



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

AGENDA

19th September 2023 – Parliament Hall – 18:00

Adoption of the Agenda Apologies for Absence

1. Fiona Waddell, Athletic Union President
2. Meagan Neves, BAME Officer
3. Arlo Bitcon, Gender Equality Officer
4. Alice Chapman, Charities Officer
5. Lucy Brook, Director of Events & Services
6. Jack McNealy, Community Relations Officer
7. Noah Schott, Accommodation Officer
8. Grace Greene, Student Health Officer

Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting

Minutes were not adopted from the previous meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

N/A

Open Forum

N/A

Reports of Sabbatical Officers

6.1. Report of the Association President

Barry will (BW) attended University Court where issues such as the cost-of-living crisis were discussed. Funding was secured for the food larder that was mentioned in the previous SRC meeting and the team are currently looking for volunteers for the same. BW has also been in contact with the Director of Student Experience to organise funding campaigns to enhance support for students and the food larder. BW also stressed the lack of communication between the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Union and has tried to better the communication channels for the same. BW has also been in contact with Campus Living Villages to discuss the construction of new accommodation buildings and ensuring students know about the vacant bedrooms in halls, so that those who haven't secured accommodation yet can access the same.

6.2. Report of the Athletic Union President

6.3. Report of the Director of Education

Cam Brown (CB) briefly touched upon the academic calendar consultation which is currently underway through various mediums both online and in-person. CB also stated that this year was a record-breaking year in terms of the number of students who stood up for a class representative position.

- 6.4. Report of the Director of Events & Services
- 6.5. Report of the Director of Student Development & Activities

Sam Gorman (SG) reviewed fresher's-fayre: A total of 270 groups attended excluding commercial companies (52 sports clubs, 204 Societies, and 14 University departments) which was about the same as last year (268): Next year. SG believes that the fayre will be moved back to the union building and the marquee will not be brought back, which may result in the Sports Fayre and Freshers Fayre being split again. The Societies Fund has been created, it will encourage growth, change and innovation through the organisation of innovative events, encourages organising events that are both collaborative and aimed towards non-members, as well as events that engage locals. SG has also updated the societies' affiliation process, wherein committees must complete training however the requirement for societies to have 25 members every year has been removed. SG will be working ~~worked~~ with the DSN to add an accessibility component to societies training and has created a new society award for those societies that innovate on accessibility. SG has taken on SRC Officer induction as a project and intends to centralise Officer handover more. Finally, SG has also made plans to collaborate with the entrepreneurship centre to host entrepreneurship week in the building, free of cost.

- 6.6. Report of the Director of Wellbeing

Caitin Ridgway (CR) attended various subcommittee meetings in the past few weeks and successfully organised period product distribution training for the 20 students who attended. The products will be distributed soon. CR has also spoken with the porter and building manager at the union to have estates install period product dispenser in all the bathrooms. CR also attended various conferences on topics revolving around safety issues for international students, anti-spiking initiatives and will follow up on initiatives in St Andrews. CR is organising SGBV forum meetings and equality forum meetings. The abuse and harassment booklet has almost been completed with a grant from Student services and a venue and date for the launch event has been decided. CR has also organised a sexual health pop up clinic for the week following this meeting and is involved in arrangements for SHAG week.

7. Questions for SRC Members

- 7.1. Questions for Accommodation Officer
- 7.2. Questions for Alumni Officer
- 7.3. Questions for Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 7.4. Questions for BAME Officer
- 7.5. Questions for Charities Officer
- 7.6. Questions for Community Relations Officer
- 7.7. Questions for Disability Officer
- 7.8. Questions for Employability Officer
- 7.9. Questions for Environment Officer
- 7.10. Questions for Gender Equality Officer
- 7.11. Questions for International Officer
- 7.12. Questions for LGBT+ Officer
- 7.13. Questions for Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners Officer
- 7.14. Questions for PGT President
- 7.15. Questions for PGR President
- 7.16. Questions for Postgraduate Development Officer
- 7.17. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 7.18. Questions for Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 7.19. Questions for Secretary to the SRC
- 7.20. Questions for Societies Officer
- 7.21. Questions for Student Health Officer
- 7.22. Questions for Widening Access and Participation Officer

8. Academic Calendar Consultation

The Director of Student Experience at St Andrews, Ros Claase (RC) was invited to the meeting to update the SRC on the steps that will be taken after voting for the change in academic calendar is completed. The month of September was used to gather feedback through ping pong ball installations in the library and Union, online surveys and social media. The views and feedback of the students from varying levels and walks of life will be considered which would lead to two scenarios, one wherein a particular model appears as a clear winner in which case the proposed model would go through various government groups and a change would be made in the next academic year. If there isn't one model that is clearly preferred the team will attempt to come up with another model, which might be a hybrid of the proposed models or might be something entirely new, in time for March, which would impact the 2025-2026 academic year.

WC asked whether there exists an estimate of the weight that will be given to the student perspective as compared to the staff perspective. RC responded stating that there is no weightage as such, if issues are common and easy to address the models will be adjusted. The amount of feedback is not a problem as compared to the complexity of the feedback.

Jack Kennedy (JK) pointed out that there was a difference between the flyers being handed out and the boards put up at the union and library, which displayed what the models looked like, and wondered whether this would impact the data being collected. RC stated that all there was a typo in one of the formats, which they have attempted to rectify by putting labels on top of the boards at the union and library and added that all the information online was displayed accurately. RC doesn't believe that the change is too drastic till the point where it would impact voting.

Hitanshi Badani (HB) asked that if there was no clear winner in terms of models but there was a clear loser, and that is the existing model, would no change take place, which would result in two years of dissatisfied students. RC responded that a model cannot be done away with if nothing exists to replace it with. RC also acknowledged that there would never exist a model that would satisfy everyone thus, they are trying to receive a level of input from as many individuals as possible and respond to all feedback in a way that doesn't disadvantage any cohort.

SG asked whether there was a difference between an Independent Learning Week and a Vacation, to which RC stated it had a bearing on work as ILW is still considered a part of term whereas a vacation is not. IC added that international students can only work 20 hours a week during term time, but no such rule exists for a vacation period.

9. Museums SAP

SG introduced the Museums Student Advisory Panel, an opportunity that allows students to shape programmes offered by the University Museum. He stated that as the individual coordinating the non-alcoholic and non-commercial activities of the union, he also represents the interests of students to the arts related University Units. the Museums SAP allow students an opinion on the events hosted by the University museums, ticket cost, their frequency and what museums should and should not be doing. The students will be allowed to attend meetings that will take place 2-3 times a semester, the next of which will be held on the 27th of September. The first half hour of these meetings will take place without any staff present and the hour following that will take place in the presence of teaching staff, to allow for a safe space where students can share their opinions.

When asked whether anyone in SRC would like to join, JK and Ishani Khemka (IK) raised their hands.

10. Employability Officer Co-option

There were two candidates for the Employability co-option. Gabriele Bilotti and Jacob Carey (JC).

Voting took place by secret ballot

JC won the Employability Officer co-option.

11. International Students Officer Vacancy

SG suggested that the role of International Students' Officer be co-opted. JK asked whether it was this was the role that had the most candidates run for it. IC responded stating that this was the most competitive role with 6 candidates.

WC stated that the role would be advertised in the weekly email and on Instagram, and all previous candidates would be notified separately.

The motion to proceed with co-option passes with a show of hands.

CR suggested the quicker the co-option happens the better as BAME would collaborate with the ISO for multicultural week.

A motion is passed to have an online vote for the officer between now and week 7 by a show of hands.

12. SSG Carve-up

JK stood unopposed for the role.

Voting took place by a show of hands. JK won the SSG carve-up.

13. Unfinished General Business

13.1 R-23-11 Fossil Free Careers Motion

A motion was proposed to defer the motion indefinitely.

The motion passed.

14. New SRC Business

14.1 R-23-17 Motion to fix various anomalies in the Standing Orders and Laws

The Chair, student councils' intern, and SG identified various anomalies and inconsistencies when going through the standing orders and laws documents. The Chair, WC, proposed this motion.

SG temporarily took the Chair.

Upon viewing the proposed changes, Alasdair Richmond (AR) had various amendments they wished to make.

A motion was proposed to defer this motion till all amendments were in place.

The motion to defer passed.

WC took back the Chair.

15. Open Discussion

Eva Neill spoke about the services offered by the St Andrews Environmental Network and plans for the Environmental Subcommittee to publicise the eco-hub, which will minimise waste production and packaging, will allow students to buy things by the kilo and the money made would go on to fund initiatives to eradicate poverty.

BW also took this opportunity to remind SRC members of the upcoming rectors election.

16. Any Other Competent Business

No other business was discussed.