith Brown was given as an example). It was noted that our minutes are online anyway, but the President pointed out that having our minutes sent to Court would guarantee they were read – and thus Court members would be more aware of student issues. A wider range of opinions would also be seen, which could in the future counter the views of a very independent President. The University SSC would filter out items which appeared unimportant; it was countered that the SRC itself should have control over the filtering process. The President resolved to write a motion regarding the issue.

11.5 *Motion to the SRC to dissolve the SRC*

The motion was read out by the SRC Accommodation Officer, and much groaning was heard over the misuse of Beatles quotes.

Voting: 14 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

12.0 **AOCB**

12.1 The Member for International Students read out an email from his equivalent at Stirling University praising the Member's tour of St Andrews for students at Stirling.

13.0 **Close of Meeting**