



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

## MINUTES

Tuesday 22 October 2013 – Venue 1, 7.00pm

### **Present**

Sophie Kelly	Arts/Divinity Senate Representative
Maxwell Baldi	Association Chair
Katie O'Donnell	Association Community Relations Officer (co-opted in 10.1)
Daniel Palmer	Association Director of Events and Services
Edward Woodhouse	Association Director of Representation
Kelsey Gold	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Dominyka Urbonaite	Association Environment & Ethics Officer
David Norris	Association LGBT Officer
Scott Schorr	Association Postgraduate President
Chloe Hill	Association President
Iain Cupples	Education Researcher
Jess Walker	President of the Athletic Union
Pat Mathewson	Rector's Assessor
Scott Taylor	SRC Accommodation Officer
Ondrej Hajda	SRC Education Officer
Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
Lonie Sebahg	SRC Employability Officer
Callum Bryce	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Soraya Walli	SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities
Joshua Carlton	SRC Member for First Year
Ali West	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Melissa Turner	SRC Member for Mature Students
Fay Morrice	SRC Member for Disabilities
Melissa Turner	SRC Member for Mature Students
Anna Kennedy-O'Brien	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Ben Anderson	SRC Member for Widening Access
Avalon Borg	SRC Wellbeing Officer
Oscar Swedrup	SSC Broadcasting Officer
Joseph Tantillo	SSC Charitable Development Convenor
William Lord	SSC Debates Officer
Stephanie Ekanayaka	SSC Design Team Convenor
Robert Dixon	SSC Member for Societies Elections
Emily Dick	SSC Member for Societies Grants
Keith Cordrey	SSC Member without Portfolio
Anna Merryfield	SSC Music Officer
David Patterson	SSC Performing Arts Officer

Courtney Lewis                      SSC Societies Officer  
Fay Holland                            SSC Volunteering Officer

**In Attendance**

Michael Telfer                      Minutes Secretary  
Carrie Magee                        The Saint  
Laura Abernathy                    The Saint  
Phoenix Zhan  
Omar Ali  
Katie O'Donnell

**Absent**

Peter DaBell                        Science/Medicine Senate Representative  
Caroline Rhoads                    SRC Member for International Students  
Ross Quinn                         SRC Member for Mature Students  
Ruth Cunningham                 SRC Member for Private Accommodation  
George Parker                      SSC Charities Officer  
Fiona Woodhall                    SSC Entertainment Convenor  
Maia Fry                              SSC Film Production Officer

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr Baldi noted that by accepting the agenda as presented, the members agreed not to start item 9, 10, or 11 before 8pm.

Mr Baldi noted that motion R. 13 had been submitted as an emergency motion and the members could object to its inclusion in the agenda.

**The agenda was accepted without objection.**

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Peter DaBell                        Science/Medicine Senate Representative  
Caroline Rhoads                    SRC Member for International Students  
Ruth Cunningham                 SRC Member for Private Accommodation  
George Parker                      SSC Charities Officer  
Fiona Woodhall                    SSC Entertainments Convener

**The apologies were accepted without dissent.**

**3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous SRC Meeting**

Pursuant to Standing Orders § 7.2.2 the minute of the Students' Representative Council meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 were laid before the members of the Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2013. With no objections registered within 24 hours, the minutes were considered adopted by electronic mail.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**4.1. Correction to the Minutes of the SRC Meeting of 8 October 2013**

Mr Baldi stated that an apology from Dominyka Urbonaite for the SRC meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October had been submitted on time but had went unseen until after the meeting.

**Ms Hill proposed a motion to amend the minutes to include the apology from Dominyka Urbonaite at to deem the SRC to have accepted the apology.**

**Ms Kennedy-O'Brien seconded the motion.**

**With no objections, the minutes were amended.**

## **5. Open Forum**

There was no business arising from the open forum.

## **6. Reports of Sabbatical Officers**

### **6.1. Report of the Association President**

Ms Hill informed the Council that she had attended a meeting of the University Court on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. Ms Hill stated that the meeting was confidential and could not be discussed until the minutes were approved in three months time.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the Association Finance Committee would be meeting on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the governance review was still on going.

Ms Hill informed the Council that Zero Tolerance stickers had arrived and the campaign would begin in the near future. Ms Hill requested that any member who wished to be involved in the campaign contact her.

Ms Hill informed the Council that there was to be a tuition fee debate and an immigration debate.

Ms Hill informed the Council that she was working on a campaign on student immigration with other members of the Council.

Ms Hill informed stated that she was aware the members were busy but that many had missed meetings. Ms Hill requested that those members that were having difficulty contact her so she could offer them help.

### **6.2. Report of the Association Director of Services**

Mr Palmer informed the Council that the roller disco event had proved to be really popular and that there had been no injuries. Mr Palmer informed the Council that footfall was on the way back up.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that the subcommittees were going well.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that redevelopment was still going well and that rebranding was still going on. Mr Palmer stated that Venue 2 would be rebranded in the redeveloped building and that the working name was the "Sky Bar". Mr Palmer requested that anyone with recommendations

for the name come forward as the Sabbatical Officers were not experts at rebranding and would appreciate the input.

Ms Hill stated that Mr Palmer had still not taken a day off but that he almost had.

### **6.3. Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities**

Ms Gold stated that things are getting in to a routine.

Ms Gold informed the Council that only eight societies had not yet managed to reaffiliate and that over 120 had.

Ms Gold informed the Council that she was working with Mermaids a lot and that Mr Anderson had carried out a lot of good publicity work. Ms Gold stated that the Christmas Ball tickets would go on sale soon. Ms Gold stated that the show *DNA* would start the next day and that another show would be starting soon.

Ms Gold stated that the application process to be on the Class Gift Committee would close the next day.

Ms Gold stated that the Charities Campaign would be having a jumble sale on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

Ms Gold stated that UDS would be holding more debates in the near future.

Ms Gold stated that, for the redevelopment process, the Sabbatical officers had been trying out new furniture. Ms Gold requested that any member who wished to be involved in the process contact her.

### **6.4. Report of the Association Director of Representation**

Mr Woodhouse stated that all members of the Students' Representative Council were required to help out at the Raisin foam fight on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November and that information pertaining to that would be made available soon.

Mr Woodhouse stated that the first School Presidents' Forum had been held but that the Deans had not attended. Mr Woodhouse stated that he would be contact the Deans to ensure they attended the next meeting.

Mr Woodhouse stated that the Academic Representation conference on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of October had gone well.

Mr Woodhouse stated that core class representative training had been completed now and that the turnout had been the highest ever.

Mr Woodhouse stated that her had participated in an event with his equivalents from other universities on Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of October.

Mr Woodhouse stated that he had spoken to a representative from the library and that coffee was still a problem but that both wanted to work together to ensure it would continue to be allowed in the building.

Mr Woodhouse stated that there was to be a review of learning and teaching this Thursday and that all members were required to participate. Mr Woodhouse stated that this would form the basis of the Association's representational strategy for the next five years or so.

## **7. Reports of SRC Officers**

### **7.1. Report of the Arts/Divinity Senate Representative**

Ms Kelly informed the Council that the Senate would not be meeting until the first week in December.

Ms Kelly informed the Council that she had been working with Mr Hajda about problems in the library including on coffee and writing in books. Ms Kelly stated that she was working on a scheme to help students understand that they shouldn't write in the books and give non-destructive note taking advice such as post-it notes and bookmarks.

### **7.2. Report of the Association Community Relations Officer**

The position of Association Community Relations officer was vacant until Katie O'Donnell was co-opted during item 10.1.

### **7.3. Report of the Association Environment & Ethics Officer**

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that she had been working on plans for Green Week in semester two.

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that a prize would be given out in the first week of the next Month for the Hall with the most reduced energy use.

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that the subcommittee would be meeting the next day at 4pm.

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that she was working on a campaign to raise interest in Fair-trade with the hope of having the town certified as a fair-trade town.

### **7.4. Report of the Association LGBT Officer**

Mr Norris stated that he had been in contact with the LGBT society in Edinburgh as they were planning to hold a party on the day the Scottish Parliament passes legislation on equal marriage. Mr Norris stated that he was going to organise transport to the event once the date had been announced.

Mr Norris stated that the society had established an instagram account.

Mr Norris informed the Council that he and three others were receiving training in mental health.

Mr Norris informed the Council that the LGBT committee would be throwing a Halloween event on Monday and that they would also be holding a talk on sexual health.

## **7.5. Report of the Association Postgraduate President**

Mr Schorr informed the Council that he had been working on events for the Postgraduate graduation weekend. Mr Schorr stated that it was a bit premature to announce events for the weekend but that there would be events held over three days.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that a new event was being implemented: a TED-style talk for postgraduates. Mr Schorr stated that speakers had been solicited and six people had registered their interest.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that the Postgraduate Society constitution was being redrafted.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that he was working on organising other events and fundraising.

Ms Borg asked if Mr Schorr if he would be interested in holding a joint campaign about the requirement of living in halls to be eligible for bursaries.

Ms Hill stated that living in halls was a general requirement for bursaries.

Ms Borg stated that she thought that requirement was wrong and that the requirement wasn't generally made known.

Ms Hill stated that she had been working on making the bursaries available for all.

Mr Schorr stated that if Ms Borg came to his committee meeting it could be discussed there in more detail.

Ms Hill stated that the requirement was about subsidised housing. Ms Hill stated that it was only possible to get a bursary after you'd paid your rent. Ms Hill stated that there could only be subsidies available in university accommodation, as the University couldn't manage the administrative burden.

## **7.6. Report of the Athletic Union President**

Ms Walker stated that the financial review of all 57 sports clubs had been completed. Ms Walker stated that the financial review of the Athletic Union was now being carried out.

Ms Walker stated that there was now a review of what the Athletic Union would and would not pay for sports clubs.

Ms Walker stated that the Athletic Union was now in discussion with the University shop about who would sponsor the sports kits from next year. Ms Walker expressed her hope that Kukri would continue to sponsor the sports kit.

Ms Walker stated that the Athletic Union was working on a social media policy for the sports club.

Ms Hill asked what the social media policy would cover.

Ms Walker responded that the policy was about Athletic Union control over sport club social media accounts.

Ms Hill stated that the policy sounded like opening a can of worms.

Ms Walker responded that it was but that, due to complaints, the Athletic Union would now have to set a policy.

#### **7.7. Report of the Science/Medicine Senate Representative**

The Science/Medicine Senate Representative was absent.

#### **7.8. Report of the SRC Accommodation Officer**

Mr Taylor informed the Council that many of the policies announced at the previous meeting were coming along well. Mr Taylor stated that the hall videos were being put together in coordination with Transition. Mr Taylor stated that advice was to be given to private renters on how to ensure they were getting the best deal on heating.

#### **7.9. Report of the SRC Education Officer**

Mr Hajda informed the Council that, since the library had increased their studying space, the cycle storage space was over crowded. Mr Hajda stated that he was lobbying the Estates team to increase the covered cycle storage space.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that the library would be scrapping undergraduate inter-library loan fees from January.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that he was working on putting on an event with the Debates team on Education.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that he was working with Fine Food and Dining on a brain-food event.

Ms Hill asked if it would be possible to get a refund on previously paid inter-library loan fees.

Mr Hajda stated that refunds would not be available, as the fees had been scrapped with the introduction of a cheaper more efficient system.

#### **7.10. Report of the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer**

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that she was working on a campaign on student immigration.

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that she was working on an Equal Opportunities videos with the Admissions office.

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that an event for Black History Month would be held the next day starting at 6:45 pm in Parliament Hall.

#### **7.11. Report of the SRC Employability Officer**

Ms Sebagh informed the Council that she had been working on two projects.

Ms Sebagh informed the Council that she had met with Ms Gold about an employability conference. Ms Sebagh stated that she had met with a representative from CAPOD and will be organising the speakers.

Ms Sebagh informed the Council that she had contacted the class representatives informing them that she wanted to help them with their projects. Ms Sebagh stated that she had a meeting with the School of Medicine class representatives to discuss her projects.

Mr Woodhouse asked if there was still a fee for students attending the conference.

Ms Sebagh answered that there still was.

Mr Woodhouse stated that Ms Sebagh should contact him, as he may be able to secure funding to cover the fee.

#### **7.12. Report of the SRC External Campaigns Officer**

Mr Bryce informed the Council that an event about police spying had been held. Mr Bryce stated that the Guardian might be about to release some more information about police spying.

Mr Bryce informed the Council that he was bringing a motion about tuition fees to reaffirm the Association's opposition to them.

Mr Bryce informed the Council that he was trying to get a meeting with the University's procurement team but so far had been unsuccessful.

#### **7.13. Report of the SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities**

Ms Walli informed the Council that she had been working with Ms Mohamud to organise the Black History Month event that was to be held the next day.

Ms Walli informed the Council that she was planning an international music event.

Ms Walli informed the Council that she was coordinating with halls to hold different events.

#### **7.14. Report of the SRC Member for First Years**

Mr Carlton informed the Council that he was working on the How to Rent guide.

#### **7.15. Report of the SRC Member for Gender Equality**

Ms West informed the Council that she was carrying out a lot of work with feminist society.

Ms West informed the Council that a bus had been organised and taken students to the Reclaim the Night event in Edinburgh, a demonstration against gender-based violence. Ms West stated that there were discussions about holding a similar event in Dundee.

Ms West informed the Council that she was coordinating with a student about releasing a podcast, about gender issues in St Andrews, called Spectrum. Ms West stated that the podcast should be made available in the coming weeks.

#### **7.16. Report of the SRC Member for International Students**

There was no report from the SRC Member for International Students.

#### **7.17. Report of the SRC Member for Mature Students**



Ms Turner stated that the plans to establish a mature students' society had been shelved, as the person who planned to coordinate it was too busy.

Ms Turner stated that mature students, and also commuter students, felt excluded from events such as the 600<sup>th</sup> ball as they found it difficult to get transport home in the early morning when these events finished.

#### **7.18. Report of the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities**

Ms Morrice informed the Council that she had been focussing her efforts on the Question Time event on Disabilities. Ms Morrice stated that there were five confirmed speakers and the event would take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

Ms Morrice informed the Council that she was working on an inclusive learning policy and that she intended to model it on the policy in place at the University of Edinburgh.

Ms Hill asked what time the event would be on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms Morrice responded that the doors would open at 7pm.

#### **7.19. Report of the SRC Member for University Accommodation**

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien informed the Council that she had met with Ms Hill and Dean's Court to discuss changing the way that they operated.

#### **7.20. Report of the SRC Member for Widening Access**

Mr Anderson informed the Council he had met with Mike Johnson who informed him of the work the University was carrying out on widening access and participation (WAP) and that the WAP group didn't yet have a chair but that it could be Professor Nic Beech. Mr Anderson stated that he asked about a reduced tariff policy but that the University had said no and instead were working on a contextual admission policy which would, for Scotland, likely focus on three Highers rather than five. Mr Anderson added that he had asked about a 4 for 3 funding policy but that the University had also said no as their finances were based on that revenue. Mr Anderson stated that he had asked about the possibility of prospective students staying with current students in hall but that the University has responded that the Accommodation office would be unlikely to approve the policy.

Ms Hill asked if Mr Anderson would be involved in the WAP group.

Mr Anderson responded that he would.

Ms Borg asked if Mr Anderson had asked about funding for the Beyond Fife initiative.

Mr Anderson stated that the WAP group was spending most of their time on the initiative but that they did not want to recruit in Glasgow or Edinburgh, as it would be encroaching on those Universities.

Ms Borg expressed her disappointment in that policy.

Ms Hill stated that she was happy Mr Anderson had been informed of this policy, as they hadn't been willing to share any information with her.

Mr Anderson responded to Ms Borg that the programme had not been shelved but they had changed the geographical focus of the policy.

Ms Hill stated that the money still existed but that they weren't going to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Ms Turner stated that there was a Scottish Widening Access Programme.

Mr Anderson stated that the targets for recruitment had only been met because of that programme.

Ms Turner stated that places could only be offered to students within their defined areas so that may explain their current policy.

Ms Borg stated that she was still disappointed, as they had made a three-year commitment to 'go beyond fife'.

Ms Hill stated that the programme hadn't been stopped and the focus had just been changed.

Ms Borg stated that the importance of the programme was brining the University to their attention and that she was frustrated that they were going back on their three-year commitment.

Mr Schorr stated that if a member felt strongly about something they should approach them personally rather than jumping on them at the Council meeting.

Ms Borg stated that the SRC and SSC meeting were for discussing things.

Ms Hill stated that this discussion had not been a criticism of Mr Anderson.

Mr Baldi stated that these meetings were different things for different people.

#### **7.21. Report of the SRC Wellbeing Officer**

Ms Borg informed the Council that she had ben working with Mr Woodhouse on a Raisin contingency plan, and on Raisin kits for parents and children. The kits would include plastic drinks cups, and face paints, and there was going to be talks to students to keep the drinking a little more low key and also to inform them of what they should do if things were to go wrong. The kits would also include recipes so that children would remain fed throughout the day, low alcohol cocktail recipes and boxes of raisins for the children. Ms Borg stated that bands with the non-emergency phone number of the police had been purchased. Ms Borg stated that a buddy system was being initiated.

Ms Borg informed the Council that sexy health week was being planned but that Raisin weekend was taking precedence.

Ms Turner asked what provisions were in place to ensure that commuter students got access to the kits.

Ms Borg stated that the kits would be available from outside the library.

Ms Turner asked if posters would be available in the commuter room to inform them of the kit give away.

Ms Borg asked what the posters would be for.

Ms Turner answered that they would be to organise the kit give-aways.

## **7.22. Any Other Competent Reports**

Mr Patterson stated that Mr Hajda and Ms Sebagh had contacted him about helping with the funding for the Saltire Foundation. Mr Patterson stated that he had met with the CEO of the foundation in Edinburgh but that he hadn't heard back from them. Mr Patterson stated that there was limited funding and spots for St Andrews students.

## **8. New General SRC Business**

### **8.1. R. 12 A Motion to Reaffirm the SRC's opposition to Increased RUK Tuition Fees**

#### **THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NOTES:**

1. Patrick Hamilton, in his annual speech as Vice Chancellor of Oxford University, has raised the idea of an increase beyond the £9000 ceiling for Rest of UK fees – a move supported by the Russell group.<sup>1</sup>
2. Currently, the average student debt for a student on a 3-year course is estimated to be £43,515.<sup>2</sup> By comparison, the average US graduate debt is £15,700, with much lower rates of interest on the repayments.<sup>3</sup>
3. RUK students already face the highest fees in Europe, within a system that places the financial burden (perceived or otherwise) upon them.
4. St Andrews, in 2011, stated that education currently costs an average of £11,772, per student, per year.<sup>4</sup>
5. There have been no comprehensive studies on the effects on application numbers of students from different economic backgrounds applying to university, based on their perception of £9000 fees.
6. St Andrews already charges more than any other RUK university, due to the nature of its 4/5-year degree structure.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/we-need-tuition-fees-of-up-to-16000-says-oxford-vicechancellor-professor-andrew-hamilton-8867323.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cardsloans/article-2326560/Debt-timebomb-85-cent-students-pay-loans.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/13/england-leave-funding-universities-students>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/st-andrews-university-to-charge-maximum-1081402>

7. Several of Oxford University's JCRs have passed motions against any potential increases, with the support of their sabbatical officers.<sup>5</sup>

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL BELIEVES:**

1. An increase in fees – beyond the current £9000 cap – would have a negative impact on the number of students that would apply to this university from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. A further increase in the limit on fees will simply result in a 'race to the top' from institutions who wish to be perceived as on a competitive footing with Oxbridge, as has been proven by the number of universities who charge £9000.
3. Whilst an increase in fees would inevitably come with an increase in bursaries and aid for the lowest socio-economic groups, it would still increase their debt, and an increase in fees will further disenfranchise a middle bracket that cannot benefit from family, state, or institutional financial aid.
4. Whilst there is an acknowledged shortfall in higher education funding, the burden of meeting this should not fall upon the students.

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

1. To affirm the SRC's status against any further fee rises
2. To support Oxford University Students' Union, and any others, in their opposition to any further increase in fees.
3. To campaign against any move from the University to increase tuition fees.
4. To support any further nationwide campaigns against an increase in fees.

**Mr Anderson proposed the motion, Ms Hill seconded.**

Mr Anderson introduced the motion as such: Mr Anderson stated that a man name Andrew Hamilton gave a speech that, while not explicitly calling for increased fees, placed it on the table. Mr Hamilton stated that to maintain standards at universities like Oxford the fees would have to rise above £9000 and other Russell Group Universities concurred. Mr Anderson stated that there was a move to start increasing the cap and it had only been a short period of time since the cap had been increased to £9000. Mr Anderson stated that was in a country where the average three-year debt was around £46000 compared to the average debt in the US of £15000. Mr Anderson stated that UK students already had the greatest burden in Europe, and it was higher than in the US. Mr Anderson stated this this motion would be the beginning of a move to form a campaign with other Universities in case the Government did start to raise fees so that students wouldn't be caught unprepared.

Mr Norris asked what the significance of the RUK fees was and whether the motion should just be amended to tuition fees in general.

Mr Anderson said that he didn't think it should.

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<sup>5</sup> [twitter.com/tomrutland](https://twitter.com/tomrutland)

Mr Norris stated that it would indirectly place more burden on SAAS.

Mr Hill stated that this was about students paying for fees and not government agencies.

Ms West stated that she didn't think the figures on student debt in the US were correct.

Mr Mathewson stated that a University in the US with equivalent standing to St Andrews would charge much more in tuition fees.

Ms Hill stated that this motion was self-explanatory but that she wanted to clarify a few points. The University of St Andrews was neither a Russell Group University nor even a 1994 group member despite being a founding member of the latter.

Ms Hill stated that the £11000 figure had come from the University but, subsequent to a freedom of information request, the University stated that figure included both teaching and research expenses but they could not divide the figure up.

**Mr Woodhouse proposed an amendment to the motion:**

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

1. To affirm the SRC's status against any further fee rises **in recognition of higher education as a public service rather than a commercial service.**

**Mr Anderson seconded.**

**With no objection, the motion was amended.**

**Ms Hill proposed an amendment to the motion:**

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NOTES:**

1. ~~Patrick~~ Andrew Hamilton [...] by the Russell Group.

**Mr Anderson seconded.**

**With no objections, the motion was amended.**

**The question was called on motion R. 12.**

**With no objections, the motion, as amended, was passed.**

**8.2. R. 13 A Motion to Support the Joint Union Strike (EMERGENCY MOTION)**

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NOTES:**

1. That there is a national joint union strike happening on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. The strike has been called by all 3 recognised unions in the University – Unison, Unite and University and College Union (UCU) – these unions cover a wide range of staff, including academics, librarians, lab technicians and administrative staff.

3. The unions are striking over the offer of a 1% increase in wages, which will result in a 13% decrease in real terms since October 2008.

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL BELIEVES:**

1. It should support staff in their strike action because they are a vital part of our university and should be paid fairly for the work they do.

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

1. To declare itself in support of the strike,
2. To inform students of the strike action so that they understand the reason for it and know how to support it if they want to.

**Ms Hill proposed the motion, Mr Woodhouse seconded.**

Ms Hill introduced the motion as such: Ms Hill apologised for the motion being submitted as an emergency motion but there had been time constraints. Ms Hill stated that there were three recognised unions at the University: Unite, Unison, and UCU. Ms Hill stated that the staff of the University had been offered a 1% pay rise, following on from several below inflation pay rises from 2008. Ms Hill stated that this meant the staff members would have experienced a 13% decline in their real-terms wages since 2008. Ms Hill stated that this was the first time ever that all three unions had been balloted at the same time on the same issue. Ms Hill stated that the unions represented many people at the University including academic staff, librarians, and technicians. Ms Hill stated that she had meant with representatives from the Unions and that, after them clarifying several things, thought it was beneficial for the SRC to support this strike.

Ms Turner asked what the percentages of the ballot had been.

Ms Hill stated that the UCU had been 64% in favour and the other two had been around 55% in favour.

Mr Norris asked how this strike would affect students.

Ms Hill stated that the strike was intended to affect the University and that this was a difficult decision for these unions to take. Ms Hill stated that she would be surprised if anything were to close and that there was no evidence that would happen.

Mr Anderson asked if there were any particular plans about informing students.

Ms Hill stated that if this were to pass she would mention it in her President's email the next day. Mr Hill stated that there would be an open union meeting with all the unions and students and a historical discussion and plans for students to be involved. Ms Hill stated that the strike would be held on Halloween so there was the potential for cupcakes and tea.

Mr Norris asked if the unions had discussed any other form of protest or had they resorted straight to a strike.

Ms Hill stated that the unions had been discussing this for a long time and that the 1% pay rise had been offered without debate.

Ms Turner asked what percentage of the University staff were members of the unions or if everyone was a member automatically.

Ms Hill stated that it was not a blanket membership scheme but that she did not have an accurate figure.

Ms Turner asked if that was why they thought the University would not close.

Ms Hill stated that it was, realistically, quite difficult to get staff out on strike.

Ms Turner stated that she had been discussing the motion with students in the commuting student common room and they had appeared unhappy that the strike would adversely affect students. Ms Turner asked whether the motion should be amended to support the Unions' cause but not the strike.

Ms Hill stated that, while students were affected, in the long term this would cause problems for staff in terms of staff stress and working conditions. Ms Hill stated that the trade off was fair for solving a long-term issue and that a 13% decrease since 2008 was huge.

Mr Mathewson asked if this was just a one-day strike or if this could continue on.

Ms Borg stated that there had been a strike a few years ago and it had had virtually no effect on teaching.

Ms Schorr stated that he was going to abstain from the motion, as he had not had time to submit it to his committee but that he wanted to propose an amendment to reflect that there was not total support of the first resolving clause.

**Mr Schorr proposed an amendment:**

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

~~1. To declare itself in support of the strike.~~

*[And renumbering Accordingly]*

**Ms Turner seconded.**

Mr Woodhouse stated that, in terms of there being very little information about the strike, there had been time constraints but that it was important to advertise this to the students.

Ms Hill stated that there had to be a distinction between informing the students about the strike and informing the students that the SRC supported the strike.

Ms Turner stated that that the strongest feeling amongst students was that for the SRC to support the strike would be contrary to what the SRC was supposed to stand for. Ms Turner stated that, across the board, a 1% pay rise was quite fair considering what was happening in the private sector and at other institutions. Ms Turner stated that 13% was a large pay decrease but that other people

were feeling the pinch too. Ms Turner stated that the unions had the right to strike but that the SRC could not support it.

Ms West stated that supporting this strike was a matter of conscience and that the members of the Council would not be here if the staff weren't working.

Mr Cupples stated that it wasn't the 1% increase that was viewed as unacceptable but that it followed 0.4% and 0.25% increases. The below inflation increase, following other below inflation increases, was what they found to be unacceptable.

Ms Borg stated that she was sceptical that Ms Turner could have spoken to a majority of mature students.

Ms Turner stated that she had spoken to around 15 students in the commuter room and, while it may not be a cross-section of all students, they were the ones she had access to.

Mr Woodhouse stated that to look at the strike and focus on its negative affects would be to take too narrow a view. Mr Woodhouse stated that the broader view on pay had to be considered and that good teachers required good pay.

Ms Turner stated that while higher wages were required to attract good teachers, the funds weren't there to pay them. Ms Turner stated that 1% was silly and that in the real world people weren't even getting that. Ms Turner stated that for the SRC to say the supported the strike was not right and that it was the strike she didn't support, not the pay rise.

Ms Mohamud stated that she understood Ms Turner's viewpoint but that this was about the St Andrews community. The people striking were a part of the St Andrews community and they deserved the SRC's support.

Ms Turner stated that coming to St Andrews was advertised as entering a bubble and that you feel like St Andrews is cut off. Ms Turner stated that the members should look at this from the outside in.

Ms West stated that this was a national strike, not just a St Andrews strike.

Mr Norris stated that to not support the strike would be more like sticking to the Bubble viewpoint. Mr Norris stated that most of the people who would be striking do not live in St Andrews and that to express support for them would be against the Bubble image. Mr Norris stated that this was about not pushing more people in to poverty. Mr Norris noted that students at the University had access to hardship funding and government support but that these people did not have access to that support.

Mr Schorr stated that to support the motion as it currently stood would not be a form of responsible governance as there had not been sufficient time to consider it.

Mr Baldi stated that the question was on the amendment to strike the first resolving clause.

An objection to the amendment was registered.

A roll call vote was ordered in the SRC:



OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly		X	
Association Community Relations Officer	VACANT			
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer		X	
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold		X	
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite		X	
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris		X	
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr	X		
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
President of the Athletic Union	Jess Walker		X	
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell			
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor		X	
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda		X	
SRC Employability Officer	Lonie Sebahg		X	
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud		X	
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce		X	
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli		X	
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton		X	
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West		X	
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads			
SRC Member for Mature Students	Melissa Turner	X		
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham		X	
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice		X	
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien		X	
SRC Member for Widening Access	Ben Anderson		X	
SRC Wellbeing Officer	Avalon Borg		X	

**With 2 members in the affirmative and 21 in the negative, the amendment failed in the SRC.**

Mr Baldi asked if there was further debate on the motion as it stood.

**The question was called on motion R. 13.**

**An objection was noted.**

**A roll call vote was called on motion R. 13.**

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly	X		
Association Community Relations Officer	VACANT	X		
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer	X		
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse	X		
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold	X		
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite	X		
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris	X		
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr			X
Association President	Chloe Hill	X		
President of the Athletic Union	Jess Walker	X		
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell			
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor	X		
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda	X		
SRC Employability Officer	Lonie Sebagh	X		
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	X		
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce	X		
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli	X		
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton	X		
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West	X		
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads			
SRC Member for Mature Students	Melissa Turner		X	
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham	X		
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice	X		
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien	X		
SRC Member for Widening Access	Ben Anderson	X		
SRC Wellbeing Officer	Avalon Borg	X		

**With 21 members in the affirmative and 1 members in the negative the motion was adopted.**

**The Councils had a recess for five minutes.**

### **9. New General SSC Business**

There was no SSC Business

### **10. New General Joint Business**

#### **10.1 Co-Option of the Association Community Relations Officer**

**Mr Omar Ali nominated himself.**

**Ms Phoenix Zahn nominated herself.**

**Ms Katie O'Donnell nominated herself.**

**Ms O'Donnell and Ms Zahn left the room.**

Mr Ali delivered a speech and responded to questions from the members.

**Mr Ali left the room and Ms O'Donnell returned to the room.**

Ms O'Donnell delivered a speech and responded to questions from the members.

**Ms O'Donnell left the room and Ms Zahn returned to the room.**

Ms Zahn delivered a speech and responded to questions from the members.

**A vote was called on the co-option of a candidate to the position of Association Community Relations Officer.**

**An announcement was taken from Ms Hill while the votes were counted.**

Ms Hill stated that it was part of the members of the Councils portfolios that they had to help out at the foam fight on Raisin Monday. Ms Hill stated that the Sabbatical Officers had taken part for the past two years and that it had been a lot of fun. Ms Hill stated that a free breakfast would be provided.

Mr Patterson asked when Raisin weekend was.

Ms Hill responded that it was on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms Lewis asked if there were time slots for helping out.

Ms Hill stated that there weren't but that people were needed at different time and that if any member had children they could come along after they had dropped the children at the foam fight.

Mr Bryce asked what the times would be as he had class.

Ms Hill stated that she wasn't sure what the times would be.

Mr Morrice asked what constituted breakfast.

Ms Hill stated that in the past bacon rolls and vegetarian sausage rolls had been provided.

Ms Gold stated that she had helped out the year she had children and that it was very flexible with that.

Mr Baldi thanked all the candidates for taking part in the election.

**There were 14 votes for Ms O'Donnell, 2 votes for Mr Ali, and 0 votes for Ms Zahn in the SSC.**

**With 16 total valid votes, the quota for election was 9.**

**Ms O'Donnell was duly co-opted by the SSC.**

**There were 18 votes for Ms O'Donnell, 5 votes for Mr Ali, and 0 votes for Ms Zahn in the SRC.**

**With 23 total valid votes, the quota for election was 13 votes.**

**Ms O'Donnell was duly co-opted by the SRC.**

**The Councils concurring, Ms O'Donnell was duly co-opted to the position of Association Community Relations Officer.**

#### **10.2. J. 13 - A Motion to Amend the Association Councils Absence Policy**

##### **THIS SRC AND SSC NOTE:**

1. The Laws currently provide that "If a member is absent from three meetings of SRC/SSC without adequate apologies or five in total, they shall cease to be a member".

##### **THIS SRC AND SSC BELIEVE:**

1. Attending meetings of the Association Councils is an important component of serving as an officer of the Association.
2. The policy regarding absences from meetings of the Association Councils should be clarified, particularly with respect to the disposition of officers who have missed three meetings with adequate apologies or five meetings in total.
3. The policy regarding absences of Association officers from meetings of the Association Councils should be clarified.

##### **THIS SRC AND SSC RESOLVE:**

1. To strike the text of § 3.1 of Chapter Four of the Laws, insert the following new text, and redesignate accordingly:

3.1. If a member except a Senate Representative, the Rector's Assessor, and Athletic Union President, is absent from three meetings of SRC and/or SSC without adequate apologies or five in total, they shall be removed from office, unless the SAEC reinstates the member, conditionally or unconditionally, within 7 days of the approval of minutes of the meeting triggering this section.

3.2. If a Senate Representative, the Rector's Assessor, and Athletic Union President is absent from three meetings of SRC and/or SSC without adequate apologies or five in total, they shall be removed from the SRC/SSC unless the SAEC reinstates the member, conditionally or unconditionally, within 7 days of the approval of minutes of the meeting triggering this section.

3.2.1. If a Senate Representative, the Rector's Assessor, or Athletic Union President is removed from the SRC or SSC pursuant to this section, the Association President shall inform the relevant University officials of the same.

**Mr Woodhouse proposed the motion, Ms Gold seconded.**

Mr Woodhouse introduced the motion as such: we're bringing this motion, as we want to clarify our expectations regarding attendance. If you miss three SRC/SSC meetings without adequate apologies or five in total you will be asked to come before the St Andrews Association Executive Committee where you would explain the reasons for your absences. The Committee can then reinstate you or attach conditions to your reappointment. This motion also recognises that some of the members

have responsibilities elsewhere and, if they were dismissed, we would send a letter to the relevant University officials to allow them to respond if desired.

Ms Gold stated that this motion was not intended to be rude but was actually softening the rules as it allowed there to be discretion in the dismissals.

Mr Norris asked if, regarding Association officers, the count include both the SSC and SRC meetings or if there were separate counts.

Mr Woodhouse stated that missing five meetings of any kind would trigger these provisions.

Ms Urbonaite stated that as Association officers had to attend two meetings each week and sometimes other things came up on Tuesday evenings.

Ms Hill stated that Association officers ran for provisions that required attendance at weekly meetings. Ms Hill stated that it was difficult for students who had other responsibilities and that this motion was a way for that to be taken in to account.

Mr Norris stated that, with all of his other responsibilities, he spent around 20 hours each week on work for his position. Mr Norris stated that he didn't want to propose a doubling of the count but that there should be some attempt to take in to account the extra requirements asked of the Association officers.

Mr Palmer stated that this motion was weakening the requirements and would instead act as an automatic flag. Mr Palmer added that this would allow line-managing sabbatical officers to defend their officers if they were putting a lot of work in elsewhere or to enforce the provision if the officer wasn't.

Ms West stated that if an officer were to miss five meetings that would be half a semester's meetings and would begin to affect their ability to work effectively. Ms West stated that making the count more than five would be to cover over half of the commitment.

Mr Norris stated that he agreed with the opinion but that he would like for that to be put in writing.

Ms Gold stated that she hadn't proposed it yet as there hadn't been a meeting of the Executive Committee but she intended to write a set of guidelines to measure officers against.

Ms Urbonaite asked what would happen to any officer if they missed five meetings and had to attend the meeting. Ms Urbonaite asked if they get five more meetings or would they have to continue to attend the an Executive Committee meeting every time they missed a meeting.

Ms Hill stated that the reality now was that anyone who missed five meetings would lose their job. Ms Hill stated that this motion would change that to, after considering the members case, deciding on their job. Ms Hill stated that would allow there for support to be provided, for conditions to be attached or for the member to lose their position.

Ms Urbonaite asked for clarification on what would happen if, after missing five meetings, a member missed a sixth.

Ms Hill answered that the member would be reappointed with conditions. The count could be reset to zero or other requirements could be added. Ms Hill stated that the motion allowed the decision to be on a case-by-case basis.

**The question was called on motion J.13.**

**With no objection, the motion was adopted.**

### **10.3. J. 14 - A Motion to Reform the SSC Design Team Committee**

#### **THE STUDENT SERVICES COUNCIL NOTES**

- 1. The SSC Design Team has created a PR Team under the direction of the Director of Events & Services.**
- 2. That this team have been operated on a trial basis and has proved successful.**
- 3. That the current SSC Design Team constitution is no longer fit for purposes.**

#### **THIS STUDENT SERVICES COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

- 1. To recommend to SAB the adoption of the constitution attached hereto.**

#### **Chapter Fourteen: SSC Design & PR Team**

##### **1. Aims**

The SSC Design & PR Team aims to advertise or assist in advertising and promotional activity for the events, services and representational functions of the Association and its affiliated societies.

##### **2. Committee**

###### **2.1. Design Team Membership**

The Design Team Committee shall have the following members:

- 2.1.1. SSC Design & PR Convener (Convener & Chair)
- 2.1.2. Vice-President
- 2.1.3. Secretary
- 2.1.4. Web Coordinator
- 2.1.5. Marketing Officer
- 2.1.6. Director of Student Development & Activities
- 2.1.7. Director of Events & Services

###### **2.2. PR Team Membership**

The PR Team Committee will be a sub-committee to the Design Team Committee. The PR Team will focus on publicising the Association's events, and as directed by either the SSC

Design Team or Director of Events and Services. Its actions and spending shall be monitored by the SSC Design Team Committee. Its membership shall be:

2.2.1. SSC Design & PR Convener (Convener & Chair)

2.2.2. Online Head

2.2.3. Offline Head

2.2.4. Director of Events & Services

2.2.5. SSC Design Team Marketing Officer

2.2.6. SSC Entertainments Committee Events Officer (non-voting)

2.2.7 Other appointed committee members as deemed necessary to fulfil the workload, as appointed by the SSC Design Team Committee.

### 2.3. Meetings

2.2.1 The committee shall meet fortnightly throughout the year, and at other times as necessary.

2.2.2 The SSC Design & PR Convener will take the chair.

2.2.3 In the absence of the SSC Design & PR Convener, the Vice-President will chair.

### 2.4. Quorum

The quorum shall be three-fifths of the voting membership of the committee.

### 2.5. Notice

All members of the Committee must be given at least 24 hours notice of any committee meeting.

## 3. Annual General Meeting

### 3.1. Procedure

The AGM shall be held during Semester Two and shall:

3.1.1. Require 14 days notice.

3.1.2. Be publicised widely in such places and by such methods as the committee shall determine from time to time.

3.1.3. Shall elect all Design Team Committee positions

3.1.4. Shall not elect PR Team Committee positions

3.1.5. Be open to all matriculated students of the University of St Andrews, except those who have exercised their right to opt out of the Students' Association under the provisions of the Education Act 1994.

### 3.2. Business

The order of business shall be:

3.2.1. Report of the SSC Design & PR Convener.

3.2.2. Report of the Vice-President

3.2.3. Report of the Online Head of PR Team

3.2.4. Report of the Offline Head of PR Team

3.2.5. Elections

3.2.6. AOCB.

### 3.3. Elections

3.3.1. Elections shall be conducted by a secret ballot using the STV system

3.3.2. No person shall hold more than one position on the Committee at any one time.

### 4. Interviewed positions

4.1. The SSC Design & PR Convener will be appointed by the SSC Convener Selection Committee as described in Chapter Three of the Laws.

4.2. The following committee members will be appointed by the SSC Design Team Selection Committee, which will be composed of the SSC Design & PR Convener, the Vice-President, the Director of Event & Services and the outgoing office holder:

4.2.1. Online Head of PR Team

4.2.2. Offline Head of PR Team

### 5. Committee Vacancies

Committee posts that shall, from time to time, fall vacant for whatever reason shall be filled by co-option from the SSC Design Team Selection Committee.

### 6. Committee Decisions

Should a consensus be unobtainable at a Committee meeting, a vote should be taken. Those members of the Design Team Committee shall be eligible to vote and in the event of a tie, the casting vote will be held by the Chair of the meeting.

**Ms Ekanayaka proposed the motion, Mr Palmer seconded.**

**Ms Ekanayaka proposed an amendment:**

#### **Chapter Fourteen: SSC Design & PR Team**

[...]

##### **2.1. Design Team Membership**



[...]

**2.1.5. ~~Marketing Officer~~ Special Projects Coordinator**

[...]

**2.2. PR Team Membership**

[...]

**2.2.5. ~~SSC Design Team Marketing Officer~~ Special Projects Coordinator**

**Mr Woodhouse Seconded**

**The amendment was accepted without objection.**

Ms Ekanayaka introduced the motion as such: over the summer Mr Palmer and I have been working on a PR team. As it's been a success, we think it's now time to reflect its existence in the constitution.

**With no objections, the motion was accepted.**

**10.4. J. 15 - A Motion to Amend the Structure and Duties of the SSC Societies Committee and its Members**

**THIS SSC AND SRC NOTE:**

1. The SSC Societies Committee has restructured and created additional officerships.
2. The SSC Societies Committee has enacted a policy of deregulation to reduce the administrative burden upon affiliated societies.
3. This policy has made some of the duties of the SSC Societies Committee and its members obsolete.

**THIS SSC AND SRC RESOLVE:**

To report amendments to effect the following changes to the Laws to SAB with the recommendation that the same do pass:

1. To strike §3.3.14 in Chapter One, and renumber accordingly;
2. To strike §5.1.1 in Chapter Three, and renumber accordingly;
3. To strike the existing text of §5.1.4 in Chapter Three, and insert: *"5.1.4 Ensure that affiliated societies meet the requirements of their Affiliation Agreements."*
4. To strike §5.2.1 in Chapter Three, and renumber accordingly;
6. To strike §5.3.1 in Chapter Three, and renumber accordingly;
7. To strike the existing text of §5.3.3 in Chapter Three, and insert:

*5.3.3 Attend, or send a nominee to attend, society general meetings and invigilate for compliance with the requirements of the Affiliation Agreement.*

8. To strike all text in Chapter Nine, and insert the following:

*1. Association Committees*

*There shall be a SSC Societies Committee, which shall have powers, duties and responsibilities as laid out in Chapter 23 of the Laws.*

*2. Affiliation to the Association*

*2.1. There shall be an Affiliation Agreement, proposed by the SSC Societies Committee and ratified by the Students' Association Board, defining the terms of Affiliation between Societies and the Association.*

*2.2. A student society shall be affiliated to the Association on:*

*2.2.1. The receipt of a copy of the Affiliation Agreement signed by an agent of the society;*

*2.2.2. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the society's constitution meets all requirements laid out in the Standing Orders for Affiliated Societies;*

*2.2.3. The receipt of the the names of not less than twenty-five matriculated students who are ordinary members of the society; and*

*2.2.4. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that all terms of the Affiliation Agreement have been met; and,*

*2.2.5. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the society's aims do not duplicate the aims of any other society.*

*2.3. A student-run project without a defined membership shall be affiliated to the Association on:*

*2.3.1. The receipt of a copy of the Affiliation Agreement signed by an agent of the organisation;*

*2.3.2. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the organisation's constitution meets all requirements laid out in the Standing Orders for Affiliated Societies;*

*2.3.3. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that all terms of the Affiliation Agreement have been met; and*

*2.3.5. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the project's aims do not duplicate the aims of any other society or project.*

*2.3.6. Clear demonstration by the project managers that the inclusion of a defined membership would be unworkable, or else detrimental to the stability of the project, as agreed by the Societies Committee.*

*2.4. All subsequent references to societies shall include student-run projects, unless otherwise stated.*

*2.5. The new or continued affiliation to the Association of a society shall be conditional upon:*

*2.5.1. The adherence to the society's constitution and policies;*

*2.5.2. The responsible management of the society and its accounts as recommended in the publications of the Societies Committee, in particular audits; and*

*2.5.3. The adherence to the terms of the Affiliation Agreement.*

### *3. Membership*

*3.1. Any society wishing to affiliate must make ordinary membership open to all matriculated students of the University of St Andrews. Only matriculated students shall be eligible for ordinary membership. Other persons may be eligible for other classes of membership, as defined in the society's constitution.*

*3.3. The SSC Performing Arts Officer shall be an honorary member of all affiliated performing arts-related societies. The SSC Music Officer shall be an honorary member of all music-related societies.*

*3.3.1. Definitions of such societies shall be determined by the Societies Committee.*

### *4. Constitutions*

*4.1. The aims of a society, as declared in its constitution, must not be incompatible with those of the Students' Association.*

*4.2. A society, in its constitution, must declare all outside affiliations and their aims will be subject to the same scrutiny as the society itself.*

*4.3. The SSC Member for Societies Elections shall be notified of any amendment to the constitution of a society.*

### *5. Grants and Loans*

*5.1. Grants may be made to affiliated societies by the Societies Committee in accordance with such limitations and conditions as the Societies Committee may from time to time adopt.*

*5.2. Student-run projects shall not be eligible for Grants from the Societies Committee, unless the Committee explicitly agrees to exempt the project from this restriction.*

*5.3. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2 of this section, grants shall be made at the discretion of the Societies Committee.*

*5.4. Loans may be made to affiliated societies at the discretion of the Societies Committee.*

*5.4.1. All loans will be under the terms of the Societies Loan Contract.*

### *6. Arbitration.*

*6.1. The Societies Committee shall be competent to arbitrate disputes amongst a society and its members, officers, and/or another society with the consent of the parties to arbitration.*

6.2. *The decision of the Societies Committee in arbitration shall be subject to appeal to SAEC, provided that an appeal is lodged within 72 hours of the transmission of notice of the decision and right to appeal, and only on the following grounds:*

6.2.1 *Information not known at the time of the original decision.*

6.2.2 *Procedural irregularity that could make a material difference to the original decision (including inaccurate information, etc.)*

6.2.3 *Bias or prejudice.*

7. *Disaffiliation.*

7.1. *The Societies Committee may disaffiliate a society in accordance with the terms of the Affiliation Agreement.*

7.2. *The decision of the Societies Committee to disaffiliate a society shall be subject to appeal to SAEC, provided that an appeal is lodged within 72 hours of the transmission of notice of the decision and right to appeal, and only on the following grounds:*

7.2.1 *Information not known at the time of the original decision.*

7.2.2 *Procedural irregularity that could make a material difference to the original decision (including inaccurate information, etc.)*

7.2.3 *Bias or prejudice.*

7.3. *Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, if the Societies Committee declines to renew a society's Affiliation Agreement or declines to otherwise offer a society a new Affiliation Agreement, such decision shall not be subject to appeal.*

9. To insert a new §1.1.12 in Chapter Twenty-Three, and renumber accordingly, to read "1.2.12. Marketing Officer".

9. To strike §1.2.3 of Chapter Twenty-Three.

10. To strike from §1.2.5 of Chapter Twenty-Three "ensure that societies abide by their constitutions and Association policy" and insert "ensure that affiliated societies meet the requirements of their Affiliation Agreements".

**Mr Dixon proposed the motion, Ms Lewis seconded.**

Mr Dixon introduced the motion as such: the definition of affiliation has been clarified, how the Association interacts with affiliated societies has been clarified. Both Ms Gold and Ms Dick have been removed as required honorary members of societies. Ms Lewis job previously was to ensure that they ran themselves well, but the Societies Committee no longer see that as its job but rather the members. The point at which a society is considered to be affiliated has changed to them signing an affiliation agreement. The entire section regarding discipline has been amended to be about arbitration. There previously existed a mechanism where we could impose punishments on a society, we no longer think that's fair and instead will provide an arbitration service and we can now

disaffiliate them, subject to appeal. This motion will also add a new marketing officer to the Committee.

Ms Lewis stated that the affiliation agreement now makes it clear what the relationship is between the Association and the Societies. It's a two sides of A4 that outlines the requirements for societies and what the Association agrees to provide them. An arbitration service now exists, from which societies can opt out, but it should prevent societies taking their members to court. Student-run projects have now been added to the standing orders as being distinct from societies. Other projects can register under that system but they have to demonstrate clear reasons for that as opposed to being classed as a society. Previously there were rules that told societies what they had to do; we now allow them to do as they want.

Ms Gold asked if all Sabbatical Officers had been removed from the position or if it has just been her office.

Mr Baldi stated that all the Laws ought to encompass honorary membership for the Sabbatical Officers but that had not been reflected in the text copy of the Laws.

Ms Gold asked if the motion should be amended to remove the other Sabbatical Officers and other members.

Mr Dixon stated that the members didn't really exercise their privileges and that it was unreasonable to demand membership rights without having to pay in or invest like the ordinary members of the society.

Mr Schorr asked whom subcommittees would approach for arbitration if it seemed like there was a coup on going.

Mr Baldi answered that they should approach their sabbatical officer.

Ms Lewis stated that the Societies Committee only dealt with societies.

Ms Turner asked whether, if affiliation were based on the Affiliation Agreement, societies would no longer require 25 members.

Ms Lewis answered that 25 members were a requirement included in the Affiliation Agreement.

Ms Dick stated that, as it stood, only matriculated students were eligible for ordinary membership of societies.

Ms Gold asked if Ms Merryfield and Mr Patterson were honorary members of their relevant societies.

**Mr Dixon proposed a set of amendments to J15:**

**Renumber item 10 to item 11**

**Renumber item 9 to item 10**

**Within item 8:**

**Strike the Second instance of 'the' in occurring in §2.2.3**

**Renumber §2.3.5 to §2.3.4**

**Renumber §2.3.4 to §2.3.3**

**Renumber §3.3 §3.2**

**Ms Lewis seconds**

**Mr Cordrey proposed an amendment to Mr Dixon's Motion:**

~~**Renumber item 10 to item 11**~~

~~**Renumber item 9 to item 10**~~

**Within item 8:**

**Strike the Second instance of 'the' in occurring in §2.2.3**

~~**Renumber §2.3.5 to §2.3.4**~~

~~**Renumber §2.3.4 to §2.3.3**~~

~~**Renumber §3.3 §3.2**~~

**Renumber paragraph 6 to paragraph 5 and then renumber accordingly**

**Mr Dixon seconded.**

**With no objection, the in the second degree was adopted.**

**With no objection, the amendment in the first degree was adopted.**

**Mr Dixon proposed an amendment to the motion:**

Insert a new paragraph 8 with the following text, and renumber accordingly:

8. To strike §5.4.3 in Chapter Three, and renumber accordingly;

Insert a new paragraph 9 with the following text, and renumber accordingly:

9. To strike §5.7.4 in Chapter Three, and renumber accordingly;

Within paragraph 8:

Strike Item §3.2

**Ms Lewis seconded**

Mr Dixon stated that he had spoken to both Ms Merryfield and Mr Patterson and that the former was happy to be removed but that the latter was not.

Mr Patterson stated that he thought it was a nice provision and that he did not want to see it go.

**The amendment was accepted without objection.**

**Ms Lewis proposed an amendment:**

Within original paragraph 8, strike from 3.1 *“Only matriculated students shall be eligible for ordinary membership”* and replace with *“Only members of the Association shall be eligible for ordinary membership”*.

**Mr Dixon seconded.**

Ms Lewis stated that by amending it to association membership rather than matriculated student, more people would be eligible to be members of societies.

Mr Palmer asked if a student on a leave of absence would be eligible.

Mr Cupples answered they would be so long as they were a matriculated student.

Ms Hill asked how one would become a non-student member of the Association.

Ms Cupples answered that there were several forms of membership: ordinary membership, life memberships that could be purchased, there is a membership for those who can demonstrate a connection to the association and another for staff members of the association and union. All of those are currently involved in societies but they can't be president.

Ms Hill stated that she thought this was a bad move as it could lead to a situation where there were no students in a society and there would be no control over the society, as the Association couldn't refer the matter to the University.

Mr Dixon stated that he viewed this as helpful in encouraging other people to be involved.

Ms Dick stated that this wouldn't make societies include non-matriculated students, only make it possible for them in a similar way that changing the laws makes it possible for Association members to be ordinary members but societies must first amend their constitutions to reflect such a change.

Ms Lewis stated that most societies wouldn't have changed their constitution so sabbatical officers would currently still be honorary members.

Ms Hill stated that she was raising this concern as the scuba society at the University of Aberdeen had been funded by the University but there were no students in the society.

Ms Dick stated that grants were discretionary and part of the requirement was that it enriches student life. With that criterion, a society with no students couldn't receive a grant.

**With no objections, the motion was adopted.**

**Ms Lewis proposed an amendment to the motion:**

**8. To strike all text in Chapter Nine, and insert the following**

[...]

**7. Disaffiliation**

[...]

**7.3. notwithstanding the foregoing provision, if the Societies Committee declines to renew a society's Affiliation Agreement or declines to otherwise offer a society a new Affiliation Agreement, such decision shall not be subject to appeal—such decision shall be subject to appeal to SAEC.**

**Ms Hill seconded.**

Ms Lewis stated that she did not believe that the Association should have the right to decline to reaffiliate a society that had done everything asked of it without a right of appeal. Ms Lewis stated that the Societies' Committee had a high turnover from year to year and societies should be protected from the changing viewpoints on the Committee.

Mr Dixon stated that he wanted to point out the distinction between disaffiliation and declining to reaffiliate a society. Disaffiliation was getting rid of a society. When an affiliation agreement is offered, that's the Association deciding how to spend its money and that is absolutely an SSC matter. Mr Dixon stated that there was a mechanism in place to overturn a decision and that was to petition the SSC by raising 25 signatures. Mr Dixon stated that they do not have a vested right to affiliation once the agreement expired.

Ms Gold stated that she agreed with Mr Dixon and that by requiring them to raise a petition they would have to rally the society and it not just be the President objecting to the refusal to reaffiliate.

Ms Hill stated that she couldn't see how this situation could ever arise.

Ms Lewis answered that it could arise if the Association were short on resources to allocate.

Ms Hill stated that if that were to happen it would be a dire failing of the Association and that they should let the Societies all in as that was only likely to happen if the University wasn't giving the Association enough money.

Ms Hill stated that she didn't see how they couldn't offer them a contract, as it was online.

Mr Dixon stated that a society couldn't be affiliated unless they were offered the contract and that the Association had to sign all of the contracts.

Ms Lewis stated that, in order to be affiliated, all the affiliation agreements had to be signed by herself and Ms Gold.

Mr Palmer stated that he didn't think it was appropriate to bypass the SSC and that the current Societies' Committee had more votes on the Executive Committee than on the SSC. Mr Palmer stated that it was unfair to have this provision and the onus was on the association to ensure that societies could reaffiliate.

Ms Turner asked for clarification on what Ms Lewis meant about the nasty societies and whether this was to prevent societies from being morally wrong.

Ms Lewis stated that this was about the Societies' Committee and preventing a nasty one from bullying societies.

Ms Turner asked whether a society that met these conditions could affiliate even if they were a Nazi Society.

Ms Lewis stated that that society would not be able to affiliate and that was covered in the affiliation agreement. Ms Lewis stated that this motion would allow the societies committee to not offer reaffiliation and for the society to then appeal against that.

**Mr Baldi asked if there was objection to limiting the debate to four more speeches.**

**With no objections, the debate was limited.**

Mr Dixon stated that there had to be this provision as, if a Societies Officer stood on a platform to get rid of societies, even if that would be ridiculous, it would be the will of the students.



**The question was called on Ms Lewis' Amendment.**

**An objection was noted.**

**A roll-call vote was held in the SSC:**

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Association Community Relations Officer	Katie O'Donnell			
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer		X	
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold		X	
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite			X
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris			
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr			X
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
SSC Broadcasting Officer	Oscar Swedrup			
SSC Charities Officer	George Parker			
SSC Debates Officer	William Lord			X
SSC Film Production Officer	Maia Fray			
SSC Member for Societies Elections	Robert Dixon		X	
SSC Member for Societies Grants	Emily Dick		X	
SSC Member w/o Portfolio	Kieth Cordrey		X	
SSC Music Officer	Anna Merryfield			X
SSC Performing Arts Officer	David Patterson			X
SSC Societies Officer	Courtney Lewis	X		
SSC Volunteering Officer	Fay Holland		X	

**With one in the affirmative and eight in the negative, the motion failed in the SSC.**

**A roll-call vote was held in the SRC:**

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly			X
Association Community Relations Officer	Katie O'Donnell			X
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer		X	
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse		X	
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold		X	
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite			X
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris			
Association Postgraduate President	Scott Schorr			X
Association President	Chloe Hill		X	
President of the Athletic Union	Jess Walker			X
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell			
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor			X
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda		X	
SRC Employability Officer	Lonie Sebahg			X
SRC Equal Opportunities Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud		X	
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce			X
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli			X
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton			X
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West			X
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads			
SRC Member for Mature Students	Melissa Turner			X
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham			
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice		X	
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien		X	
SRC Member for Widening Access	Ben Anderson		X	
SRC Wellbeing Officer	Avalon Borg		X	

**With no members in the affirmative and ten in the negative, the motion failed in the SRC.**

**The Councils concurring, the amendment failed.**

**Mr Palmer proposed a motion:**

Within Paragraph 8

Strike section 7.3

**Ms Hill seconded.**

Ms Dick asked if that section was removed whether it would prevent the Committee from not offering affiliation.

Ms Lewis stated that it would.

Mr Cupples stated that the removal of that section would remove the distinction between affiliation and reaffiliation and so societies would have to go through the entire procedure again.

Ms Urbonaite asked if the motion could be explained as it seemed that most people abstained on the grounds that they did not understand the motion.

**Ms Urbonaite moved to postpone the consideration of the motion.**

Mr Baldi stated that postponing this amendment would postpone all consideration of the motion and that the motion would have to return to the Councils.

**Mr Baldi moved to suspend the rules to vitiate consideration of all procedural motions currently pending and return to consideration of the main motion.**

**The rules were so suspended.**

**Mr Woodhouse proposed an amendment to the motion:**

8. To strike all text in Chapter Nine, and insert the following

[...]

7. Disaffiliation

[...]

7.3. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, if the Societies Committee declines to renew a society's Affiliation Agreement or declines to otherwise offer a society a new Affiliation Agreement, ~~such decision shall not be subject to appeal.~~ such decision shall be subject to appeal to the Student Services Council

**Ms Hill seconded.**

Mr Baldi stated that the effect of this amendment would be to mean that societies could appeal to the SSC.

Ms Gold stated that they're a subcommittee just like any other and the SSC should point this out to them. Ms Gold called for faith in the subcommittee, as their mandate was to govern the societies and look out for their best interests.

Ms Hill stated that, while that was true, this motion would give the SSC the power to make a decision and offer no rationale.

Mr Dixon stated that he viewed that as a strange argument as the motion as it currently stood gave the Societies Committee power to do as Ms Hill had suggested but the amendment would mean they would have to justify it on demand.

Ms Lewis stated that it gave the Societies' Committee the power to not affiliate a society.

Mr Woodhouse suggested that these be considered as two separate questions; should the committee have this power, and should this be appealable to the SSC.

Ms Hill asked whether the motion gave the preceding clauses as the reasons for not offering the affiliation agreement.

Mr Dixon stated that those would be reasons to disaffiliate a society.

Ms Dick asked whether a society could be disaffiliated for causing reputational harm.

Mr Palmer stated that the reasons for disaffiliation had been outlined clearly, as had everything else, and asked why the reasons for not offering a reaffiliation hadn't been clearly laid out.

Mr Cupples stated that he was puzzled for the need to make a distinction between affiliation and reaffiliation and asked why a society returning, which had met all the criteria, should be treated differently.

Ms Lewis stated that the only reason would be if they didn't meet a set of criteria for an affiliating society as they were similar but slightly different.

Ms Gold stated that there were several charitable societies not all of which raised money for British registered charities and that should not have been allowed. If the OSCRC were to come down hard on the Association and said only societies which raise funds for British charities could be affiliated, those other societies would have to be disaffiliated.

Mr Cupples stated that he didn't understand the distinction as a new society that didn't meet those criteria couldn't be affiliated.

Ms Hill stated that would be a legitimate reason to disaffiliate a society.

Ms Lewis stated that that restriction could be put in place through the standing orders by requiring charitable societies to be registered with a UK charity. That wasn't in the standing orders but would be soon.

Mr Baldi called for members to confine debate to the pending question.

Mr Lewis stated that the standing orders could be used to prevent occurrences like that.

Mr Patterson asked where Ms Gold stood on the matter.

Ms Gold asked if the question could be divided to pass the rest of the motion except for paragraph eight section seven.

Mr Baldi stated that it could after this amendment had been voted on.

**The question was called on Mr Woodhouse's amendment.**

**With no objections, the amendment was passed.**

**Mr Gold proposed a motion that the question be divided with a question on the adoption of the original paragraph eight and a question on the adoption of the rest of the motion as amended.**

**With no objection, the question was divided.**

**Ms Gold moved that the question on the adoption of paragraph eight be postponed indefinitely.**

**With no objections, the question was postponed indefinitely.**

**The question was called on the adoption of the motion, save for paragraph eight.**

**With no objections, the motion was adopted.**

#### **10.5. J.16 – A Motion to Amend the Standing Orders to Provide for the Cancellation of Meetings**

**Mr Baldi vacated the chair.**

**Ms Lewis took the chair.**

#### **THIS SRC AND SSC NOTE:**

1. That no provision currently allows for the cancelation of a meeting of a Council or the Executive Committee.

#### **THIS SRC AND SSC BELIEVE:**

1. That the Association Chair should have the authority, in a limited set of circumstances, to cancel a meeting of a Council or the Executive Committee.

#### **THIS SRC AND SSC RESOLVE:**

1. To add a new § 1.7 to the Standing Orders of the Association as follows:

##### **1.1. Cancellation**

- 1.1.1. The Chair may cancel a meeting and provide notice of the same if any of the following conditions are met:

- 1.1.1.1. A sufficient number of members submit apologies to the Chair to preclude a quorum from assembling.

- 1.1.1.2. There is no business (including reports required by these Standing Orders) for the agenda.

- 1.1.1.3. The cancelation is issued concurrently with notice of a joint meeting of the Council that was scheduled to meet and the other Council.

**Mr Baldi proposed the Motion, Mr Woodhouse seconded.**

Mr Baldi asked unanimous consent that seven-days' notice for the motion be waived pursuant to Pursuant to Standing Order § 18.1.1.1.

**With no objections, the notice was waived.**

Mr Baldi stated that this motion would allow for a meeting to be cancelled without notice if there is no reason to have one.

**With no objections, the motion was adopted.**

**Ms Lewis vacated the chair.**

**Mr Baldi took the chair.**

## **11. Any Other Competent Business**

### **11.1 Announcements**

Mr Baldi announced that an email had been sent out regarding the Councils' Christmas dinner. Members should reply by midnight if they wished to attend otherwise they would only be able to attend if another member were to cancel.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2218.