

MINUTES OF THIRD COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY THE 12TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.00 PM
WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING AND ZOOM

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: B Asmelash, S Millar, M Campello Gramelius, Ú Dale, B Jatin Dholakia, L Thompson, E Hughes, M Thomson, K Kirkpatrick, G Mateo Guio, N Gillies, E Morris, H Watters, N Laddad.

Attending: P Swinton, B Hay

- 1) Welcome, Apologies and Sederunt
- 2) Minute of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 3) Council Reports

Written Reports received -

- a) SRC President: Pablo Morán Ruiz

The SRC Executive met with the Scottish Funding Council to highlight aspects of the student experience at the University of Glasgow. Some of the themes discussed included assessment and feedback and the non-academic student experience. The NSS was also discussed and P Morán Ruiz said he and H Busquier Cerdán are working as part of the University's NSS task force. He said he and H Busquier Cerdán raised concerns around the impact of student growth on assessment and feedback at the Learning & Teaching Committee Away Day on 10/12/2024.

The University's Induction and Transitions Development Working Group are currently exploring the development of PGR Essentials. P Morán Ruiz said this would be a great way to explore an extended transition offering for PGR students at the beginning of their studies and could feature different induction talks.

- b) VP Education: Heri Busquier Cerdán

H Busquier Cerdán and P Morán Ruiz led a session at the LTC Away Day on 10/12/2024. The session covered issues students face with regards to their

assessment and feedback and the impact on this from the time pressures of external work commitments. The session also looked at the impact of the rapid growth of the University's student population and this trend across the UK's higher education sector. The session was well-received with attendees commenting that it was very beneficial to receive an insight into the pressures faced by students.

The SRC was also involved, at the Away Day, in the initial consultation for the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy 2025-2035. The SRC Executive will continue to engage with the University's consultations on this strategy and will look to involve Council in discussions in due course.

Heri Busquier Cerdán said the STA nominations are now open. He strongly encouraged Council members to submit nominations.

Throughout semester 1, the SRC has been lobbying the University to make changes to the way it operates Progress Committees. The SRC has several recommendations in this area and the first two of these have recently been approved by the Academic Standards Committee, with the next step being for Senate to approve them for implementation in the 2025/26 academic year. The recommendations are to clarify that students should be provided routinely with the full details of which aspects of the progress requirements they have not met (courses/grades and the relevant regulation(s)), resulting in their referral to the Progress Committee and to include the requirement that all Colleges, Schools and/or Programmes must publish details on the process and constitution of the Progress Committee and how students can appeal against a Progress Committee outcome. While these changes should be effected in 2025/26, the Clerk of Senate will recommend that Colleges, Schools and Programmes implement these changes sooner so that they are in place for 2024/25.

c) VP Student Activities: Angelica Wilson

Work on the SRC's Destress Campaign is currently underway.

Planning for the SRC's January Welcome activities is currently underway.

d) VP Student Support: Iris Duane

The SRC recently concluded its 16 Days of Activism activities and its Disability History Month activities will continue until 20/12/2024.

I Duane said she recently adjusted the way Welfare Forum sessions run to focus them more on the activities of SRC representatives.

The SRC observed Trans Day of Remembrance on 20/11/2024. I Duane worked closely with Council's LGBTQ+ Equality Officer, the LGBTQ+ Society and the QMU to organise a vigil in the cloisters. Student engagement with the vigil saw an increase from the previous year's event.

The University has a new Period Poverty Champion. I Duane met with this staff member to discuss discrepancies in the distribution of reusable period products on campus. A formal meeting will take place at the beginning of next semester once the funding for this project is in place.

I Duane and Advice Team Officer G Robertson are currently working on the SRC's harm reduction plans for semester 2. The University's report on harm reduction will be delayed until late in semester 2 so it will likely be the next VP Student Support who will undertake the bulk of this work when they take office.

I Duane is currently organising the SRC's January Welcome activities alongside A Wilson.

- e) PG Arts Convenor: Moki (Yuanyi) Zhong
- f) PGR Arts & Social Sciences Convenor: Misha Campello Gramelius
- g) UG Social Sciences Convenor: Daniz Alasgarova

D Alasgarova said she spoke to SET Engagement Coordinator L Paton and the SRC will now have a recurring 200-word section in the College of Social Sciences newsletters which go out to students every few weeks. This will feature information on the activities of the UG CoSS College Convenor.

P Morán Ruiz asked if D Alasgarova could put H Busquier Cerdán in touch with L Paton to take this work forward.

D Alasgarova said she would arrange this.

- h) Business School Rep: Yan Song
- i) Critical Studies School Rep: Una Dale
- j) Education School Rep: Freya Brown
- k) Modern Languages and Culture School Rep: Duncan Calvert
- l) Psychology & Neuroscience School Rep: Somaria Maharaj
- m) Disability Equality Officer: Nicola Smith

n) Widening Participation Officer: Amy Hutchison

3) Fight For The Night & 16 Days of Activism (for information)

I Duane thanked all those who assisted in the organisation and delivery of the SRC's 16 Days of Activism events, as well as the Fight For The Night March. She expressed gratitude to J Small and M Card for their help and thanked all those who attended the events.

Over the 16 Days of Activism the SRC held 12 events, plus additional collaborative events with GUSA and Lets Talk workshops. The SRC worked closely with its affiliated societies to determine how the campaign should be run, ultimately settling on three overarching themes – gender-based violence in clubs and societies, strong LGBT inclusion and feminist city-planning. Clubs and Societies amplified the SRC's messaging on these themes across the campaign, with this work receiving lots of positive feedback from other student unions. GUU, QMU and GUSA also observed the 16 Days of Activism, and the SRC worked closely with the latter on the White Ribbon campaign. QMU ran events for the campaign and GUU ran a placard-making event with GUSA.

Overall, the campaign saw a significant increase in student engagement compared to last year. Notably, the FFTN march saw an increase from 200 attendees to 500 attendees. I Duane clarified that there were many more student unions involved in the campaign this year and that the rise in engagement was partly due to this. She said the march culminated in a rally on the steps of Buchanan Street and that the gender split of the event was around 6-4, displaying almost-equal engagement from male and female students. The march also featured speakers from several student unions, as well as a speaker from Feminists For Palestine.

I Duane said the campaign received positive press and radio attention and that it has started an important conversation in many clubs and societies about tackling GBV. She said the SRC also received assurances from the University that it is equally committed to tackling GBV. I Duane said she is planning to compile a reflection piece on the 16 days of Activism campaign (which may be submitted to the next Council meeting) as well as an internal report documenting the campaign.

CJ Adebayo Omoaka said the FFTN march was a success but said she thought the execution of the mural at the end of the event could have been better planned.

I Duane said she agreed and that this would be covered in her reflection piece. She said part of the issues experienced on the night were from factors the SRC had no control over.

I Duane advised she would compile a report for Council as this would be a valuable resource for future Council members working on this campaign.

4) Destress (for information)

A Wilson said the SRC's Destress campaign began on 09/11/2024 and will end on 20/11/2024. Events have included a holiday card decorating session and a festive Paint & Chill session. A Wilson, P Morán Ruiz, M Card and members of the SRC PR team also visited the Garscube campus and held a successful bauble-decorating session. Snacks and hot drinks vouchers were also given out to students on the campus. A Wilson said Destress goodie bags are being handed out between 12pm and 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursday at the JMS building and this has been very well-received by students. She encouraged Council members to attend the Destress events taking place w/c 16/12/2024.

6) AOCB

A Chauhan said there will be a drop-in stall for 1st year students in the JMS Building on 17/12/2024. A Chauhan encouraged Council members to make 1st year students aware of this.

I Duane provided an update on Disability History Month and the World Changers Need Access Campaign. She said SRC is currently observing and facilitating events and campaigns through Disability History Month and that the World Changers Need Access survey is now active. The SRC ran a tea and coffee event at the beginning of month where disabled students were given the opportunity to speak to the campaign with their thoughts.

J Small displayed some social media assets from the campaign featuring quotes from disabled students detailing their experiences at the University.

I Duane said throughout the month, disabled students have expressed their feelings of frustration and said they feel their needs are not being prioritised by the University. She said the SRC is focusing on different forms of accessibility, chiefly social, physical and digital accessibility, and has been consulting with disabled students on their needs in these areas. I Duane said lots of feedback has been received on accessibility issues with elevators and doors on campus, with disabled

students experiencing issues attending their classes and not having suitable provisions in class. I Duane said the SRC is using this feedback to lobby the University for improvements in these areas, as well as to raise general awareness among non-disabled students of the difficulties experienced by disabled students and how they can help. I Duane and N Smith were interviewed by Go Radio about the campaign and there are plans to speak with STV soon. I Duane encouraged Council members to share the survey in their networks. She said the SRC also launched the Disabled Students' Guide at the start of December, made in collaboration with the Disability Service and The Advice Centre. The guide is available online and in print and has already proven popular with students. I Duane said the SRC's work to support disabled students will continue and she thanked N Smith for all of her hard work on the campaign.

N Smith thanked I Duane for all her support on the campaign.

P Morán Ruiz reiterated that Council members should promote this important campaign wherever they can and thanked I Duane and N Smith for their work on it.

A Chauhan said she recently attended the Reconstruction of Higher Education in Gaza Conference. She said there was a large Security presence observing students in attendance and trying to listen in on their conversations and that this was very intimidating. A Chauhan said this kind of intimidating behaviour has a detrimental impact on student engagement with the SRC as international students fear repercussions from explicitly supporting the SRC's pro-divestment stance. She asked if the SRC could speak to Security to address this behaviour.

P Morán Ruiz said he would speak to Security on this matter.

7) Date of next meeting – Thursday 23rd January, 2025