

**MINUTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007 AT 5.00pm in MEETING ROOM 1**

**Present:** Christopher Ward (Postgraduate Students' Rep) (Chair)  
Ed Walker (Communications Officer)  
Peta Carter (Education Officer)  
Lee Bradshaw (Part-time Officer)  
Kelly Burdett (Activities & Participations Officer)  
Emma Cresswell-Maynard (Equal Opps Officer)  
Danny Weir (Welfare Officer)  
Sarah Burnham (Environment Rep)  
Emma Cruickshank (Community Action & Volunteering Rep)  
Holli Ellam (S&T Faculty Rep)  
Shelley Ann Swift (S&T Faculty Rep)  
Dale Peters (Entertainments Rep)  
Sarah Delli-Colli (S&T Faculty Rep)  
Stephanie Roberts (S&T Faculty Rep)  
Jacqui Hill (RAG Rep)

**In Attendance:** Pete Fisher-Godwin (General Manager)  
Debbie Austin (Minute taker)  
Karen McNicholl (Acting Membership Services Manager) (observer)  
Jonty Campbell (Observer)

**ACTION**

**SC07.272 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Chris Lowden (President), Will Brown (Part-time Officer), Ridhima Dosani (Women's Rep), Sarah Burnham (Environment Rep), Hannah Trainer (Sports Council Chair), Stephen Mullen (Partner College Rep) Maria Parker (Nursing Rep) and Ming Zhao (International Students Rep).

**SC07.273 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November2007**

SAS pointed out the incorrect spelling of her name.  
The minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November were approved as a true and accurate record.

**SC07.274 Matters Arising**

- Update on condom dispenser (previous mins SC07.259)  
DW has not met with the relevant Council Member, and does not think the idea is feasible.  
LB would like to see a free condom dispenser in the toilets.  
This item may be placed on matters arising at the next meeting
- Clarification on AGM notice period as to whether its University days or includes weekends(previousmins-SC07.265)  
PFG confirmed that University days are Mondays to Fridays excluding Bank Holidays and Discretionary days.  
There will be a definition in the Articles of Governance.

**DW/RD**

**SC07.275 Ratification of Previous Exec Minutes**

EM07.0895 SAS highlighted that the safety bus does not currently run to the train station. PFG suggested that Claire Challon and Len Lewis be

contacted regarding this matter.

EM07.0904 CW questioned the timing of Night Vision next year.  
PC replied that the timing had been dictated by an Early Easter, and that this would allow more people to attend.

EM07.0924 JH enquired on the success of the 'Clean Up'.  
KB told her that it had been well attended and that they are looking to repeat this activity in February.  
PFG stated that this could lead to more collaboration with the Council.

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2007 were ratified as true and accurate records.

**SC07.276 Executive and Student Council Reports**

The Exec reports received had been submitted prior to the meeting.

The Student Council reports received had been submitted prior to the meeting.

SAS highlighted the incorrect spelling of her name, adding that she had not helped with RAG and did not attend the course rep training as stated in her report. JH informed SAS that as the RAG event had been moved she could attend.

KB and PC told the meeting that their Exec and Council reports had been merged.

No further questions were asked.

The Executive and Student Council reports were approved.

**SC07.277 Executive Reporting To Student Council**

CW stated that there are problems with the current method of receiving and reading reports.

PFG explained the proposed reforms.

In future they will take the form of setting key plans and targets to create a more structured approach allowing increased dialogue between the Exec and Council, increasing accountability.

It was agreed that the new reporting system will be adopted from the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

**SC07.278 Date For Student Council Training**

The training will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 5pm-8pm.

Refreshments will be provided.

CW requested ideas on what members would like to be included in the training.

**SC07.279 Governance**

PC told the meeting that the points brought to the meeting were for

**KMcN**

discussion, as proposals will take place in January for approval.

### Forums, Groups, Collectives and Assemblies

The following points were raised:-

- How will the Forums be promoted?
- How will the Forums be political and separate to Social Forums?
- Will rights be affected if a Society creates a Forum?
- Forums open up opportunities for people who do not belong to a society- giving an alternative.
- The SU will be able to pull on the active members of Clubs and Societies and potentially be less prescriptive.
- A rota system was suggested for heads of Forums.
- Exec members would have responsibility for who was running a Forum.
- On-Line Forums and making meetings suit the people would increase interest.
- Forums will help communication and increase the accountability of Student Council.

PFG Stated the need to create some basic rules and develop the management of Forums.

### Membership, Elections and Business Cycle.

- The Council year change could have implications for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students.
- There will be opportunities to elect should a 3<sup>rd</sup> year leave before the end of term.
- Concerns were expressed regarding points 2 & 3-mechanisms not in place at the moment.
- The new Council year should improve the election process.
- The COUNCIL CHANGES MODELS are there for information.

### Membership

- Smaller working groups will improve quoracy
- How will the Union attract people to Forums and how will they be promoted.
- Forums need to be consistently supported-take a lead from them.
- Use all new media available for communication.
- Invite famous/ successful ex students as guest speakers to provide focus and interest. Connections have been at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event.
- Resources and Publicity need to be put in.

Suggestions of other Forums to CW

### Student Affairs Committee

This paper had not been seen by the Exec prior to this meeting.

PC put the preferable structure to the meeting if streamlining occurs.

- The Figurehead of the President will remain to allow other officers to focus on their roles.
- Suggestion that the Welfare and Equal Opps roles be merged.
- How would the person in the new role prioritise and is it fair to ask this?
- Would welfare issues take precedence over Equal Opps issues?

- This has been successful in other Unions.
- More support would be needed from Reps.
- There is currently no clear structure for the two roles.

PFG told the meeting that a post will be created to support elected officers, to create accountability; this will be someone with campaigning experience.

Sarah Delli-Colli left the meeting at this point.

The Big Vote

- To increase awareness that all students are members of the Union.
- It acts as PR.
- Asking students what they want, proposing issues to University and Supporting.
- Some concern expressed regarding whether smaller groups will get their issues through.

**SC07.280 Council Tax**

PFG stated that a lift had previously been agreed in Sabbatical Officers pay, but as the University are no longer issuing exemption certificates the Union cannot issue reimbursements owing to tax implications. He proposed a committee of council return on the 24<sup>th</sup> January to discuss. SAS and JH will be on the Committee.

CW will look at the previous minutes and review.

PFG will ask Doreen to set up a meeting early in the New Year.

**CW  
DJ**

**SC07.281 Promo Facebook**

DP told the meeting about the activity which has been occurring on the Promo Facebook.

PFG told DP that the Events Department are watching the site very closely.

DP to contact PFG regarding this who will forward to the relevant staff member.

DP can then report back to his Forum.

**DP  
DP**

**SC07.282 Pakistan State of Emergency Campaign**

This was brought to EW and ECM by a student.

Seconded by SAS.

EW suggested a campaign could be run through the website, the student concerned will be writing to his MP.

EW stated that this was an opportunity to get the ball rolling on campaigns. SAS added that many students would be aware of this situation.

LB said that it was necessary to present a counter argument and that both sides should be heard. He also thought that there were other countries which are in need of potential help from students.

PFG pointed out that care should be exercised when spending money on campaigns which do not directly affect students, as this is illegal and the Charities Commission would question this.

The meeting agreed to remove section 3 as marching does not change

**CW**

opinions.

As SDC has left the meeting it is no longer quorate, therefore this will be placed on the agenda as matters arising at the next Student Council Meeting.

**SC07.283 Financial Updates**

The accounts were not available. This will be added to the next Council Meeting.

**SC07.284 Faculty Rep Facebook**

This item no longer relevant as EW to present at the next item.

CW left the meeting at this point. JH took over the Chair.

**SC07.285 ELGG-Virtual Student Council**

EW spoke about the trials which have been taking place. The Reps involved had positive feedback

- Reps are able to ask questions prior to meetings.
- Debate can take place on-line before meetings.
- They like being able to see people's profiles.
- Encourages positive/focussed discussion.
- There is controlled access for Council.

EW will set all members up on the system, hoping to roll it out in January. He did point out that the University funding is only available till June. Demonstration at next Council Meeting.

**EW**

**SC07.286 Any Other Business**

EW explained that GOAL had been passed at Exec meeting. CW requested involvement in this.

JC requested page numbering on minutes. EW explained the difficulties in doing this.

SDC expressed concerns concerning the web CT which will be down for maintenance during exam time.

PC reported that she won't be able to feedback before the holidays. She also stated that any students having downloading problems should contact the ISS Helpdesk, who can extend their areas.

EW asked if it was possible to make the wider student body aware of this service.

DW proposed the following points, both of which will support the Unions entry into the Sound Impact Awards:-

- To commit to promoting One Water over other brands.

PC informed all that the University will be selling another brand, which is carbon neutral. The proposal brought to the next meeting will be to

'Promote a more ethical water'.

- To have an agreement where all uniforms provided and clothing sold in our shops to be fair trade.

**DW**

Both items will be brought to the next Student Council meeting for approval.

**SC07.287 Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 5pm to be held in Meeting Room 1, First Floor, SU Building.

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CW/PFG/CL/da/dj/11jan08