



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

## AGENDA

Tuesday 5 November 2013 - Committee Room - 7.00pm

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 5. Open Forum**
- 6. Reports of Sabbatical Officers**
  - 6.1. Report of the Association President
  - 6.2. Report of the Association Director of Services
  - 6.3. Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities
  - 6.4. Report of the Association Director of Representation
- 7. Reports of Officers**
  - 7.1. Report of the Arts/Divinity Senate Representative
  - 7.2. Report of the Association Community Relations Officer
  - 7.3. Report of the Association Environment & Ethics Officer
  - 7.4. Report of the Association LGBT Officer
  - 7.5. Report of the Association Postgraduate President
  - 7.6. Report of the Athletic Union President
  - 7.7. Report of the Science/Medicine Senate Representative
  - 7.8. Report of the SRC Accommodation Officer
  - 7.9. Report of the SRC Education Officer
  - 7.10. Report of the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
  - 7.11. Report of the SRC Employability Officer
  - 7.12. Report of the SRC External Campaigns Officer
  - 7.13. Report of the SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities
  - 7.14. Report of the SRC Member for First Year
  - 7.15. Report of the SRC Member for Gender Equality
  - 7.16. Report of the SRC Member for International Students
  - 7.17. Report of the SRC Member for Mature Students
  - 7.18. Report of the SRC Member for Private Accommodation
  - 7.19. Report of the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
  - 7.20. Report of the SRC Member for University Accommodation
  - 7.21. Report of the SRC Member for Widening Access
  - 7.22. Report of the SRC Wellbeing Officer
  - 7.23. Any Other Competent Reports
- 8. Unfinished General Business**

**9. New General Business**

- 9.1. R. 14 - A Motion to Support Student Engagement in Learning through Access to Module Evaluation Feedback
- 9.2. R. 15 - A Motion Stating the SRC'S Opposition to Proposed Policy Changes Affecting International Students

**10. Any Other Competent Business**

## R. 14

### A MOTION TO SUPPORT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING THROUGH ACCESS TO MODULE EVALUATION FEEDBACK

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

1. At the end of each semester, students are asked to fill in module evaluation questionnaires administered by the University to provide students with the opportunity to comment anonymously on various aspects of their modules (including content, structure, presentation, workload, and learning resources) and allow the University to collect data on student satisfaction to identify enhancements for future years.
2. Currently, students have no access to module evaluation results, nor are they regularly informed about actions taken in response to the data collected via these evaluation forms.
3. In its 2011 ELIR (Enhancement-Led Institutional Review) Report, the University stated its intention to make module evaluation results routinely available to staff and students online.
4. The University regularly analyses and discusses module evaluation results in its quality monitoring procedures, teaching committees, and staff councils.

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

1. Module evaluation questionnaires are a vital part of learning and teaching quality monitoring and can provide valuable data for its enhancement.
2. Students would fill in module evaluation forms more responsibly if there was increased transparency in feedback processing and a clear message on how completing module evaluation forms effects the student learning experience.
3. Making results of module evaluation questionnaires available online would provide student representatives with important data to independently assess enhancements and to identify areas for improvement.
4. Students should be regularly included in discussions about teaching enhancements beyond simple consultation and should be able to make assertions about the kind of learning experience they want, informed by the feedback of their peers.

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

1. To support the University's efforts to develop an online framework for the module evaluation system that would be better tailored to specific modules and would provide more comprehensive and easily accessible ways of monitoring learning and teaching quality.
2. To mandate the Education Officer and the Director of Representation to set with the University clear guidelines on the transparent, student-inclusive processing of module evaluation feedback and on setting the agenda for future enhancements as a result of the feedback.
3. To task School Presidents to include a discussion on results of the module evaluation feedback on the agenda of the first Staff-Student Consultative Committee (SSCC) in each semester.
4. To call for Schools to publish SSCC minutes online on the School website to bring the wider student body into the conversation on enhancing learning and teaching quality.
5. To encourage the University to make results of module evaluation questionnaires available to both student and staff online.

#### **PROPOSED:**

Ondrej Hajda  
SRC Education Officer

#### **SECONDED:**

Sophie Kelly  
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative

Teddy Woodhouse  
Director of Representation

## R. 15

### A MOTION STATING THE SRC'S OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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

1. On October 10, 2013, the UK Government proposed a new Immigration Bill, which included provisions to mandate that international students would be required to pay £200 each year to access the National Health Service and also to present biometric and visa information when applying for new private accommodation;
2. These proposed changes come as part of a political program to make immigration regulations "tougher" for all migrants into the United Kingdom, with the ultimate ambition that net migration into the United Kingdom will fall to under 100,000 per year;
3. 44% of St Andrews students come from beyond the United Kingdom, representing 120 different nationalities;
4. 30% of St Andrews students come from beyond the European Union;
5. 15% of St Andrews students come from North America;
6. St Andrews students contribute £53.9 million each year through direct spending, part-time work, and international students coming to Scotland and staying on to work, and support 1,791 full time jobs in Scotland (£36.4 million and 1,401 jobs in St Andrews alone);
7. International students at St Andrews account for £73.5 million each year in exports into the United Kingdom, including £21 million directly spent by EU and international students and an additional £1.4 million each year by overseas family and friends visiting the University;
8. A June 2011 Department for Business Innovation & Skills estimated that international students bring in £8 billion into the British economy each year; and
9. The British Council's report, *Trust Pays*, identified that universities deliver tremendous wealth in promoting positive transnational relationships that ultimately work to benefit the United Kingdom's image across the globe.

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

1. The global diversity of the St Andrews student population is one of the University's greatest strengths and gives students the opportunity to learn more about other cultures and to become more adept at handling immersion into new cultures and customs;
2. The global diversity of the St Andrews student population ultimately makes its students more ambitious by bolstering confidence in adapting to new cultural surroundings and exploring professional opportunities across the globe;
3. Legislation that intentionally discourages net migration, including the number of international students attending the University of St Andrews, comes with a noteworthy economic cost to St Andrews, to Scotland, and to the United Kingdom;
4. The process of accessing healthcare and applying for private accommodation are not identical to entering a country and should not be considered as valid spaces for interrogation into an individual's immigration status;
5. Healthcare is a service provided by the government as a public good and should not be seen as a commercial service that international students should be obligated to purchase access to;
6. International students form an integral part of the St Andrews community.

**THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

1. To support a campaign to make clear the negative economic and social impact the proposed policy changes would have on St Andrews, on Scotland, and on the United Kingdom;
2. To mandate the Equal Opportunities Committee, its officers, and the Association President to organise and run such a campaign;
3. To send notice of this motion to the MSP for North East Fife, the seven List MSPs for Mid Scotland and Fife, the MP for North East Fife, the Scottish Minister for Health, and to urge for their public opposition to the proposed changes, noting the negative economic and social impacts the changes would have; and
4. To send notice of this motion to the Home Secretary and to express our concern about the detrimental impact this legislation would have on St Andrews.

**PROPOSED**

Teddy Woodhouse  
Director of Representation

**SECONDED**

Caroline Rhoads  
SRC Member for International Students