



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 24th September 2013 – Committee Room, 7.00pm

Present

Sophie Kelly	Arts/Divinity Senate Representative
Maxwell Baldi	Association Chair
Sadie Hochfield	Association Community Relations Officer
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
Pat Mathewson	Rector's Assessor
Scott Taylor	SRC Accommodation Officer
Ondrej Hajda	SRC Education Officer
Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer
Callum Bryce	SRC External Campaigns Officer
Joshua Carlton	SRC Member for First Year
Ali West	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Caroline Rhoads	SRC Member for International Students
Melissa Turner	SRC Member for Mature Students
Ruth Cunningham	SRC Member for Private Accommodation
Anna Kennedy-O'Brien	SRC Member for University Accommodation
Ben Anderson	SRC Member for Widening Access

In Attendance

Martin Eide	
Laura Abernathy	The Saint
Carrie Magee	The Saint
Elliot Danies	The Saint
Jack McMillan	LGBT
Avalon Borg	

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Peter DaBell	Science/Medicine Senate Representative
Ross Quinn	SRC Member for Mature Students
Fay Morrice	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Pursuant to Standing Orders §7.2.2, the minutes of the Joint Meeting held on the 17th of September 2013 were laid before the members of the Council on the 23rd of September 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

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Open Forum

There was no business for the open forum.

6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers

6.1 Report of the Association President

Ms Hill stated that she'd been off work unwell so things had been a little slow. Ms Hill informed the Council that HMO caps were back on the table with Fife Council moving to cap them out as far as Pipeland Road. Ms Hill informed the Council that she was working to prevent that cap and that she'd been asked to write for various local newspapers about the implications for students.

Ms Hill also informed the Council that this year was the first where there were fewer international students than the previous year. Ms Hill stated that she thought this was as a result of the increasing expense of attending the University but that it would need to be looked in to.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the number of Students from the lowest socio-economic group had increased by 32, exceeding the target of 13 set the previous year. Ms Hill highlighted that this was good for the University's inclusiveness and, as it wasn't as difficult as originally thought, she would be pushing for an increased target for the next year.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the Academic Senate was being held the following day.

6.2. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Mr Palmer updated the Council on the progress of the redevelopment stating that it was going well but was chaotic. Mr Palmer informed the Council that the main bar would be closing in December for the entirety of Semester 2 and that the Café and Shop would be open by spring.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that the rebranding operation had been successful and new logos were now available.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that Freshers' Week had been a success, there would be crazy golf on Saturday and that a booking for Laser Tag had been made for the Students' Representative Council just following the meeting.

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

Ms Gold informed the council that she'd attended lots of meetings and that she'd been busy. She informed the Council that training would be taking place this coming week and they were currently working to streamline the process and reduce the bureaucracy.

Ms Gold informed the Council that there had been many applications from societies wishing to affiliate with the Association.

Ms Gold informed the Council that the Redevelopment was going well but was squeezing activities space for Societies. Ms Gold requested that anyone with ideas for extra space should contact her and also informed the Council that she was lobbying the University to make more purpose built locations available.

6.4. Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Woodhouse reported that the nominations for Class Representatives were now open. Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that the first Faculty Presidents had now been elected and would be working alongside the Senate Representatives.

Mr Woodhouse informed that the Council that Students' Representative Council and School Presidents training had been completed. Mr Woodhouse requested that any outstanding paperwork be handed in as soon as possible.

7. Reports of Officers

7.1. Report of the Arts/Divinity Senate Representative

Ms Kelly informed the Council that she was excited for the first meeting of the Senate, which was to be soon. Ms Kelly also informed the first Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) advisory group meeting had been held on Friday and they had went through the discussion questions they had. Primarily they had discussed how to get a better dialogue between the organisations and the possibility of abolishing resists. Ms Kelly also informed the Council that she had met with Dr Gillian MacIntosh, Executive Officer to Court & Senate today (Tuesday) and they had concreted what would be discussed. She also informed the Council that she had met with Mr DaBell and the Classics School President. She also informed the Council that, as the other School Presidents hadn't responded to her emails, she had not met with any others.

7.2. Report of the Association Community Relations Officer

Ms Hochfield informed that Council that the first community council meeting would be held in the Town Hall that coming Saturday and encouraged the Members of the Council to attend as turn out had been low in the past.

Ms Hochfield also informed the Council that she was in the process of starting a Committee and that if any Member knew of people who would be interested they should let them know.

Ms Hochfield also informed the Council that she would be working closely with Ms Hill on the issue of the HMO restrictions due to its importance.

7.3. Report of the Association Environment & Ethics Officer

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that Hall Representative training would be starting soon, in cooperation with CAPOD, and as a result they Representatives would receive certificates upon completion of their training. Ms Urbonaite also informed the Council that Hall Senior Students would be involved in the training to lend weight to environmental concerns on Hall Committees.

7.4. Report of the LGBT Officer

Mr Norris informed the Council that the LGBT Committee had been very busy over the past week and that they were currently organising two events for the near future. It is planned that NHS Fife will come in to deliver a Sexual Health talk and also that a pub crawl would be held called 'Out in St Andrews' to emphasise that it was safe to be open about your sexuality in St Andrews.

Mr Norris also informed the Council that the Committee was putting together a Stories Booklet to help those coming out. The content would cover the experiences of both staff and students. The committee was also organising a communities outreach program to deliver an 'It Gets Better' type talk.

Ms Gold asked of Mr Norris when the LGBT EGM would be held.

Mr Norris responded that it would be held on the 29th of September.

7.4. Report of the Association Postgraduate President

Mr Schorr informed the Council that he had met with the School Presidents and requested there be two representative for Post Graduates, one representing taught postgraduates and one representing research postgraduates.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that the Postgraduate AGM would be held on Monday the 30th September at 6pm.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that the Postgraduate Society will be holding a Gala at the Scores Hotel on the 7th October at 7pm. The Gala will include a dinner, music, and guest speakers.

7.6. Report of the Athletics Union President

There was no report from the Athletics Union President.

7.7. Report of the Science/Medicine Senate Representative

There was no report from the Science/Medicine Senate Representative.

7.8. Report of the SRC Accommodation Officer

Mr Taylor informed the Council that he'd devoted most time to the HMO restrictions and had met with Ms Cunningham to discuss the Association's position. Mr Taylor also informed the Council that he was drafting a letter for the St Andrews Citizen to outline their position and also meeting with Community Groups.

Mr Taylor also informed the Council that the Accommodation Subcommittee has been finalised and that Seamus and Ali would be helping to organise events. Mr Taylor stated that, while the subcommittee shouldn't need any more people, he was open to more people being involved.

Mr Taylor informed the Council that Hall Treasurer training would be in September.

Mr Taylor informed that Council that he was organising a Have Your Say Event, with invites speakers, and anyone from the University of Town could make their opinions heard. All the opinions would be sent out via Twitter.

Mr Taylor informed the Council that he was working with BubbleTV to produce a video for each hall as, though the University site covered the basics adequately, it was difficult for students to get an idea of the hall environment and spirit before arrival.

Ms Hill informed Mr Taylor that Ms Cunningham had asked that he didn't send out anything about HMOs just yet.

Mr Cupples asked when the Accommodation Committee would convene.

Mr Taylor responded that the date had not been set yet and asked whether Mr Cupples would like to be emailed the details so he could be present.

Mr Cupples responded that he would not be present but Naomi would be.

Mr Baldi informed Mr Taylor that the St Andrews Preservation Trust was trying to get in contact with him.

Ms Cunningham asked that Mr Baldi pass her the Preservation Trusts email address.

Ms Hill reminded the Council that the Preservation Trust was of the opinion that students should only live in halls and not in private accommodation.

7.9. Report of the SRC Education Officer

Mr Hajda informed the Council that he had met with a lot of groups, including Class Representatives. He also informed the Council that he'd had a lot of ideas over the summer and was just getting around to implementing them.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that he would be working with Ms Mohamud to create a positive environment around studying towards the end of semester one.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that the first committee meeting would be held on Monday at 5pm and encouraged any with opinions on education to attend.

7.10. Report of the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that the Committee had two new members – Ms Turner and Mr Quinn – which was great as it was an area they really needed to work on.

Ms Mohamud also highlighted that she would be working with Mr Hajda on the campaign for creating a positive studying environment.

Ms Mohamud informed the committee that she was working with Ms Morrice, who was not in attendance, on creating a Career's Fair for Students with Disabilities.

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that she would be working with Debates on Question Time.

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that the Committee, as a whole, was trying to find a main project role and to hold a lot of different awareness events.

7.11. Report of the SRC External Campaigns Officer

Mr Bryce informed the Council that he was working on a motion to about the Association and University paying a living wage and that he would be meeting with Ian to discuss that.

Ms Cunningham asked of Mr Bryce what constituted a living wage.

Mr Bryce responded that a living wage was one that was sufficient for accommodation, clothing, heating, food etc.

Ms Cunningham asked if Mr Bryce had a figure.

Mr Bryce responded that it would be for the University to come up with one but that it would be around £7.50.

7.12. Report of the SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities

Ms Walli informed that the council that the committee was currently working on Black History Month and also events discussing other ethnic minorities. Ms Walli informed the council that the committee had discussed who, and what, they wanted to discuss.

7.13. Report of the SRC Member for First Year

Mr Carlton informed the Council that, over the past few weeks, he had been trying to attend a lot of different events aimed at first years.

Mr Carlton informed the Council that he and Ms Cunningham were working on holding tutorial and information sessions to help first years moving out of University accommodation into private accommodation.

Mr Cupples informed Mr Carlton that tutorials had been held in the past and that he should talk to him about it.

7.14 Report of the SRC Member for Gender Equality

Ms West informed the Council that she had been working on a few things and had met with the Feminist Society and had received a brief on their plans as there was a lot of overlap between their activities and her remit.

Ms West also informed the Council that she had been working with Caroline on the Think Positive campaign.

Ms Hill informed Ms West that she had received an email from Edinburgh University Students Association about their 'Reclaim the Night' event, to be held on the 12th October. Their sabbatical officers also informed them that they'd be holding a Workshop and the Members of the Council were welcome to attend.

7.15. Report of the SRC Member for International Students

Ms Rhoads informed the Council that they'd held an event for international students during freshers' weeks.

Ms Rhoads informed the Council that they'd also held an event for Study Abroad.

7.16. Report of the SRC Member for Mature Students

Ms Turner thanked the Council Members for creating a relaxed atmosphere at the Students' Representative Council training.

Ms Turner informed the Council that she had noticed that there was no Mature Students' Society and she would be working with Ms Gold to establish one.

Ms Turner informed the Council that she was collecting opinions from Mature Students and would be bringing motions to the Council later in the year.

Mr Schorr highlighted to Ms Turner that a lot of postgraduate mature students often felt left out.

Ms Turner informed Mr Schorr that he was on her list of people to speak to.

7.17. Report of the SRC Member for Private Accommodation

Ms Cunningham informed the Council that she viewed the HMO issue as the largest issue and that she would be redrafting a press release and sending it out that night. She stated that she hoped it would be in the St Andrews Citizen.

Ms Cunningham informed the council that she would be working with Mr Carlton, and speaking with Naomi, about the 'How to Rent' guide. Ms Cunningham highlighted the importance of that being done soon as students would be looking for Accommodation come December and January.

Ms Hill informed Ms Cunningham that she'd received an email from some Fife press people asking questions about the HMO issue.

Ms Mohamud stated that a renting guide already existed, at least since her first year.

Ms Hill clarified that the guide had existed for the past 25 years but that it was going to be redrafted based on the input of all the members of the accommodation committee.

Ms Cunningham informed the Council that theme weeks had been dispensed with this year and that the committee was working on a more long-term policy.

7.18. Report of the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

There was no report from the Member for Students with Disabilities.

7.19. Report of the SRC Member for University Accommodation

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien informed the council that everything had been running smoothly but that she was helping the Halls out with some 'mystery invoices'.

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien informed the Council that the first meeting of the Senior Students would be held the next day at 7pm.

7.20. Report of the SRC Member for Widening Access

Mr Anderson informed the Council that he had attended a lot of meetings over the past week, including Education, and SOAC. He also informed the Council that he would be meeting with the Ambassadors to see what their plans were. Mr Anderson also informed the Council of his intention to meet with Ms Hill in the near future.

Mr Anderson also informed the Council that he intended to meet with Roger Smith regarding the Cost of Living survey to see where students could be involved.

Mr Anderson also informed the council that Mr Schorr had raised postgraduate access issues with him and that he intended to get back to him later that week. Mr Anderson also reminded the Members for Mature Students that their input was more than welcome and that he'd speak to them soon.

Ms Turner informed Mr Anderson that she'd spoken to Joanna Fry and asked whether Mr Anderson had been in contact with them as Ms Fry had been speaking to Mature Students about attending Dundee College to encourage them to come to St Andrews.

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien stated that Roger Smith was currently on holiday.

Mr Anderson responded that he hoped Mr Smith would point him in the correct direction.

Ms Hill said that she was currently speaking to someone called Silvia.

Mr Baldi stated that Petra, who was possibly Mr Smith's Deputy, was the easiest to get in contact with.

7.21 Any Other Competent Reports

There were no other reports.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no unfinished general business.

9. New General Business

9.1. Co-option of the SRC Welfare Officer

Ms Hibak asked where this position, and the other positions which were to be filled, had been advertised.

Mr Woodhouse responded that they had been advertised on the Facebook page, general student meeting and a blog post.

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien added that they might have also been in the Wednesday Memos.

Mr Baldi clarified that whoever was co-opted to this position, and the position of SRC Employability Officer, would sit on the SRC as non-voting members until the Association Board had ratified the amendments creating the positions.

Ms Avalon Borg nominated herself.

There were no other nominations.

Ms Borg stated that she had been involved with the Students' Representative Council the previous year and that she missed it now she was doing her postgraduate here. Having been present in St Andrews for the past four years, she stated that she knew where the Students' Representative Council worked and where it didn't. Mr Borg stated that she had been discussed the creation of this position in that past and was happy to see it finally being created. Ms Borg stated that there was a big gap between student well being and such and that she would want to coordinate with Mental Wealth and Nightline. Working together with these groups, she would make sure that the events they delivers would each be as strong as possible. She also stated that she wanted to work with Mr Hajda to ensure that the library was as healthy environment and not one of desperation. Ms Borg stated that she was happy this position had been created and that she was looking forward to getting students interested in mental health and that it was good the Students' Representative Council was involved in this as she said the University would not do it.

Ms Cunningham asked what specific things she had been involved in.

Ms Borg responded that she had worked with Student Support and had always been involved in those kinds of circles.

Mr Hajda asked Ms Borg what other commitments she had.

Mr Borg responded that, while being a postgraduate student had not been as easy as she'd imagined, she had thought about the required commitment for the position and, because she had wanted the position to be created for a long time, she knew that she could meet that commitment.

Mr Baldi stated that the question was on the co-option of Ms Borg to the position of SRC Welfare Officer.

With no objections, Ms Avalon Borg was co-opted to the position of SRC Welfare Officer.

9.2. Co-option of the SRC Employability Officer

Mr Woodhouse Nominated Ms Lonie Sebagh in absentia.

Mr Martin Eide nominated himself.

Mr Baldi stated that there was a prepared statement from Ms Sebagh that he would read aloud and then Ms Sebagh would be available for questions via telephone.

Mr Baldi requested that Mr Eide leave the room while Ms Sebagh's statement was read allowed.

Mr Eide left the room.

Mr Baldi read aloud the following statement: Good Evening All, my name is Lonie and I'm a third year management student running for the position of SRC Employability Officer. Unfortunately I had to spend the day in London and am now waiting for my flight back. I had the chance to speak to Mr Hajda and a management researcher. We know that no one is looking for a specific degree anymore but are looking for skills acquired over the course of their university education. Achieving a 2:1 is only part of it, so we need to put employability on the agenda. The University has offered several things – St Andrews Award, CAPOD – both of those are great but we need to see them marketed more. The University has organised events over the past few years and I would want to see focus on specific events e.g. mock assessments centres. I realise that the expectations and needs surrounding employability will differ between departments and would want to work with Class Representatives and School Presidents to deliver a customised service to each. Additionally, I'm a student brands officer for EY and would use skills gained there for that role.

Mr Woodhouse called Ms Sebagh and placed her on loudspeaker.

Mr Schorr stated that Ms Sebagh had said her academic background was in Management and asked how Ms Sebagh would ensure Employability Opportunities were distributed equally among departments.

Ms Sebagh stated that she planned to work with Class Representatives, as they would be the ones to know what employers were looking for in their fields. Ms Sebagh stated that while she had a better knowledge in Management, she was happy to hear from other schools and learn from their perspectives.

Ms Hochfield, while stating that she knew graduate recruitment was important, asked whether Ms Sebagh would look into part-time employability issues in the local community.

Ms Sebagh responded that she was trying to get involved in the local community and that, while she didn't know much about part-time recruitment she was willing to learn.

Ms Turner stated that Ms Sebagh had mentioned her role as a brand officer for EY and questioned whether Ms Sebagh would have time for both roles.

Ms Sebagh stated that she understood Ms Turner's concerns but that the workload was variable for the Brand Officer position and would mostly be concentrated in February and October. Ms Sebagh stated that she thought she had time for both.

Mr Woodhouse ended the call with Ms Sebagh.

Mr Eide returned to the room.

Mr Eide stated that it was clear to everyone that the competition for jobs was now higher and that there were fewer jobs and more graduates. Most universities had standardised degrees and it was no secret that St Andrews was behind with, for example, industry relations. Looking at the continent, there are a lot of universities that now have work place accredited qualifications. The closest thing that St Andrews has is the St Andrews Award and even that stretches the definition. Mr Eide stated that he wanted to work with the University to increase the relationships between it and potential employers and expand where things were going well, such as in economics and management where the relations are good. Mr Eide stated that his own qualifications included being a Student representative since he'd started at university and being the representative for Persian, a role in which he'd managed to start a degree programme for Persian by going outside the Modern Languages school for funding.

Mr Hajda asked what other time commitments Mr Eide had.

Mr Eide responded that his only other commitment was as the representative for Persian and, while there were some problems around starting the degree programme, it was a small department with only two employees so didn't require a large time commitment.

Ms Hill stated that there were many schools that were lacking in industrial relations and asked Mr Eide what his plans were for increasing those relationships.

Mr Eide stated that in some schools where it was lacking, there wasn't much of an option or attractive for them. Perhaps by opening up work-placement opportunities for them and not having it look bad for them. Mr Eide stated that there was a number of management societies that focus on bringing companies to St Andrews and that didn't really exist to a similar standard for other schools.

Ms Turner asked whether Mr Eide had any experience working with the Careers Centre, since he'd mentioned working with them.

Mr Eide responded that he hadn't but that he had used them in the past and been happy with the experience.

Ms Mohamud asked if Mr Eide could give any examples of how he would increase student employability.

Mr Eide responded that he would work to make it easier for student to take time out without it reflecting badly on them and to align the academic year better with placement opportunities.

Mr Baldi stated that the options for the election were Ms Sebagh, Mr Eide, and to Re-open Nominations. The system was the alternative vote and that members should rank in order of preference.

The results were: Ms Sebagh 13, Mr Eide 7, and Re-open Nomination 1.

The total valid votes were 21; the quota for election was 11.

Mr Sebagh was duly elected as SRC Employability Officer.

9.3. Co-option of the SRC Member for Part Time Students

There were no nominations.

Mr Baldi stated that it was possible for Members to, at any time, call up the postponed divided portion of J. 11 from the joint council meeting the previous Tuesday.

9.4. R. 8 A Motion to Adopt a Transsexual and Intersex Bathroom Policy

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NOTES:

1. That there is no current policy by the St Andrews Students Association on gender identity with relation to bathroom usage
2. As it stands, all patrons of the St Andrews Students Association (students, staff and visitors) are free to object to an individual's choice of bathroom and single out transsexual or intersex individuals due to their choice of bathroom within the Students' Association.

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL BELIEVES:

1. That the Students' Association has an obligation to ensure that all of its members feel included and safe
2. That with the current Association's lack of stance on gender identity with relation to bathroom usage; transsexual or intersex individuals are at risk of abuse and prejudice
3. That as an Association we should follow the example set by other universities and make provisions for transsexual and intersex individuals to not feel isolated, disrespected, or singled out due to their choice of bathroom

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the stance that individuals should feel free to use the bathroom that correlates with their gender identity
2. To reaffirm its commitment to the inclusion of gender identity within Equal Opportunities policy and encourage staff to apply this policy to all Association facilities including bathrooms.
3. To encourage the University to adopt the same stance with relation to gender identity and bathroom usage
4. To encourage the Human Resources Manager of the Association to offer training in gender identity and bathroom usage to all Association staff
5. To mandate the Association to hold an Association wide campaign in order to raise awareness of gender identity and bathroom usage

6. To encourage the Association to explore the financial and practical feasibility of introducing a gender-neutral bathroom as part of the Association's redevelopment of Students' Association venues.

Proposed by Mr Norris, second by Ms Hochfield.

Mr Norris proposed an amendment to mentions of transsexuals and replace that with 'trans*'.

Mr Woodhouse Seconded.

With no objections, the amendment was accepted.

Mr Norris introduced the amended motion as such: this motion firms up the position that, should someone's gender identify align with their bathroom choice they should face no problems. This motion also would mean we had to look in to the feasibility of having gender-neutral toilets.

Ms Turner stated that Mr Norris said 'feel free' and asked whether that many anyone could choose to use the toilet they wanted.

Mr Norris responded that that was incorrect and that the point was that if someone's identifies as a women, they should be able to use the woman's toilets without persecution or fear.

Ms Urbonaite stated that she knew of people who don't want to use the toilet with people of a different gender.

Mr Norris responded that they didn't have sway over University policy but that even though they were trans* there should be on equally grounds.

Ms Turner asked whether this policy would apply to trans* people even if they weren't having treatment.

Mr Norris responded that people don't need to be undergoing treatment to be trans* or to experience gender dysphoria. Treatment is a personal choice for them. This motion is about making people feel safe using the toilet.

Ms Turner asked whether that left the policy open to abuse.

Mr Cupples stated that would be addressed in staff training and that, ultimately, it would come down to the staff to recognise when someone was genuinely trans* or abusing the system.

Mr Norris stated that if anyone had terminology issues, they should ask for clarification now.

Ms Turner asked whether the gender-neutral toilets policy would result in all toilets being gender-neutral or having three options available.

Mr Norris stated that people have brought that up in the past and highlighted that the disabled toilet was gender neutral. Mr Norris emphasised that being trans* wasn't a disability and that policies shouldn't be adopted which encourage bad mental health.

Ms Hill stated that it was about time that this was brought forward. Ms Hill then stated that the new Aberdeen University library had gender-neutral toilets on all floors and that EUSA had a policy of having at least one toilet available. Following the redevelopment, it should be possible to have gender-neutral toilets on the middle and top floors. The ground floor would be a little more difficult.

Ms Cunningham asked Mr Cupples what the Association policy was on training external staff.

Mr Cupples responded that outside staff and contractors were briefed on the Associations' policies.

Mr Schorr asked if Ms Hill could expand on the policies of the Aberdeen Library.

Ms Hill stated that the library had 11 floors with around 4 toilets on each floor. Each toilet was a single cubicle.

Ms Gold asked Mr Norris to clarify the effect of point five.

Mr Norris stated that envisaged the campaign encompassing some posters to raise awareness and highlight that the toilet choice wasn't necessarily a mistake.

Ms Hill stated that it would be good for awareness if Tim Foley's 'A Short Caption for Stick Figures' could be put back on.

Ms Turner asked which buildings this policy would cover.

Ms Hill responded that the policy could only cover the Association Building and the Old Union Diner.

Ms Urbonaite added that halls were already broadly gender neutral.

Ms Schorr asked if the motion could be amended to encourage a dialogue with the university.

Mr Norris responded that, while he understood where Mr Schorr was coming from, that this motion was probably the best for reducing the stress that trans* people felt and making them feel accepted. Any changes along those lines would have minor benefits.

Ms Cunningham stated that there were cultural issues surrounding this policy and asked whether it would be worth it to have on gender-assigned toilet so that they would feel accepted.

Mr Norris responded that that policy would foster a culture of hate and intolerance and that to do that would be completely against the LGBT charter.

Ms Mohamud asked if the issue was about individual toilets.

Mr Hill responded that the motion covered two things. One was whether we could install gender-neutral toilets in the new building. The other establishes a policy whereby people can feel free to choose that toilet that matches with their gender even if it doesn't align with their sex.

Ms Urbonaite stated that she was a little concerned and asked Ms Walli if problems could arise because of people from other cultures.

Ms Walli asked whether it would be possible to have a survey.

Mr Norris responded that, while the Association should be mindful of other cultures, people can't control their gender so, if people had a problem with trans* people, it was their problem and not the problem of trans* people. Having a survey could lead to complicated issues.

Ms Mohamud stated that for those people who held beliefs and moralities, it was an integral part of them. Adopting this in the Union shouldn't pose a problem but in halls it might be more difficult and there should be consultation on that first.

Ms Borg stated that this policy would be met with some resistance, as any sensitive change usually was, but that by introducing the policy the resistance would decrease.

Ms West stated that she fully supported the policy and that all she wanted to add was that there would be problems arising from ignorance. Most people here don't understand the terminology so we need to open a dialogue about this. There will be resistance as people don't know a lot about it.

Ms Turner asked whether the groups being discussed should be correctly referred to as trans*. Ms Turner stated that she recognised there would be problems surrounding some people's needs but that the wants of others should be considered too. Other people who use the toilets should be considered. Ms Turner added that single toilets were fine.

Ms Hill stated that, while she hadn't been to all halls, what she had seen suggested they were ahead of the association on this matter. Ms Hill then stated that, acknowledging the crude terms, in woman's toilets people already peed in cubicles, what was effectively being discussed was sharing sinks. Ms Hill added that she didn't imagine many people would have concerns about sharing a sink with people who they thought didn't share the same identity as them.

Ms West stated that the argument about other peoples comfort was not valid and could equally be applied to gay people or people of another race.

Mr Cupples stated that, as far as cultural objections go, that there were those who have objections to alcohol or certain modes of dress. Those objections had to be balanced out against making the Association a safe place for people. It was more important that the latter be in place than respecting the former's cultural sensitivities.

Mr Norris, adding to Ms West and Ms Cupples points, stated that everyone here was elected and it was their jobs to make everyone feel welcome. Mr Norris stated that it had to be remembered that, just because someone wasn't in the majority, it didn't mean they weren't valid. People in the minority should feel safe. While currently unaware of any trans* people in St Andrews, Mr Norris emphasised that didn't mean the Students' Representative Council shouldn't fight to make them feel welcome. Mr Norris stated that 1 in 16 gay people between the age of 16 and 25 tried to commit suicide and that the rate was exponentially higher in the trans* community. It is important that we create an environment and community that doesn't make people consider taking their own life.

Mr Mathewson stated that he agreed with this policy. He then asked Ms Hill if she knew whether the policy has been well received in Aberdeen.

Ms Hill responded that there were a few people who didn't get it and who were annoyed but holding a discussion about gender neutral toilets would defeat the purpose of those toilets.

The question was called on R. 8 and objection was noted.

A roll call vote was held:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly	X		
Association Community Relations Officer	Sadie Hochfield	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			
Science/Medicine Senate Representative	Peter DaBell			
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor	X		
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda	X		
SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare 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	X		
SRC Member for Mature Students	Melissa Turner		X	
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham			
SRC Member for Students with Disabilities	Fay Morrice			
SRC Member for University Accommodation	Anna Kennedy-O'Brien	X		
SRC Member for Widening Access	Ben Anderson	X		

With 20 members in the affirmative and 1 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

9.5. R. 9 A Motion to Have the Students' Association Sign the See Me Scotland Pledge to End the Stigma on Mental Ill-Health

This SRC Notes:

1. That one in four in Scotland will experience a mental health problem at some time in their lives;
2. Up to two thirds of people will recover from long term mental health problems;
3. A Scottish Executive survey found that 41% of all respondents said that they would not want anybody to know if they developed a mental health problem;
4. Only 20% of students surveyed by Student Minds felt comfortable approaching University Counselling Services with their problems; and

5. Studies from the US and Australia suggest that less than 25% of students experiencing psychological distress received counselling.

This SRC Believes:

1. That the stigma attached mental ill-health creates barriers to access to support services; and
2. That the Students' Association, in working towards supporting all students, has an obligation to reduce or eliminate stigma of mental ill health.

This SRC Resolves:

1. To support the Students' Association's signing the see me Scotland pledge to end the stigma on mental ill-health;
2. To charge the SRC Wellbeing Officer and the Director of Representation to undertake a campaign to empower students to control their own mental health, to increase awareness of access to support services for students, and to break the stigma on mental ill-health;
3. To direct the Director of Representation and the Association President to lobby the University to sign the see me Scotland pledge at the organisational level; and
4. To take steps to promote volunteer wellbeing amongst the student officers within the Students' Association.

Proposed by Mr Woodhouse, seconded by Ms Hill.

Mr Woodhouse introduced the motion as such: the See Me Scotland pledge is a cross-Scotland campaign to end the stigma attached to mental illness. The campaign is quite similar to England's Time to Change. Many other Associations and Organisations have signed up; I'd like to see St Andrews do likewise.

Mr Mathewson asked what this pledge would commit the Association to do,

Mr Woodhouse answered that there was no specific legal obligations.

Ms Cunningham asked whether it would be possible to amend the motion to encourage the University to employ more councillors.

Mr Woodhouse Responded that would probably be too large a step.

The question was moved on R. 9.

With no objections, the motion was adopted.

Mr Baldi moved that one piece of business be taken out of order. There were no objections.

[Item 10.1 was considered at this time]

9.6. R 10. A Motion Regarding a Zero Tolerance on Harassment in the Students' Association

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NOTES:

1. The Hidden Marks report, published in March 2010 by the NUS Women's Campaign, revealed that 68% of women students have experienced sexual harassment while a student at their current institution. Many women students reported experiencing persistent harassment in pubs and club nights of the type held at many unions, and reported that this kind of behaviour was seen as normal at such an event.
2. That the standardised definition of sexual harassment, used by those institutions with a 'Zero Tolerance Policy' is as follows:

The defining characteristics of sexual harassment are that it is unwanted, persistent and of a sexual nature. Examples of unacceptable behaviour include:

- Unwanted sexual comments (including comments about your body or private life)
 - Unwelcome sexual invitations, innuendoes, and offensive gestures
 - Wolf whistling, catcalling or offensive sexual noises
 - Groping, pinching or smacking of your body, such as your bottom or breasts
 - Having your skirt or top lifted without agreeing
 - Someone exposing their sexual organs to you without consent.
3. The zero tolerance to sexual harassment campaign has been established with the aim of helping unions create an environment where all students can enjoy time in their union without persistent and unwanted attention of a sexual nature.
 4. That a number of students' unions across the UK have already successfully implemented a zero tolerance policy in their Union.

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL BELIEVES:

1. That no student at this institution should be forced to just 'put up' with sexual harassment and that action must be taken to ensure all students are able to enjoy the union without experiencing sexual harassment.
2. That sexual harassment should not be tolerated by the Union, and those who commit acts of sexual harassment should be stopped and disciplined for their actions.

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:

1. To support the adoption of a 'zero tolerance to harassment' policy
2. To use the NUS definition of sexual harassment in the zero tolerance campaign to maintain consistency between institutions and allow for future assessment of the policy.
3. To run a 'respect' campaign promoting the policy and its purpose

Proposed by Ms Hill, seconded by Ms West.

Ms Hill introduced the motion as such: this motion is fairly straightforward and I've spoken to Mr Cupples about it, and he has made it clear that students who are harassed can already make a complaint and have it taken to disciplinary. The idea behind this motion is to make it clear what the definition of harassment is and allow me to run a campaign on Respect. The definition isn't perfect but it's the standard. If we change the definition we wouldn't fit in to the campaign and it would be difficult to compare statistics. The other thing is that there's no St Andrews specific statistics in this. Given the small size of St Andrews we're not able to take the action that larger Universities might, we can nip things in the bud early on. We don't have the same statistics so any comparison would not be valid but, like any University, we have our share of problems.

Mr Cupples added that the current procedures were not theoretical and that people had been taken to disciplinary for harassment resulting in lifetime bans. We're not so naïve as to think that these don't take place out of sight of the security staff so we do need more awareness to improve the situation.

Ms Hill stated that this was the policy she would take to the Student Services Committee, with the support of the Students' Representative Council and it would mandate her and others to run a campaign on respect.

Mr Norris asked whether the respect campaign would be gender balanced and make the point that men can be harassed too.

Ms Hill stated that it would and that the idea was for the campaign to be broader and be about respecting people in the bar and highlight that not everyone was there to get drunk.

Mr Woodhouse asked whether the policy of zero tolerance would be an enhancement, augmentation or redefinition of current policies.

Ms Hill stated that this was a strengthening; everything in this definition was already covered.

Mr Woodhouse asked whether this meant students were more likely to be harshly punished now.

Mr Cupples stated that, looking at the definition, he would expect people engaging in those activities to be removed and referred to the discipline committee. He added that he strongly suspected that these activities were taking place, specifically the first bullet points, and that they weren't being reported.

Mr Woodhouse asked whether this was asking the Students' Representative Council to strengthen the policy in terms of awareness or whether this would result in more harsh punishments.

Ms Hill clarified that the Students' Representative Council had no say over the punishments.

Mr Palmer stated that this was laying down the rules more clearly, but each case would be reviewed individually.

Ms Cunningham stated that the defining characteristics were drawn across the board and asked whether it would be possible to make the section pertaining to clothing gender neutral.

Ms Hill responded that a lot of work had been put in to this definition and that she was hesitant to change it. In the UK there was no one law related to harassment and it took a very large report from the NUS to come up with this.

Ms Cunningham proposed an amendment to R. 10:

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:

1. To support the adoption of a 'zero tolerance to harassment' policy that applies to the harassment of any, and all, genders.

Ms Hill seconded the motion.

The amendment was accepted without dissent.

Mr Mathewson stated that the motion was excellent and it always should be equitable in its delivery. Mr Mathewson stated that he hoped Mr Norris and Ms West would be involved in the delivery of this campaign.

Mr Norris stated that he is, and always would be, happy to be involved.

Mr Schorr encouraged the Students' Representative Council to discuss why sexual violence was so prevalent and that there were no blurred lines surrounding this. He then added it was not for us to protect the person from this.

Ms Mohamud stated that the campaign should be run in halls.

Ms Hill stated that the idea would be for this campaign to be run in the Association bars coordinating with other SRC members. Student Services would then take up this campaign and make it more relevant to other parts of the university.

Mr Bryce asked if there was any opportunity to expand this in to local business.

Ms Hill stated that zero tolerance was a national campaign with its own logo but that there was a lot of student specific clubs. There is a club in Aberdeen that is very good on this subject but I have no idea on how to extend the campaign to local clubs here.

Mr Bryce proposed an amendment to R. 10:

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:

....

3. To run a 'respect' campaign promoting the policy and its purpose in the Association and in the wider St Andrews community

Ms West seconded the amendment.

With no objections, the motion was amended.

The question was called on R. 10.

With no objections, the motion, as amended, was accepted.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1 Recordings of SRC

Mr Baldi stated that the Associations standing orders had included a provision whereby the Chair could take a recording of the room and post a podcast of what was said. This would have benefits for transparency and such. Mr Baldi stated that he was aware this might make people uncomfortable and not willing to speak their minds.

Ms Kennedy-O'Brien asked for clarification on what that would mean for retracted statements that currently don't enter the minutes.

Ms Cunningham asked whether this would be a live stream or a recording.

Mr Baldi answered that it would be a recording.

Ms Cunningham asked if retracted statements could be blanked out of the recording.

Mr Baldi stated that it was possible.

Ms Cunningham asked if a disclaimer could be included.

Ms Hill stated that she would not speak if there were a recording.

Mr Baldi stated that if there were no support for the policy, it would not happen.

Ms Mohamud stated that if this was going to be pursued, the recording should be unedited, as some statements out of context could seem bad.

Ms West highlighted that there were already 'human' microphones in the room in the form of the student press.

Ms Abernathy stated that they could type the meeting up at any time as it was a public meeting.

Mr Baldi asked for a straw poll.

Mr Baldi stated that, based on that, unless the Students' Representative Council voted directly for a recording, it wouldn't happen.

10.2 Announcements

Mr Palmer announced that the Students' Representative Council had a booking for laser tag and that members should come and play.

Mr Norris announced that the LGBT EGM would be held on Sunday at half five in the committee room.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2102.