



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

AGENDA

Tuesday, 17 September 2013 - Venue 2 - 7.00pm

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. New General Joint Business**
 - 3.1. J. 9 – Motion to Create a Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group
 - 3.2. J. 10 – Motion to Split the Position of SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer
 - 3.3. J. 11 – Motion to Create the Position of SRC Employability Officer
- 4. New General SRC Business**
 - 4.1. Co-option of the SRC Member for Mature Students
 - 4.2. R. 4 - Motion to Support a Motion to Stop Playing 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke in Students' Association Venues
- 5. New General SSC Business**
 - 5.1. S. 5 - Motion to Stop Playing 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke in Students' Association Venues
- 6. Any Other Competent Business**

J. 9

MOTION TO CREATE A STUDENT OPINION ON ACADEMIC COUNCIL (SOAC) ADVISORY GROUP

Proposer: Teddy Woodhouse, Director of Representation
Seconder: Ondrej Hajda, SRC Education Officer

The proposed two amendments to the Laws of the Association achieve two goals: (1) update the Staff-Student Council Representative positions to the new practice incorporated within the School Presidents system and (2) create a formal body for the unification between the members of the University's Academic Council and the Association's student leaders on teaching and learning policy.

The first amendment changes the composition of the Education Committee to explicitly name the two incoming 'Faculty Presidents' as the listed members of the Education Committee. Starting this year, School Presidents within their paired faculties (Arts/Divinity and Science/Medicine) will elect amongst themselves for a School President to also serve as the Faculty President. Faculty Presidents will be expected to serve as key liaisons between Staff-Student Councils and the Association's education-oriented bodies.

The second amendment establishes the Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group. This body comprises of all the current members of the SRC Education Committee and the student representatives serving on the University's Academic Council. Meeting in advance of the Academic Council meetings, the function of this body is to ensure consistency in the delivery of student-led education advocacy across all levels of interaction with the University.

Board approved these changes in their June 2013 meeting.

Strike §5.4.1.7 in Chapter Two, replace with the following, and renumber accordingly:

~~5.4.1.7. Staff Student Council Representatives~~

5.4.1.7. Arts/Divinity Faculty President

5.4.1.8. Science/Medicine Faculty President

Insert a new 5.5 in Chapter Two, and renumber accordingly:

5.5. Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group

5.5.1. *Membership* – The Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group shall include the following members:

5.5.1.1. SRC Education Officer (Convener & Chair);

5.5.1.2. Association President;

5.5.1.3. Director of Representation;

- 5.5.1.4. Association Postgraduate President;
- 5.5.1.5. Arts/Divinity Senate Representative;
- 5.5.1.6. Science/Medicine Senate Representative;
- 5.5.1.7. SRC Member for Widening Access;
- 5.5.1.8. Arts/Divinity Faculty President; and
- 5.5.1.9. Science/Medicine Faculty President.

5.5.2. *Remit* – The Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group shall:

- 5.5.2.1. Ensure consistency in the Students' Association delivery of academic representation across all levels;
- 5.5.2.2. Instil confidence within the student representatives on the Academic Council to fully advocate the student perspective;
- 5.5.2.3. Inform student representatives on the Academic Council with sufficient information to fully advocate the student perspective; and
- 5.5.2.4. Inform student representatives outwith the Academic Council on the proceedings of the body in a timely and regular manner.

5.5.3. *Meetings* – The Advisory Group shall meet no less than three days in advance of every meeting of the Academic Council.

5.5.4. *Structure* – The Advisory Group shall act as a subsidiary body of the SRC Education Committee.

J. 10

MOTION TO SPLIT THE POSITION OF SRC EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND WELFARE OFFICER

Proposer: Teddy Woodhouse, Director of Representation

Seconders: Hibak Yusuf Mohamud, SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer; Chloe Hill, Association President

The proposed amendment to the Laws of the Association splits the SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer position into two: SRC Equal Opportunities Officer and SRC Wellbeing Officer.

Similarly, the committee underneath the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer will change its name to just the SRC Equal Opportunities Committee. This fits with the running practice and emphasis from the committee on the advocacy around the stated constituency groups of each of the Committee's members. Added to the portfolio of the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer is responsibility to liaise and involve student interfaith groups.

The motion's main point is the establishment of a new SRC Wellbeing Officer. The Officer would have a led a six-person committee, including two non-voting representatives from Nightline and Student Services. §5.8.1.9 exists as a measure to add further delegates from student wellbeing groups – Student Minds and Mental Wealth, as two examples.

Starting at Page 24:

1.1.12. SRC Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Officer

1.1.13. SRC Wellbeing Officer *[and renumbering accordingly]*

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4.1.3. Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Officer

4.1.4. External Campaigns Officer

4.1.5. Wellbeing Officer *[and renumbering accordingly]*

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5.5. SRC Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Officer

The SRC Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Officer shall have special responsibilities for those areas concerning equal opportunities ~~and welfare~~ and shall:

5.5.1. Convene and chair meetings of the SRC Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Committee

5.5.2. Liaise with Student Services.

5.5.3. Coordinate his/her activities with the Director of Representation.

5.5.4. Attend any relevant University ~~welfare~~ **equal opportunities** committees **or working groups** as requested.

~~5.5.5. Compile and edit the Welfare Handbook and Raising Weekend Handbook, amongst others, in coordination with the Director of Representation and the Design & Marketing Officer. [and renumbering accordingly]~~

5.5.6. Implement SRC policy on matters relating to ~~student welfare~~, and run regular campaigns on topics including alcohol awareness, Raising Weekend, personal safety, employment rights and student equality **equal opportunities, student diversity, university accessibility; run regular campaigns on these topics; and assist his/her committee members in the running of their own campaigns and events.**

5.5.7. Work in close coordination with minority group **and interfaith** representatives.

5.5.8. Be responsible for having minutes kept of Equal Opportunities & ~~Welfare~~ Committee meetings, passing them to the Association Chair, and filing them in the General Office and online.

5.5.9. Inherit the title of SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer.

5.6. SRC Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Committee

5.6.1. Membership:

5.6.1.1. SRC Equal Opportunities ~~& Welfare~~ Officer (Convener & Chair)

5.6.1.2. Director of Representation

5.6.1.3. SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

5.6.1.4. SRC Member for International Students

5.6.1.5. SRC Member for Mature Students

5.6.1.6. SRC Member for Part-Time Students

5.6.1.7. SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities

5.6.1.8. SRC Member for Widening Access

5.6.1.9. **Association LGBT Officer** ~~Student Services Representative (non-voting)~~

5.6.1.10. **SRC Wellbeing Officer** ~~Nightline Representative (non-voting)~~

5.6.2. Remit

The SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Committee shall:

5.6.2.1. Formulate and ensure the execution of SRC policy on student ~~welfare~~ **diversity and equal opportunities;**

5.6.2.2. Provide a medium for minority **and interfaith** groups to be properly represented; and,

5.6.2.3. Ensure that matters relating to equal opportunities ~~and student welfare~~ are brought to the attention of the SRC.

5.6.3. Meetings

The SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Committee shall meet every fortnight and other times when necessary.

5.7. SRC Wellbeing Officer

The SRC Wellbeing Officer shall have special responsibilities for those areas concerning student wellbeing and shall:

5.7.1. Convene and chair meetings of the SRC Wellbeing Committee;

5.7.2. Liaise with Student Services;

5.7.3. Coordinate his/her activities with the Director of Representation;

5.7.4. Attend any relevant University welfare or wellbeing committees as requested;

5.7.5. Compile and edit student resources on wellbeing at University and also specifically on Raisin Weekend and other subjects deemed suitable by the Officer, in coordination with the Director of Representation and the Design & Marketing Officer;

5.7.6. Act on SRC policy on matters relating to student wellbeing, and run regular campaigns on topics including alcohol consumption, Raisin Weekend and other University traditions, personal safety, mental health, and sexual health; and

5.7.7. Be responsible for having minutes kept of Wellbeing Committee meetings, passing them to the Association Chair, and filing them in the General Office and online.

5.8. SRC Wellbeing Committee

5.8.1. Membership:

5.8.1.1. SRC Wellbeing Officer (Convener & Chair);

5.8.1.2. Director of Representation;

- 5.8.1.3. SRC Equal Opportunities Officer;**
- 5.8.1.4. SRC Member for Students with Disabilities;**
- 5.8.1.5. SRC Member for Mature Students;**
- 5.8.1.6. Association LGBT Officer;**
- 5.8.1.7. Student Services Representative (non-voting);**
- 5.8.1.8. Nightline Representative (non-voting); and**
- 5.8.1.9. Invited representatives (non-voting).**

5.8.2. Remit

The SRC Wellbeing Committee shall:

- 5.8.2.1. Formulate and ensure the execution of SRC policy on student wellbeing;**
- 5.8.2.2. Promote positive student mental health and encourage positive behavior relating to sexual health and personal safety, through regular campaigns; and**
- 5.8.2.3. Ensure that matters relating to student wellbeing are brought to the attention of the SRC.**

5.8.3. Meetings

The SRC Wellbeing Committee shall meet every fortnight and other times when necessary.

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1.1.12. SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer

1.1.13. SRC Wellbeing Officer

1.1.14. SRC Member for International Students

J. 11

MOTION TO CREATE THE POSITION OF SRC EMPLOYABILITY OFFICER

Proposer: Teddy Woodhouse, Director of Representation

Seconder: Kelsey Gold, Director of Student Development & Activities

The proposed amendment to the Laws of the Students' Association would eliminate all mentions of the position of the SRC Member for Part-Time Students and create an SRC Officer for Employability, who would head the SRC Employability Committee.

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1.1.13. SRC External Campaigns Officer

1.1.14. SRC Employability Officer *[and renumber accordingly]*

...

~~1.1.19. SRC Member for Part-Time Students~~ *[and renumber accordingly]*

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~~5.6.1.6. SRC Member for Part-Time Students~~ *[and renumber accordingly]*

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Adding, after §5.8.3 (Meetings of the SRC External Campaigns Committee).

5.9. SRC Employability Officer – The SRC Employability Officer shall primarily work to represent student opinion on services and support relating to employability and career skills and shall:

5.9.1. Work with relevant sabbatical officers on relevant areas and other projects mandated by the SRC;

5.9.2. Serve as a primary student liaison with the Careers Centre;

5.9.3. Work with the SRC Education Officer on the intersection of learning and teaching with employability;

5.9.4. Work with the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer to ensure equal opportunities for all students in receiving support on employability from the Careers Centre and the University more broadly;

5.9.5. Liaise with the Association's subcommittees and affiliated societies to build connections between extracurricular activity and employable skills;
and

5.9.6. Be responsible for having minutes kept of SRC Employability Committee meetings, passing them to the Association Chair, and filing them in the General Office and online.

5.10. SRC Employability Committee

5.10.1. Membership

5.10.1.1. SRC Employability Officer (Convenor & Chair);

5.10.1.2. Director of Representation;

5.10.1.3. Director of Student Development & Activities;

5.10.1.4. Postgraduate President, or his/her designate from the elected Postgraduate Committee;

5.10.1.5. SRC Education Officer; and

5.10.1.6. Invited representatives (non-voting).

5.10.2. *Remit* – The SRC Employability Committee shall be responsible for supporting the SRC Employability Officer in meeting his/her objectives.

5.10.3. *Meetings* – The SRC Employability Committee shall meet whenever mandated by the SRC or called by the SRC Employability Officer. There shall be at least one meeting per semester.

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~~6.2.4. SRC Member for Part-Time Students [and renumber accordingly]~~

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1.1.13. SRC Employability Officer [and renumber accordingly]

...

~~1.1.16. SRC Member for Part-Time Students [and renumber accordingly]~~

Special Documentation on Job-Sharing, with specific attention to the SRC Member for Mature Students role.

Context.

Chloe and Teddy were approached by two mature students interested in the SRC Member for Mature Students role as a job-share position. A job-share refers to an arrangement of two people sharing the work and reward of a single job. In consulting the Students' Association Constitution and Laws, nothing in either document explicitly prohibits and even mentions the possibility of job-sharing.

Proposal.

I propose that we accept the job-share candidacy as valid for this co-option for the SRC Member for Mature Students with the following considerations below taking effect.

Considerations.

There were a few areas of specific concern that we wanted to address:

- *Attendance* – The SRC Member for Mature Students will be considered absent only if both of the job-sharers submit apologies or are unable to attend. Attendance by one of the job-sharers at any meeting is considered full attendance.
- *Speaking & Voting Rights* – The speaking and voting rights of the SRC Member for Mature Students extends to only one person at a time. By default, the first to contribute to the debate on a main motion exclusively retains voting and speaking privileges for the remainder of the main motion. With each new main motion, the job-sharers may transfer speaking and voting privileges, but they may not transfer such privileges within a main motion. The job-sharer who does not hold these privileges at the time can contribute to the meeting as an observer. In any instance where the job-sharers are in clear disagreement, the vote from the SRC Member for Mature Students is considered spoilt.
- *Membership* – Membership to the SRC and the Joint Councils, and any privilege generally enjoyed by any member (e.g., attendance to a social event), extends to both.
- *Workload Expectation* – In job-sharing a position on the Councils, the job-sharers are expected to collectively contribute at least as much as an ordinary member.

R. 4

MOTION TO SUPPORT A MOTION TO STOP PLAYING ‘BLURRED LINES’ BY ROBIN THICKE IN STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION VENUES

This Students’ Representative Council Notes:

1. That there has been much controversy over the song ‘Blurred Lines’ due to its lyrics; not because of their explicit nature, but because they blatantly condone and rationalise attitudes towards female students that are regressive and unacceptable
2. That Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) has recently taken the decision to ban the song from their venues; as part of a wider push to stop the normalisation of “lad culture” within their union and
3. That it is the jurisdiction of the Student Services Council to set policies relating to events and services within the Students’ Association.

This Students’ Representative Council Believes:

1. That the Students’ Association has an obligation to ensure that all of its members feel welcome and safe in the Students’ Association’s venues; and
2. That the song promotes a normalisation of a misogynistic and disrespectful attitude that is inconsistent with and an offence to the values of the Students’ Association.

This Students’ Representative Council Resolves:

1. That the Student Services Council should establish a policy to stop the playing ‘Blurred Lines’ in Students’ Association venues.

Proposed: Ali West

Seconded: Chloe Hill

S. 5

MOTION TO STOP PLAYING ‘BLURRED LINES’ BY ROBIN THICKE IN STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION VENUES

This Student Service Council Notes:

1. That there has been a great deal of controversy over the song ‘Blurred Lines’ due to the problematic nature of its lyrics and its promotion of the objectification of women
2. That the Students' Association has an obligation to ensure to the best of its ability that all members of the student body are made to feel safe during Union events
3. That Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) has recently taken the decision to ban the song from their venues as part of a wider push to stop the normalisation of “lad culture” within their union,

This Student Service Council Believes:

1. That the Students’ Association has an obligation to ensure that all of its members feel welcome and safe in the Students’ Association’s venues; and
2. That the song promotes and condones a view of women that is inconsistent with and offensive to the stated values of the Students’ Association.

This Student Service Council Resolves:

That it is the policy of the Students’ Association that ‘Blurred Lines’ will not be played publicly at any event hosted within the Students’ Association.

Proposed: Chloe Hill