



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

MINUTES

Tuesday 29th October 2019 – Large Rehearsal Room - 6.00pm

Present

Member's Name	Position
Sophia Rommel	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Olivia Wiggins	Association Alumni Officer
Jack Rogan	Association Chair
Morgan Morris	Association Community Relations Officer
Amy Bretherton	Association Director of Education
Shaina Sullivan	Association Director of Student Development and Activities
Lauren Davis	Association Environment Officer
Sandra Mitchell	Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
Leah Allcock	Athletic Union President
Ben McAuley	Principal Ambassador
Camilla Duke	Rector's Assessor
Dennis Goodzov	Science/Medical Science Faculty President
Polina Sevastyanova	SRC Member for First Years
Leonor Capelier	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Emily Muller	SRC Member for Students With Disabilities
Britt McArdle	SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
Emma Whitefield	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
Courtney Aitken	SRC Postgraduate Development Convener
Ana-Maria Neferu	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer

In Attendance

Iain Cupples Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Passed without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Member's Name	Position	
Flora Smith	Association Director of Wellbeing	Apologies
Jamie Rodney	Association President	Apologies
Zoe Nengite	SRC Member for Racial Equality	Apologies
Rowan Wishart	SRC Member Without Portfolio	Apologies

Emma Walsh	SRC Member for Student Health	Apologies
Parker Hansen	Association LGBT+ Officer	Apologies
Mika Schmeling	Association Director of Events and Services	Apologies
Nevena Tsavena	SRC Accommodation Officer	Absent

3. Adoption of minutes from previous meetings

3.1. Minutes of SRC meeting on 1/10/19

These were **approved**.

4. Open Forum

No business.

5. Reports of Sabbatical Officers

5.1. Report of the Association Director of Education

Amy Bretherton (AB) reported participating in a review of the School of Classics today, and having attended the School Presidents' Forum and University Court last week. AB had also attended the Student Library Users Group where standing study spaces were discussed. AB also reported on continuing conversations with the University and trade union representatives over potential strike action over pay and pensions by members of the University and College Union (UCU). Tomorrow AB would attend a postgraduate research committee away day. AB was continuing to work on the postgraduate lecture series, employability issues, and the PG experience more generally, as well as working with Parker Hansen (PH) and the Proctor on the issue of pronoun use.

5.2. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing

Absent.

5.3. Report of the Athletic Union President

Leah Allcock (LA) reported ongoing work on the AU constitution and transport resources.

5.4. Report of the Association President

Jamie Rodney was absent but had sent a report as follows:

"1) It's Accommodation Week! We had the Letting Agents Faire yesterday and got around 250-300 people attending. We are also doing workshops in all the halls (which is why I'm not there) and the how to rent talks in the Union.

2) The Washstation petition and open letter have now been signed by 20% of students in halls, and I've managed to set up a meeting with the reps from Washstation to discuss potential solutions. We've also provided more structure for the student volunteers who want to get involved in the campaign.

3) Universal Credit Open Letter is being published in the BBC this week! Message me if you want to involve yourself in the campaign.

4) Please keep filling in, signing and sharing the Albany Park survey!

5) I assume Amy will provide an update on University Court, but in sum we were discussing the University strategy, pushing the social responsibility and community relations angle.

6) Brexit has not taken place. An election might. We'll be having another pulling-out pit stop in on November, and are gonna up the ante on voter registration."

5.5. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Absent.

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

Shaina Sullivan (SS) reported that the cleanup of the Societies Cupboard was complete. SS would be revising the stall for University visiting days with the Design and Marketing Manager. There were 100 new registrations on the volunteering portal and a second person had now reached the 500 hours mark. University Challenge trials would be held next week. Finally, members were reminded that if they were co-opting a new member for their subcommittee, a sabbatical must attend that meeting.

6. Questions for Association Officers

6.1. Questions for Association Alumni Officer

6.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Officer

Morgan Morris (MM) asked for volunteers for Poppy Scotland at Morrisons from Monday to Friday, 2pm-3pm each day. Voter registration was continuing and extending the drive to work with Madras and St Leonards pupils of voting age had been discussed.

6.3. Questions for Association Environment Officer

Lauren Davis (LD) noted that there was a petition supporting the Kenly wind farm run by Amnesty: there would be an information night about the issue soon.

6.4. Questions for Association LGBT+ Officer

Jack Rogan (JRog) read a report from Parker Hansen to say that LGBT+ would be co-opting a new campaigns person tomorrow, that slow progress was being made on the pronouns issue, and that events were coming together well.

6.5. Questions for Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer

Sandra Mitchell (SM) noted that there had been a strong participation in Raisin Weekend by 'Lifers' students: corporate communications had followed some of these students. The EGM would be held on Monday: the committee was looking for a representative for students with caring responsibilities, a postgraduate rep, and an evening degree rep.

7. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers

- 7.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer
- 7.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years
- 7.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality
- 7.4. Questions for SRC Member for Racial Equality
- 7.5. Questions for SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

Emily Muller (EM) noted that the students with disabilities subcommittee would be discussed at the Equal Opportunities committee on Friday. Sexpression had expressed a desire to work jointly on a talk on sex and disability.

- 7.6. Questions for SRC Member for Student Health
- 7.7. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation

Britt McArdle (BM) noted that she would be attending a meeting tomorrow about students in part-time work and was working on graphics to help students find sources of financial help.

- 7.8. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 7.9. Questions for SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 7.10. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener

Emma Whitefield (EW) asked for help in reaching out to PGT reps for the meeting on Monday, which would be attended by the Deans and the Provost.

- 7.11. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Development Convener

Ana Neferu (AN) said she would hopefully be meeting University representatives next week to discuss the postgraduate experience, and would also be attending a meeting on wellbeing in the School of Physics.

- 7.12. Questions for Principal Ambassador
- 7.13. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 7.14. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

8. Unfinished SRC Business

None

9. New SRC Business

None

10. Any Other Competent Business

JR asked SRC members to share reports on Facebook and other social media to raise awareness of Councils in the runup to elections.

EM asked for transcripts for text readers of the photos on the Councils page.

11. Collaborative Solutions

Not minuted

Association Officer Reports

Alumni Officer – Olivia Wiggins

What have I done since my last report?

We have been working on plans for our Community Relations week coffee morning. Thanks to the societies networking event we have been in touch with lots of societies who are keen to collaborate with us and are interested in placing a greater emphasis on alumni in their work. We have also been thinking about our booth for St Andrews day and how we can use it to highlight the work of past students. We have also started planning a semester 2 event which focussing on careers in journalism.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

We are organising events that prioritise the maintenance of meaningful relations with Alumni. We are also trying to create useful connections for current students.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

Will hopefully have gained access to the Students Association's LinkedIn page. I also hope to have discussed the progress of Saint Connect and how we can be involved in the platform's launch.

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?

Keep an eye out on Facebook for more info about the coffee morning. Follow Saint Connect on LinkedIn to find out more about the University's mentor scheme that offers students personalized advice. Contact me at saalumni@ or Like the Alumni Sub-committee Facebook page !

Community Relations Officer – Morgan Morris

Since my last report, we have continued plans for Community Relations week (week 11), along with St Andrews Day which falls at the end of this week. We have also began to collate publicity material for student groups who work in the community and maintain good community relations. The Raisin Weekend campaign we ran with Wellbeing, had a lot of good views and interactions online, with maximum reach being around 2000 people. It was a particularly good raisin weekend according the PO's office who sent us an email after the celebrations, which is great to hear!

Next week Jamie and I have Community Council, so if you have anything that would like to be brought up please let one of us know. The CC will be looking for student volunteers for their annual poppy stall at Morrisons, so if anyone would like to volunteer for an hour in the afternoon of the week beginning Monday 4th, please also let me know - I will be sending around a sign up sheet online.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

The above was all in my manifesto, and there are a few points that will come in later this semester.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

By my next report, we should hopefully have some confirmed plans for Community Relations Week and have some plans for the following semester.

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?"

This matters because it allows students to feel more integrated in the town and shows them there are things they can get involved with outside gown side of their time in St Andrews.
As always any ideas, thoughts, questions please get in touch: comrels@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Environment Officer – Lauren Davis

What have I done since my last report?

Week 6 has been quite low key with everyone working on their fast approaching deadlines.

What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)

In Week 7, the Bike User Group meeting will take place from 3:30-5pm in the Union on Monday (28th October); this group is made up of students, staff, and locals. In this meeting I chair, we plan to push the Bike Lights Campaign (sun goes down earlier now, everyone needs lights) and talk about an idle car campaign as the number of cars travelling short distances around town and might idle for 10+ minutes in the mornings or evenings, releases a significant amount of emissions in a very short time period. As part of this, I have been working with Transition and a close alumni group on car-use and we are going to see what we can do to increase the number of student cyclists, decrease car use, or at least inform the public of the issues with cars in this small town in the winter time when stalled, or when travelling short distances. Pamphlets and documents might be made available soon.

The Environment Subcommittee has many plans to work with the Environment Hall Reps on waste-free campaigns and energy-saving projects. Coming up soon, we're going to launch our Interhall Energy Competition, it has been completely redone, so we're expecting better results and more participation going forward.

What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)

The Student Travel Survey closes on 27th October, so I will be working with relevant groups to see how we can calculate the carbon footprint of student for the Carbon Management Plan. In addition to this, we plan to help Amnesty International with their Kenly Wind Farm project and petition to get the application seen through before its deadline in March. A petition and game plan will be discussed soon, so we can expand and get more students involved. In addition to this, I have met with the Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Officer regarding students push for more environmentally-friendly policies, and increased transparency for the students on what the University is doing well and is planning to do as part of our strategic plan. One of the ideas which we have touched on, is that of a 'Zero Waste' shop in town, possibly helped and expanded through The Tree, with more student volunteers and staff to be involved. This is very much still a discussion, but the University administrators are listening, and they are working to meet demands of the students.

Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)

We've had a number of students who want to get involved, so going forward and into next term we will be working with Estates/The Environment Team to get student reps from each university department to further implement 'Sustainability in the Curriculum.' More to come on that, and I'm sure we'll have more opportunities for students' as the semester goes on. We'll get more students involved with the Kenly Wind Farm discussion and we will also be asking for recommendations on what students want to see happen in this town in the next few months – whether that be events, motions to councils, etc.

LGBT+ Officer – Parker Hansen – No report submitted. No reason given

Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Sandra Mitchell – No report submitted. Reason given and accepted

SRC Reports

SRC Accommodation Officer – Nevena Tsaneva – No report submitted. No reason given

SRC Member for First Years – Polina Sevastyanova

Nothing to report

SRC Member for Gender Equality – Leonor Capelier

What have I done since my last report?

I have got confirmation that representatives of Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, Got Consent and a psychology professor doing research on sexual violence will sit on the discussion panel about why awareness of sexual and gender based violence matters to St Andrews on Tuesday 19th November. I am still awaiting responses from a few more external charities.

As not all gender-related societies were attending the biweekly meetings, I decided to create a collaborative group on Facebook. I think it has been a more coherent way of getting everyone involved. So far, I have summarised the collaborative events with details of dates in the lead up to Reclaim the Night as well as an overview of the ideas I have for the Gender Equality festival happening next semester.

I attended a pronoun consultative meeting with the Proctor with Parker, Flora and Amy about how staff can be inclusive of trans students with the language and gestures made.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

I have established better communicative efforts between gender-related societies.
I have made working on events which ensures gender-related issues reach a wide audience.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

Confirmation of space for the discussion panel on SGBV as well as full confirmation list of panelists and three questions to initiate the discussion.

Following from an SGBV working group meeting, I have been researching the campaign on ending street harassment and will be looking at ways to tackle this in St Andrews: whether through making amendments to the SGBV motion or through a campaign.

I will also be investigating how to implement some form of SGBV awareness training for external organisations.

I intend to set up a meeting with someone from GotConsent to investigate the possibility of creating an informative poster to be displayed in halls.

Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?

Keeping students informed about the avenues of help and action against GBV.
Ensuring gender-related events reach a large audience.
Facilitating communication between gender-related societies.

SRC Member for Racial Equality – Zoe Ruki

What have I done since my last report?

All multicultural week events are going up this weekend. The Food Festival has nearly 1000 responses on the Facebook event which is incredible! I will be putting together the final details with my committee.

What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)

I am continuing to make sure Multicultural Week is a success!

What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)

A successful Multicultural Week !!

Start looking into reporting discrimination with Student Services and the DoWell.

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)

I hope to educate students about different cultures in St Andrews and celebrate everyone's cultural backgrounds. Students can get involved by attending events.

SRC Member for Students with Disabilities – Emily Muller – No report submitted. No reason given

SRC Member for Student Health – Emma Walsh – Report submitted late. Reason given and accepted

Flora and I have recruited a new Personal Safety Rep for the Wellbeing Subcommittee which is great. We also finished up running a successful Take Care Week alongside Morgan and Sam. Now that those tasks are done, I am going to focus again on the Union website Health Hub and work to make that a more comprehensive space for students to access the information they need.

SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Britt McArdle – No report submitted. Reason given and accepted

SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President – Sophia Rommel

What have I done since my last report?

I attended the first School Presidents' Forum of the academic year. It was lovely to see the School Presidents so engaged with and motivated about improving issues to do with the Careers Centre, wellbeing representatives, and MEQ structures. We all had a fruitful discussion with the Deans and the Proctor, so I think some concrete progress will be made in the above areas.

Moreover, I have discussed the prospect of creating an Interdisciplinary Magazine for the Arts- and Div-related Schools with several School Presidents (this idea came up during the aforementioned Forum). The School President of Film Studies has emailed me about this idea and, thus, I decided to ask Amy to put it on the next EduComm Agenda, so we can discuss it in greater detail with the EduComm group.

Amy and myself also met with the School President of English to discuss some feedback-related issues, and we have also met with the School President of Management to sort out a HR-related issue she has been experiencing. Hopefully, both these issues are now resolved!

In response to the aims set out in my last report, the Arts- and Div-related School Presidents publicised my office hours to all students in their weekly emails, so all students in the Faculty should now be aware of where and when they can find me in person, if they have anything they would like to discuss.

Lastly, Dennis and I have also discussed meeting at some point in the near future to discuss the ID modules' SSCCs.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

Honestly, I'm sticking to my main manifesto points of helping School Presidents (with questions, their projects, School-related issues, etc.), working alongside Dennis on E&D and wellbeing issues, and planning an interdisciplinary discussion panel for next Semester, as noted in a prior report.

I have also extended beyond my manifesto, which I intended to do anyway as this role is about representing students' voices to the best of one's abilities, to work on Careers Centre-related issues (with the EduComm group) and planning some fun new projects like the Magazine.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

I hope to have met with Dr Woodfield and Dennis to discuss E&D goals, the Race Equality Charter (and its working group), and the People's Strategy. Additionally, I hope to have kept working on the initiatives outlined above.

Other than the above, I am sure some tasks here and there will pop up, so I hope to remain flexible and achieve any short-term goals which come my way in response to such tasks.

Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?

A lot of what Amy, Dennis and I do is focused on education and University policy, which directly impacts the students. As always, anyone who has an interest in any of the above initiatives and events I have mentioned is welcome to contact me at artdivfp@.

SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President – Dennis Goodtzov

What have I done since my last report?

Given it was independent learning week, I have done some independent learning. Aside from that, I'm now working alongside amnesty with spreading the word about the wind farm the University could potentially have put up. What wasn't mentioned in my last report was I attended and took minutes for the first School President's forum, in the week before ILW. A lot of the pressing issues including wellbeing representatives in schools, as well as the effectiveness of the career centre were discussed with the Proctor and the Deans. Everything is to be addressed, if it isn't already being addressed.

What progress have I made on my manifesto?

As on the last report, along with Sophia I'm looking forward to the meeting with Dr Woodfield on the 19th of Nov regarding the People's Strategy and Race Equality Charter Group.

What do I hope to do in the foreseeable future?

Successful planning of the "Queer Academia" collaborative sci-soc and LGBTQ+ event

Take on a bigger role in the Wind Farm campaign and hopefully see construction begin before March

Get new general wellbeing posters up in the faculty

SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener – Emma Whitefield

Given Independent Learning Week, there has not been as many meetings or issues that have come up in my remit. I continue to attend and support the post-graduate society, and we are excited about planning the ball! Myself and the Events Chair passed out raisin receipts before the foam fight, and enjoyed cheering on our PG team. More events are coming up next week, and I expect a normal report for the next meeting.

SRC Postgraduate Development Officer – Ana-Maria Neferu

"What have I done since my last report? (This will be along the lines of stuff that goes in generally)

I contacted the Proctor's office to discuss the PG experience, to follow up on their PGR survey results, and ask for the results of their PGT survey. I am still waiting to hear back. I am also prepping for the next PG Development Meeting which will take place the day of this Council.

What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)

Communication and mental health are among the points to discuss with the Proctor's office because they are addressed in their PG experience action plan and I don't want an unnecessary doubling of efforts.

If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.

Not sure if the above counts as progress. If it doesn't, I did nothing else because of busyness.

What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)

Report on discussions with the Proctor's office. Also, follow up with the other PG execs about potentially improving the Monday Postgraduate emails to address communication better.

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)"

Same reply as always: all I am doing boils down to improving the postgraduate student experience. They can get involved by continuing to share their needs with me and giving me feedback on how effectively I am working to address them.

Principal Ambassador – Ben McAuley

"What have I done since my last report?"

1. The Student Ambassadors worked at the 3rd and 4th Visiting Days of the Semester. The numbers on both of these were up on this time last year.
2. Ambassadors continue to work on WP projects including tutoring, mentoring and workshops.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

N/A

If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.

N/A

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

1. Work our final Visiting Day tomorrow.
2. Work with others on the SRC to evaluate the need of the Principal Ambassador's membership of the SRC.
3. Train PG Ambassadors for the PG Visiting Day.
4. Run 3 Ambassador Socials- Pumpkin Carving, Bonfire and Christmas Party

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)"

If you want to get involved, apply in Semester 2

Rectors Assessor – Camilla Duke

What have I done since my last report?

Since my last report, we have had our first meeting with the new members of the Rector's Committee, and I am very excited to have them on board. University Court was last week, and I unfortunately missed the meeting due to some travel mishaps. The student representatives' report was well received, however, and we are continuing to communicate our ongoing work with members of Court. We have also secured our first two speakers for the Rector's Inspire series, and they will each be joining us at the end of November. Details about the speaker events will be forthcoming!

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

I hope to continue raising awareness about Senior Lay Member Elections (by working with the President and DoEd), by hopefully recruiting more election advocates and spreading information about the election through email and social media.

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?

Much of my work this semester has focused on elections, both internally in the University community and externally. The SLM Elections in particular are a unique opportunity for students to have a voice in senior University leadership. If anyone is interested in being an election advocate, please reach out to me or the President.

SRC Member without Portfolio – Rowan Wishart

Nothing to report

