



**University of St Andrews Students'
Association
Students' Representative Council**

Minutes

24th October 2023 – Parliament Hall – 18:00

Present

Member's Name	Position
Barry Will	Association President
Cam S. Brown	Association Director of Education
Lucy Brook	Association Director of Events and Services
Caitlin Ridgway	Association Director of Wellbeing & Equality
Sam Gorman	Association Director of Student Development & Activities
Fiona Waddell	Athletic Union President
Will Christopher	Association Chair
Guillermo Canales	SRC Alumni Officer
Hitanshi Badani	SRC Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Eva Neill	Environment Officer
Jack Kennedy	LGBT+ Officer
Klaudia Grat	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer
Matthew Ko	SRC Science & Medicine Faculty President
Nuttaricha Ngarmskullert	Secretary to the SRC
Alisdair Richmond	Societies Officer
Grace Greene	Student Health Officer
John McNealy.	Community Relations Officer
Meagan Neves	BAME Officer
Callum Naughton	Computer Science President
Mandy Thompson	Commuters, Carers and Lifers President.
<u>In Attendance</u>	
Iain Cupples	Advocate (Education) / HR Manager
Ishani Khemka	Student Councils' Intern
Avi Falk	
Cooper Smith	

Absent

Daniel MacDonald
Sachin Shah
Martyna Kemeklyte
Katie McAdam
AK Schott
Arlo Bitcon
Manon Claire Williams

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

No Apologies for absence.

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting

3.1 21-8-23 SRC Minutes

Minutes from the August minutes were adopted without dissent.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Amendments were made to two sections of the previous meetings' minutes. The Amended version of the 19-9-23 meeting minutes were adopted without dissent.

5. Open Forum

No matters arose.

6. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Association President

Barry Will (BW) spoke of the worsening Israel-Palestine conflict and spoke of a vigil being organised by Meena Society and St Andrews Muslim Students' Association. BW also shared that the campus larder would have its first session the following Wednesday. He stated that many people have shown interest in the larder, displaying a need to provide more support due to the extortionate cost of living.

6.2 Report of the Athletic Union President

As one of the main goals for the semester was to generate a greater awareness of the Athletic Union, Fiona Waddell (FW) spoke of well-being packs sent out by the athletic union. A new club would be formed for sporting presidents, and an athletic union executive platform for people to voice their concerns, like expressing why people don't use the athletic union facilities and what they'd like to see improved. The Athletic union also hopes to organise more focus fixture days by the end of November.

6.3 Report of the Director of Education

Cam Brown (CB) began by congratulating the new PGR representative. He also shared that Purdie would be set to reopen in January. CB also stated that a recommendation for changes to the academic calendar had been approved, and a meeting had taken place with the university court which received a positive reaction. CB stated he could not elaborate any further at the moment.

6.4 Director of Events and Services

Lucy Brook (LB) mentioned it was Halloween week and 700+ tickets had been sold. LB also mentioned her recent election as a president of a consortium where various officers from different universities could meet and discuss strategies for organising events. Through this LB is trying to source supplies at a much cheaper price.

6.5 Report of the Director of Student Development & Activities

Sam Gorman (SG) attended meetings to assess goals for the next semester, trustees' meetings and the Museums SAP meeting. All committee budgets have also been approved. Proposed

changes to the volunteering portal have been made and student activity funds are in the process of being set up, with 7000 pounds reserved for events. SG is also organising inductions for society leaders and will present a rough plan by the end of the semester.

6.6 Report of the Director of Wellbeing

Caitlin Rigdway (CR) mentioned manning the bread and water stall outside the union on raisin Sunday. A raisin debrief meeting will also be held to provide advice for next year. Meetings with report and support teams as well as student services will be taking place to discuss the escalation of the Israel-Gaza conflict. The demand for distributing period products increased and a period product training quiz was also made. Resources for sex workers have been uploaded to the union website. Report and support is also updating the anonymous reporting structure in collaboration with Culture Shift.

7. Questions for SRC Members

Questions for Accommodation Officer

Questions for Alumni Officer

Questions for Arts/Divinity Faculty President

Questions for BAME Officer

Questions for Charities Officer

Questions for Community Relations Officer

Questions for Disability Officer

Questions for Employability Officer

Questions for Environment Officer

Questions for Gender Equality Officer

Questions for International Officer

Questions for LGBT+ Officer

Questions for Carers, Commuters, Mature, and Flexible Learners Officer

Questions for PGT President

Questions for PGR President

Questions for Postgraduate Development Officer

Questions for Rector's Assessor

Questions for Science/Medicine Faculty President

Questions for Secretary to the SRC

Questions for Societies Officer

Questions for Student Health Officer

Questions for Widening Access and Participation Officer

8. Unfinished General Business

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

SG offered to step in as Chair temporarily. Will Christopher (WC) introduced the motion. The motion pertains to various inconsistencies in the laws that reference irrelevant or non-existent sections in the version of the laws currently on the Union website found by WC and the council's intern.

The motion passed without dissent. WC assumes the role of chair.

9. New SRC Business

9.1 R-23-18 Motion to condemn the takeover of New Picture House Cinema (NPH)

Motion is introduced by Jack Kennedy (JK). JK believes that the proposed transformation poses a significant risk to the local rich cultural heritage, diminishing its unique identity and spirit.

JK proposes to strike the second resolution. The amendment is adopted by a show of hands.

The motion passes by show of hands.

10 Open Discussion

Hitanshi Bandani (HB) brings up the walk out being organised by the Student Solidarity Network and questions what the consequences are for participating in it, specifically for international students.

BW responded stating that this protest was not organised by the student's association and after speaking to the organisers he noted that they weren't given permission to use the quad. While it wouldn't be considered trespassing because the quad is public land, BW recommended students not to attend. BW also noted that the police were only notified the day before the protest that it was taking place and did not feel that it was a safe space. BW added that other student groups that were in the process of organising protests that would take place in a safer space.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Avi Falk (AF) attended the SRC meeting to represent the Jewish Society, addressing growing antisemitism largely within the UK and more specifically in St Andrews. AF mentioned the antisemitic incident that took place at a local pub and the distress it caused. AF mentioned that when J-soc held a vigil they were accused of bias and felt unsupported. AF urged the prevention of violence from spreading within the University. When Jewish students reached out to Report and Support, they received “copy and pasted” replies which seemed impersonal. AF also called for the slogan “from the river to the sea” to be dismissed, due to its antisemitic origins.

BW responded with empathy and apologies. BW stated he met with members of the J-soc, to talk about antisemitism and what antisemitism is within a university that doesn't have a designated definition. This has been a difficult conversation to navigate as there was little consensus across the university for a definition. The next SRC meeting aims to discuss the adoption of a definition. BW stressed that the union representatives were working with the University to ensure that students felt supported.

CR also responded thanking AF for speaking up. CR mentioned the Student Services forum that was taking place the following Thursday where they hoped to invite representatives from J-soc to provide their opinion regarding the quality of support.

BW stressed that as a community they don't tolerate hate of any form and encouraged that if individuals witnessed hate crimes, they should report the same to the police, acknowledging that it's incredibly difficult to report such instances.

CB proposed a motion to go in camera. The motion passes.

CB proposed a motion to go ex camera. The motion passes.

The meeting is adjourned.