



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

## AGENDA

Tuesday 27th November 2018 – Beacon Bar- 6.00pm

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

### 2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. Sarah Ramage
- 2.2. Ciara McCumiskey

### 3. Open Forum

### 4. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

- 4.1. Report of the Association Director of Education
- 4.2. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing
- 4.3. Report of the Athletic Union President
- 4.4. Report of the Association President
- 4.5. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services
- 4.6. Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

### 5. Questions for Association Officers

- 5.1. Questions for Association Alumni Officer
- 5.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Officer
- 5.3. Questions for Association Environment Officer
- 5.4. Questions for Association LGBT+ Officer
- 5.5. Questions for Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer

### 6. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers

- 6.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer
- 6.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years
- 6.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality
- 6.4. Questions for SRC Member for Racial Equality
- 6.5. Questions for SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
- 6.6. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
- 6.7. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 6.8. Questions for SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 6.9. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
- 6.10. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Development Convener
- 6.11. Questions for Principal Ambassador
- 6.12. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 6.13. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

### 7. Unfinished SRC Business

### 8. New SRC Business

- 8.1. Motion to advocate for new, private, purpose-built, student accommodation to address the concerns of St Andrews students, particularly with regards to access and affordability.
- 8.2. Co-Option of SRC Member for Racial Equality

**9. Any Other Competent Business**

**10. Collaborative Solutions**

# **SRC + ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

## **Association Alumni Officer – Olivia Sutton**

No report submitted.

## **Association Community Relations Officer – Morgan Morris**

Community Relations has had another busy week preparing for Community Relations week (Week 11). We have a series of events taking place which can be seen on our Facebook Page, including St Andrews Day, Wine and Cheese with our Community Councillors and a Chariots of Fire film showing. We are still looking for volunteers for St Andrews Day, so please fill in the form here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc58niF1OSVuzYL979DwklA-BPkCBT9QT65jC9eO3\\_jUN8XZw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc58niF1OSVuzYL979DwklA-BPkCBT9QT65jC9eO3_jUN8XZw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

I took part in an Abbey Park Focus group last week, to discuss the Students Associations stance on the new development. Other than that we have been looking to next semester to see what we can do between then and elections.

## **Association Environment Officer – Lauren Davis**

Nothing to report.

## **Association LGBT+ Officer – Zelda Kotyk**

Things have been incredibly busy recently but we are moving along and getting some amazing things done. We have been looking into how to get gender neutral bathrooms in place everywhere, examining what can be done in regards to trans/nb inclusion in sports clubs and preparing for World AIDs Day/St. Andrews Day. TDOR went very well even though the wind was ridiculous.

## **Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Sarah Ramage**

The Lifelong and Flexible Learners Instagram takeover was a huge success. A number of people, including non-LFL students, have said it was great to see LFL students and their student experience being promoted.

## **SRC Accommodation Officer – Lucy Allat**

This week has been a slower week, just responding to the first few question about finding accommodation, all of which have been easy to answer, this has made me question if there will need to be a 'surgery' for accommodation for next semester in the union. The find a flatmate event is coming on with a discussion starter list of question being made for people to get to know each other and see if they would be suitable flatmates. I attended the abbey park focus group, it was interesting to hear more about the proposal, and get to know more student views on the proposal.

## **SRC Member for First Year – Avery Kitchens**

No report submitted.

**SRC Member for Gender Equality – Isabella Smith**

No report submitted.

**SRC Member for Racial Equality – N/A**

**SRC Member for Students with Disabilities – Emily Muller**

No report submitted.

**SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Ciara McCumiskey**

Nothing to report.

**Arts/Divinity Faculty President –Gianluca Giammei**

Nothing to report.

**Science/Medicine Faculty President - Alisa Danilenko**

No report submitted.

**SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener –Ashley Clayton**

No report submitted.

**SRC Postgraduate Development Convener –Courtney Aitken**

Postgraduate Development Group are meeting this week on Tuesday 27th November. I have been invited to sit on Student Experience Committee this Friday 30th November.

**Principal Ambassador – Emma Thompson**

Nothing to report.

**Rector’s Assessor – Camilla Duke**

The Rector’s Committee would like to thank everyone involved with Reclaim the Night! This was truly a collaborative effort and we’re looking forward to more progress on this important issue. We’re also working on plans for next semester, and making our final efforts to push for consultation on the GP out of hours service.

**SRC Member Without Portfolio – Robyn Wells**

Nothing to report.

**R. 18-3 Motion to advocate for new, private, purpose-built, student accommodation to address the concerns of St Andrews students, particularly with regards to access and affordability.**

Owner: Paloma Paige

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: 27 November 2018

**SRC Notes:**

1. On 21 November 2018 a focus group was convened by the Association President with the view to discuss the proposed project on the St Leonards Field site (also referred to as Abbey Park) and provide a recommendation to the Association President. The details of this group are attached as appendix a.
2. A Pricing Policy was not available for the focus group to review, although it was made clear that it would likely follow the model of Ayton House.
3. The focus group had concerns that a joint hotel and student hall would create security issues and would create an environment conducive to tensions building between neighboring residents and hotel residents/student residents.
4. The focus group recognised that there is a shortage of purpose-built student accommodation in St Andrews, but agreed that:
  - a. The need for more choices of accommodation among students with limited financial means was greater than that of students with that means.
  - b. Whilst there may be a demand for high-end student accommodation, there is no shortage; conversely, there is a shortage of low-cost student accommodation
5. The focus group concluded that as the project proposal is currently written, it does not meet the need of students for whom there is a shortage of affordable accommodation.
6. The focus group agreed upon the following action points for the Association President:
  - a. Draft a motion, in collaboration with all members of this group, to the SRC or Joint Councils
  - b. Encourage there to be a consultation of the wider student population by the operators and those in a position to determine how it will function, what facilities there will be, the design in terms of sustainability, how rents will be set.
  - c. Liaise closely with local groups on this issue

**SRC Believes:**

1. An increase of purpose-built student beds in St Andrews would benefit the wider student population, but the current plans for St Leonards Field do not indicate any provision of affordable and accessible student beds.
2. 'Affordability' is subjective, and definitions vary across the student body. For those students who consider the rent level of Ayton House to be unaffordable, we cannot expect them to consider the St Leonards Fields Development, as it is currently planned, to be a viable option for them.
3. 'Access' to accommodation should be equal across the student body and the private accommodation available in St Andrews should support this.

**SRC Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Association President to extend current engagement to include all community groups involved in the planning and approval process for the St Leonards Fields Development.
2. To advocate for new, private, purpose-built student accommodation to address the demand for *affordable* student accommodation.
3. To encourage the property developers and appropriate planning committees to undertake further student consultation.

**Proposed by:**

Paloma Paige, Association President

**Seconded by:**

Nick Farrer, Director of Wellbeing

Ciara McCumiskey, SRC Member for Widening Access & Participation

Lucy Allat, Association Accommodation Officer

Morgan Morris, Association Community Relations Officer

**Appendix A.** agenda for the Abbey Park Focus Group

## Appendix A.

### Abbey Park Focus Group

#### Purpose of the group:

This group has been convened to debate the merits of the proposed Abbey Park project, to put forward a student position on the issue, and to provide recommendations to the Association President. Membership has been established to include both student councilors and lay students. The intention is that this group will meet once.

#### Membership of the group:

Association President (chair); Association Alumni Relations Officer; Association Community Relations Officer; Association Environment Officer; Association Chair; SRC Accommodation Officer; SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation; 7 non-councilor student guests.

#### Agenda items:

1. apologies
2. presentation of background paper as prepared by Joe Noble
3. questions to the presenter
4. discussion
5. summary of points and draft statement
6. establishment of action points for the Association President

Appendix a. paper prepared by Joe Noble

Appendix b. project plans/images